



WFISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the WFISD Athletic Department is to prepare student-athletes for life by developing their mental, physical, and emotional health through athletic practice and competition.

WFISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT VISION

Expand the History and Integrity of WFISD Athletics through the relentless pursuit of excellence in competition, the classroom, and the community.

Coaches and Parents working together have the opportunity to create lasting memories and valuable life lessons that will serve the student athletes of Wichita Falls for the rest of their adult lives.

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 athletes and the goals of WFISD athletics. Certain concerns are appropriate to discuss with your child's coach. Other areas, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

- 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 in WFISD. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When a conference is necessary, please follow the procedure outlined in this handout.

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 parties experience positive results and maintain a strong relationship that benefits the player and the team.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations and goals the coach has for your child and the team.
- Location and times of all practices and games.
- Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs.
- Procedure if your child is injured during practice or competition.
- Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions.
- Awards for participation in athletics.
- Team selection process.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT DIRECTLY FROM PARENTS

- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Notification of any illness or injury in a timely manner.
- Concerns regarding their son/daughter expressed at the appropriate time and place.
- Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in WFISD athletics he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is also important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged; it is the first and most important step to a mutual understanding.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO

- The coach's interaction with your child.
- Ways to help your child improve athletic skills.
- Concerns about your child's interaction with others.
- Safety Concerns.

DISCUSS WITH

STATISTICS

- There are over one million high school football players and almost one million basketball players in grades 9-12 nationally.
- Of those numbers, about 250 make it to the NFL, and about 50 make an NBA team.
- The odds of a high school football player being selected to play for an NFL team are about 6,000 to 1.
- The odds of a high school athlete competing in the NBA are even greater.
- The NCAA is made up of 977 schools classified in three divisions, and less than 25,000 student athletes compete for NCAA titles annually, most of whom are not on athletic scholarships.
- With this in mind, it is important to focus on your student's academic career in addition to their success on the playing field or court.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE:

- Contact the Head Coach and request a meeting with your son/daughter and the Coach.
- If the Coach cannot be reached or does not return your phone call please contact the Campus Athletic Coordinator and request a meeting be arranged.
- Please do not confront a coach after practice or competition. These can be very emotional times and rarely yield positive results.
- Do not write long emails that do not accurately portray your attitude and questions. Coaches will not respond in writing to accusatory emails. In WFISD we prefer personal communication.
- When you meet with your child's coach bring a list of questions or concerns to help keep the meeting focused and on schedule.

THE NEXT STEP

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory result?

- Contact the Campus Athletic Coordinator to arrange a meeting between yourself, the head coach, and Athletic Coordinator.
- Contact the Campus Principal to request an administrative meeting.
- Contact the District Athletic Director to schedule a meeting with all parties involved. Please follow the WFISD established chain of command and allow our coaches and administrators the opportunity to resolve any issues.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Make sure your child understands that win or lose, you love them.
- Be realistic about your child's athletic ability.
- Help your child set realistic goals.
- Emphasize improvement over winning.
- Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
- Control your emotions at games and events.
- Be a "cheerleader" for your child and other players on the team.
- Respect the officials and Coaches from both teams.
- Communicate with coaches in a positive way and encourage others to do the same.
- Be sensible, responsible, and keep your priorities in order. There is a lot more at stake than a win or a loss.
- Remember what's best for the team may not be what's best for the individual. Support the sacrifice that all team members must make in order to enjoy success.