



Parent and Coach Communication A Positive Approach

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in the athletic program, you have a right to understand expectations placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as for the team
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements such as rules, paperwork, equipment, and suggestions for off-season conditioning
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concern about a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in FWISD athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child is not playing as much as you may hope. **Coaches are professionals.** It is imperative parents and athletes trust that our coaches are trying to do the right thing for the team and **all** individuals involved. It is important to understand that the coaches are the ones with the team on a daily basis in practice and competition and therefore will make judgment decisions based on what they feel is in the best interest of the team.

As seen from the list above, you and your child's coach discuss certain things. Other things, addressed in the following section, are at the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss with Coaches

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

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure help promote resolution to the issue of concern.

Procedure to Discuss a Concern with a Coach

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. If you cannot reach the coach, call the principal. He/she will set up the meeting for you.
3. ***Please do not attempt to confront a coach either before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.***

Next Step for Parent when Meeting with the Coach Does Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution

1. Call and set up an appointment with the principal and the athletic director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Research shows that athletic participation provides girls and boys with motivation for academic performance and physical activity, a structure to teach time management and self-discipline, and a means to develop self-esteem. Student-athletes benefit from a positive sports experience. The FWISD Athletic Department provides this information for parents to foster understanding between you and your child's coach, and to ensure an enjoyable season for your child.