



EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Garden Spot Athletic Department

“HOME OF THE SPARTANS!”

Parent – Coach Communication Plan

Coaching, along with parenting, can be extremely challenging. Thus, a clear understanding of each position enables us to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to those we serve, the student athletes.

As a parent, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child when he or she enters our athletic program. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Expected Communication from the Coaching Staff

1. Coaching Philosophy;
2. Expectations for team members;
3. Locations and times of practices and contests;
4. Team rules;
5. Discipline, which may impact your child's participation; and,
6. Eligibility requirements and concerns.

Appropriate Parental Concerns for Discussion

1. The treatment of your child – emotionally and physically;
2. Ways to help your child improve;
3. Concerns about your child's behavior; and,
4. An injury.

It is sometimes difficult to accept the idea of your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals, and make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved with the team. As you have seen from the aforementioned list, certain issues can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other concerns, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coaching staff.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with the Coach

1. Playing time;
2. Team strategy;
3. Play calling; and,
4. Other student-athletes.

Steps to Follow when Concerns Arise

1. The student-athlete should first speak directly to the coach pertaining to the concern.
2. If a resolution is not reached, the parent and student-athlete, together, should speak directly to the coach.
3. Should this step not resolve the issue, please contact the Director of Athletics who will schedule a meeting between all stakeholders.

A coach should never be approached directly prior to, during, or directly after a contest. These can be highly emotional times for all involved. Moreover, persistent phone calls, texts, and/or emails are disruptive and inappropriate. Finally, coaches should not be approached at their place of residence. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Thank you for abiding by these courtesies and for your commitment to Garden Spot Athletics. I trust you and your child will have a memorable season. Go Spartans!