

A Parent's Guide to Dealing with Coaches

Sportsmanship	Integrity	Hard Work
Citizenship	Respect	Responsibility

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children.

As parents, when your children become involved in the Marple Newtown athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are being placed on your child. It is also important for parents to understand that coaches are professionals and will need to make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be in the best interest of all students involved.

Parents must also encourage the student-athlete to communicate with the coach and their staff. A vast majority of communication lapses could easily be resolved if the student-athlete would first present these concerns to the coach and/or staff.

The following guidelines will be helpful in parent/coach communications.

Communication parents should expect from the coach:

- The coach's philosophy.
- The coach's expectations for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team.
- Location and times of practices and contests.
- Team requirements, such as special equipment needed, school and team rules, and off season expectations.
- Procedures if your child suffers an injury during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Notification of illness that may result in an absence.
- Notification of injury.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- What your child needs to do to improve.
- Aspects of your child's behavior.

Concerns that must be left to the discretion of the coach:

- How much playing time each athlete is getting.

- Team strategy.
- Play calling
- Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

At Marple Newtown High School, we are committed to our student athletes “Raising the Bar” in regards to their character and academics. We have identified six pillars of character for our student athletes to strive towards.

Students not upholding the Six Pillars of Character can be disciplined for such behaviors. Athletics are a privilege earned by exhibiting acceptable behaviors outlined by the Marple Newtown School District.



Marple Newtown Student Athlete 6 Pillars of Character

Respect – to show admiration, honor and esteem for

Responsibility – accountability and ownership of one’s actions

Citizenship – to show loyalty and pride for your community and school, doing good for others

Sportsmanship – to play fair, to lose without complaint and to win without

gloating

Hard Work – is the effort and perseverance you display to reach a goal

Integrity – your commitment to be honest, sincere and trustworthy

Guidelines for Behavior

Of the Coach:

- Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to our six pillars of character: integrity, hard work, sportsmanship, respect, responsibility, and citizenship.
- Respect the integrity and personality of each individual athlete.
- Abide by and teach the rules of the contest in the letter and spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow: refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators; no gestures which indicate officials or opposing coaches do not know what they are doing or talking about; no throwing of any objects in disgust. Shake hands with officials and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the contest officials. Treat them with respect even if you disagree with them in some way.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in talking with the media. Please confine your remarks to your team only.
- Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand they make sportsmanship the main priority.
- Develop a top program that rewards participants for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
- Be no party to the use of profanity or obscene language or improper actions.

Of the Student –Athlete:

- Live up to the standards identified by the athletic department with our six pillars of character: **respect, responsibility, citizenship, hard work, integrity and sportsmanship.**
- Live up to the privilege of representing your school and community.

- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the contest thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans and fellow students.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
- Wish opponents good luck before the contest and congratulate them in a sincere manner following victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of officials. Treat them with respect at all times.
- Give encouragement and support to injured athletes at all times.
- Support only your team, no negative comments directed at the opposition.

Parent Athletic Code of Conduct and Expectations

Interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program of the Marple Newtown School District. The goal and purpose of the athletic program is to teach the student athletes the meaning and understanding of sportsmanship, commitment, fairness, sacrifice, teamwork, and hard work. Additional goals include knowing how to win and how to lose, increasing the knowledge of the sport, developing a healthy lifestyle and skill development. We ask all parents to support our efforts to help teach the goals of interscholastic athletics.

Listed below are the guidelines and expectations that we expect all parents to follow to ensure that our student athletes have a positive athletic experience. Parents who are unable to meet these expectations may be unable to attend future athletic contests.

1. Support your child by being a positive listener, especially after a tough loss.
2. Avoid putting pressure on your child to start, score or be the star of the team.
Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports. Children take part in organized sports for their own enjoyment, not yours.
3. Support the coach and administration in public around the other parents and fans.
4. Avoid speaking negatively about the coach in front of your child. It may create a barrier in the child's hope for improvement in the sport.
5. Understand the ultimate purpose of athletics; it exists as an integral part of the total educational mission of the school and participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right.
6. Serve as a good role model for the students, athletes and other fans. Children learn best by example.
7. Contribute to the booster clubs by volunteering to help with projects and committees.
8. Appreciate the educational opportunity that your athlete is receiving in the athletic program.

9. Display excellent sportsmanship at all times. Teach your child to always play by the rules and be fair and honest with you and their abilities.
10. Show respect to everyone involved in the athletic program – the coaches, athletes, fans, other parents, officials, security and administrators. Do not publicly question an official's judgment or integrity. Don't complain or argue about an official's calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
11. Follow the chain of command when you have a concern. Your athlete should speak to the coach first. The next step would be for you to contact the coach to set up a meeting at a mutually convenient time. If you are not satisfied after meeting with the coach, please contact the Athletic Director to request a meeting to discuss your concerns.
12. Express your concerns and questions in a courteous and civil manner and please do it at the right time and proper setting.
13. Avoid constant and chronic complaining.
14. Abide by the Marple Newtown School District Code of Conduct, eligibility requirements and team rules.
15. Understand that the goals of the team and the athletic program are more important than the hopes and dreams you may have for your child.
16. Teach your child that hard work and honest effort are more important than winning.
17. Be loyal to the school and team; put the best interests of the team above your child's personal glory.
18. An athlete should be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity.
19. Support the concept of "being a student first." Commit your child to getting the best possible education. Be honest with your child about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing sports at the professional level. Reinforce that college and universities will not recruit athletes who do not have a serious commitment to their education.
20. Keep athletics in perspective – family, education, and being a part of the high school experience and are far more important.
21. PIAA by-laws dealing with athletic courtesy provide that any spectator who continually evidences poor sportsmanship should be requested not to attend future contests.
22. **Social Media** - Any student posting things via a social media outlet must adhere to our Athletic Code of Conduct in addition to any school rules that may apply. It is imperative that any social media correspondences fall under the guidelines of sportsmanship and fair play. Please use good judgment when posting anything on one of these outlets. Those found in violation of the above will jeopardize participation in and/or attendance of an extracurricular event.

Failure to follow these expectations and abide by this Code of Conduct may result in forfeiting the opportunity to attend future athletic contests.