



St Joseph High School

# Parent/Coach Communication Guidelines

## St Joseph 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 school.

The St Joseph 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 high school careers.

## Parent/Coaching Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By working together, the parents 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 St Joseph 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 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. Weekly communication from head coach.
6. Disciplinary actions that may result in suspension or dismissal.

### *Communication coaches should expect from parents:*

1. Concerns expressed directly to the head 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/daughter becomes involved in a program offered by the St Joseph Athletic Department, he/she will experience rewarding moments. It is important to understand there also may be times when things do not go the way you or the way you child 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/daughter, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your son/daughter improve.
3. Concerns about your son/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 and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as position on the team or playing time, 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. If that meeting did not resolve the issue, call the Athletic Department (203)378-9378 ext 328 to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set up an appointment to meet with the Assistant Principal of Athletics to discuss the situation.
3. Please do not attempt to confront the Assistant Principal of Athletics, a coach or a member of his/her staff before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
4. Anonymous complaints, via letters or phone calls, will not be considered by the Athletic Department or its coaching staff.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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