



Parent/Athletic Department Relationship

Communication is vital to the successful partnership between our athletic department, coaching staff and parents of our student-athletes. By establishing respectful lines of communication, we can provide greater benefits to the student-athletes in our educational based athletic program.

Communication Parents Should Expect from Coaches

- Expectations the coach has for all members of each team will be discussed at seasonal team parent meetings.
- Locations and times of all practices/contests and the use of Rank One.
- Team requirements and suggestions.
- Procedure should your child be injured during athletic participation.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches Expect from Players

- Notification of any schedule conflict well in advance.
- Communicate specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

(It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way the student-athlete wishes. At these times, a discussion between the student-athlete and coach is encouraged.)

Appropriate Issues to Discuss with Coaches:

- Issues pertaining to the health, safety & well-being of their child.
- Ways to help your child improve.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

Communication/Correspondence with the Athletic Department:

The athletic department values and aspires to model best practices in regard to communication skills. It is our steadfast belief that two-way communication is critical in resolving any major concerns/issues that we may encounter. In order to maximize the effectiveness in resolving any major athletic related issues, all communication/correspondences must come from identified sources. This will maximize the athletic department's ability to investigate and provide feedback. Anonymous sources of communication/correspondences are discouraged due to the ineffectiveness in the ability to provide direct feedback to the initial source. No one positively benefits from an anonymous correspondence.

Recommended Protocols for Lines of Communication with the Athletic Department Staff:

The athletic department is dedicated to creating an athletic experience for all student-athletes that endorses and supports the development of life skills/life lessons through a positive athletic experience. As a result of the development of communication and self-advocacy skills, our student athletes will be better prepared for their futures. Please note that conversations should never take place immediately following an athletic event. Generally, a 24 hour rule following an athletic event is the suggested timeline to request a respectful conversation/conference. The following protocols have been established to strengthen the lines of communication with members of the athletic department and all stakeholders.

1. The student-athlete should direct any concerns/questions they have to their head coach. The best form of communication is between the student-athlete and their coach.
2. Should the student-athlete feel reluctant to address the coach directly, the parent/guardian should contact the coach to schedule an appointment that will be attended by the coaches, parent/guardian and student-athlete to address the concerns.
3. If the issue is not resolved, the next step is to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, student-athlete and parent/guardian. Please note that only topics concerning your child will be discussed. Discussions regarding other members of the team will not take place.

*Parental concern regarding the health, safety and well-being of your child should be immediately brought to the attention of the coach, athletic trainer or athletic director.