

Parent /Coach Communication Guide

COACHES ARE EDUCATORS FIRST AND FOREMOST

As a parent it is sometimes difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you wish. Coaches are educators who make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athlete and the educational goals of Timberview Middle School. Certain concerns are appropriate to discuss with your son's coach. Other areas, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach and are not appropriate to discuss:

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

There are situations that may require a conference between coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged as long as the subject is appropriate. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of other's position. When a conference is necessary, the procedure outlined in the following sections should be useful in resolving concerns.

PARENT COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching can be quite trying at times. By understanding and respecting the position of both parents and coaches, children are better served through their experience in athletics. Clear communication between parents and coaches can help both realize the positive experiences that can be gained from participation in athletics.

- COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR SON'S COACH

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations and goals the coach has for your son as well as for the team
- Location and times of all events
- Team requirements, special equipment, off-season program
- Team expectations, guidelines and consequences for infractions

- COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Concerns expressed directly to coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Notification of any illness or injury in a timely manner.

As your child is involved in athletics at Timberview Middle School they will experience some of the most rewarding moments in their young life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. At these times, discussions between the player and parent with the coach may help. It is the first and most important step to a mutual understanding.

- APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The coach's interaction with your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve their athletic skills
3. Concerns about your child's interaction with others.

- IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A PARTICULAR COACH, PLEASE FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE BELOW

1. Call the school and ask for the coach's extension.
2. If necessary, request a time to meet with the coach.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, or is not able to return the call in a timely manner, contact the coordinator and make your request.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or a practice. These can be emotional times for the parent, the athlete, and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolution. We ask that procedures 1-3 be followed the day after (24hr).

- THE NEXT STEP – If a meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution...

1. Call the Campus Athletic Coordinator to discuss the situation.
2. Call all the Principal for guidance regarding the next step.
3. Call the District Athletic Director.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- *Make sure your child understands that win or lose, you love them.
- *Be realistic about your child's athletic ability when helping them set goals.
- *Emphasize "improved" performance above winning.
- *Control emotions at games and events, even in the heat of battle.
- *Remember that locker rooms and sidelines are for players, coaches, and officials only.
- *Be a "cheerleader" for your child and the other players on the team.
- *Respect your child's coaches. Communicate with them in a positive way. Encourage others to do the same.
- *Be a positive role model.
- *Be sensible, and responsible concerning priorities. There is a lot more at stake than a win or a loss.

"SPORTSMANSHIP BEGINS WITH RESPECT FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS."