



## Oakland Catholic Athletics Communication Progression

*Communication and the expression of differing views is valuable to the growth and development of our student athletes, but only when this communication is handled in a respectful manner. An understanding of this process best serves the individual student athlete, the Athletics Department, and the school. To that effect, the following progressions have been developed. Please note: It is important that the communication progressions are followed as outlined. If a level is skipped or by-passed, the communication will be redirected to the Athletic Director.*

### **Student Athlete Communication Progression**

The athletic communication hierarchy is designed for student athletes to advocate for themselves within their respective sports, and to implement proper communication procedures to manage any team or student athlete situations, issues, or concerns. Part of the growth and development of a student athlete is to provide her a system or process that she can clearly follow when she has a question, concern, or problem. Most issues are resolved in the early stages of this chain of progression, building the confidence of the student athlete in her ability to resolve issues independently. **Please note:** Playing time issues are matters between the student athlete and her coach. This matter is perhaps the most sensitive in the eyes of a parent; however, playing time is outside the parent's role in high school athletics.

The communication progression for student athletes with questions or concerns follows the process below in the order outlined.

1. Student Athlete and Head Coach
2. Student Athlete, Head Coach, and Assistant Coach
3. Student Athlete, Head Coach, and Assistant Athletic Director
4. Student Athlete, Head Coach, and Athletic Director
5. Student Athlete, Parent, Head Coach, and Athletic Director
6. Student Athlete, Parent, Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal

### **Parental/Administration Communication Progression**

The parental/administration communication progression is designed to ensure respectful, productive, and direct interaction between parents of student athletes, athletic administration, and school administration when deemed necessary. The intention of the resolution process is to provide concise responses and concrete solutions to issues. The welfare and sport experience of

the student athletes remain a priority and at the forefront of all athletic matters, including those involving individual parental concerns.

Issues relevant to athletics, coaches, or athletic administration are to be communicated in the following manner/order of communication:

- a) Parent and Athletic Director
- b) Parent, Head Coach, and Athletic Director
- c) Parent, Student Athlete, Head Coach, Athletic Director

**Please note:** Calls or emails to the Athletic Director about coaches will be shared with the Head Coach of the sport in question. Open, direct, and honest communication is the only way growth and improvement can occur.

**Please note:** As stated under the Student Communication Progression, playing time issues are matters between the student athlete and her coach. Although a very sensitive issue in the eyes of a parent, playing time is outside the parent's role in high school athletics. If your daughter expresses concerns with her playing time, please support her in her growth as a student athlete by advising her to communicate her concerns with her coach.