

# **SUFFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION 2018-2019**

Michael Bosworth, Director of Athletics  
(860) 668-3289

Suffield Wildcats

Suffield High School

James Blain, Principal

Ashley Eichorn, Assistant Principal

Brendan Canny, Assistant Principal

Suffield Wildcats

Suffield Middle School

Kenneth Smith, Principal

Gina Olearczyk, Assistant Principal

## SUFFIELD ATHLETICS

Research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after middle and high school.

The Suffield School District Athletic Department hopes each student-athlete will have a positive and enjoyable experience in each and any program he/she chooses to participate in. Hopefully, the information provided within this pamphlet will be of assistance to both you and your son or daughter throughout their middle and high school careers.

## PARENT / COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By working together, the parent(s) and coach are better able to insure each student-athlete will benefit from the athletic program. As a parent whose son or daughter is involved in the Suffield athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed upon them. This begins with clear communication from the team's coach.

*Communication you should expect from the coach:*

1. Philosophy of the coach and the program
2. Expectations the coach has for all student-athletes involved in the program
3. Locations and times of practice sessions and contests
4. Team requirements and rules
5. Disciplinary actions that may result in dismissal or suspension

*Communication coaches should expect from parents:*

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectation

When your son or daughter becomes involved in a program offered by the Suffield School District, he or she will experience many rewarding moments. It is important to understand there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your son or daughter would like. If this occurs, discussion regarding the issue by the athlete with the coach is encouraged.

*Concerns to discuss with coaches:*

1. The treatment of your son or daughter, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your son or daughter improve
3. Concerns about your son or daughter's behavior

It sometimes can be very difficult to accept a child not participating or playing as much as a parent may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all athletes involved. Many things such as those listed above can be and should be discussed with your son or daughter's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach and coaching staff.

Situations can occur that may require a conference between the coach and parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

*If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, use the following procedure:*

1. Afford your son or daughter the opportunity to discuss the issue with his/her coach. Many times, these types of meetings may resolve an issue or concern.
2. If your son or daughter's meeting with the coach did not resolve the issue, call to schedule an appointment to meet with the coach. The Suffield Athletic Department telephone number is (860) 668-3289.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Director of Athletics and a meeting will be scheduled for you.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, after or during contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
5. If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and schedule an appointment to meet with the Director of Athletics to discuss the situation.
6. If the meeting with the Director of Athletics did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and schedule an appointment to meet with the building Administrator to discuss the situation.
7. If the meeting with the building Administrator did not provide a satisfactory resolution, please submit in writing, a detailed description of your issue or concern to the Superintendent of Schools in care of the Suffield School District, Central Office, 350 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078.