New London Public Schools Athletic Program

2024-2025

Parent - Coach Communication Policy

Whalers

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New London Athletics

Participation in extracurricular activities directly correlates with successful middle and high school experiences. By providing an ample variety of growth opportunities, New London Public Schools offers an extracurricular environment which paves the way for a lifetime of success.

Student-athletes choosing to participate within extracurricular sports, through the New London Public Schools Athletic Program, will have a positive, high-quality experience, which complements their academic endeavors within New London Public Schools.

Parent / Coach Relationship

As a parent whose son or daughter is involved in the New London Public Schools Athletic Program, understanding each program's participation expectations is essential to the program's ongoing development and continued success. Working together, parents and coaches are better able to ensure each student-athlete will benefit from the athletic program. This begins with clear communication from each team's coach.

Communication Expectations

From Coaches to Parents

1. Articulation of their philosophy and the corresponding program
2. Establishment of clear expectations for all student-athletes involved in the program, including:
   - Team requirements and rules
   - Disciplinary actions that may result in dismissal or suspension.
3. Dissemination of locations and times of practice sessions and contests

From Parents to Coaches

1. Articulation of team-based or individual concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification, well in advance, of any schedule conflicts

When a student-athlete becomes involved in a program offered by New London Public Schools, their experiences will include many rewarding moments. It is important to note there may be times when the outcome of the situation does not coincide with parents' or student-athletes' point of view. If this occurs, discussion regarding the issue by the student-athlete with the coach is encouraged.



Topics of Discussion with Coaches

1. Treatment of your student-athlete, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your student improve as a player / athlete
3. Concerns about your athlete's behavior

Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student-athletes involved. Many concerns, such as those listed above, should be discussed with your student-athlete's coach. Other issues, such as: ***positions, level of participation, and playing time, must be left to the discretion of the Coach and Coaching Staff.***

Situations can occur that may require a conference between the coach and parents. It is important that all involved parties have a clear understanding of the other's point of view. To promote a resolution to the issue or concern, the following procedures should be followed to promote a resolution to the issue or concern.

*Please remember that a good rule of thumb is to wait **24 hours** between any incident and the time of your contact with any member of the athletic department.*

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, please use the following procedure:

1. Afford your student-athlete the opportunity to discuss the situation with their coach. Dialogue and open communication often resolve issues or concerns.
2. If your student-athlete's meeting with the coach does not resolve the issue, call or e-mail the coach to schedule a meeting.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the director of athletics and a meeting with the coach will be scheduled for you.
4. Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional situations for both the parents and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
5. If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and schedule an appointment to meet with the director of athletics to discuss the situation.
6. If the meeting with the athletic director did not provide a satisfactory resolution, please submit in writing, a detailed description of your issue or concern to:

Jennifer Hills-Papetti
New London Public Schools Central Office
134 Williams Street
New London, CT 06320

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New London School District

Philip Orbe, Director of Athletics

New London High School, Multi-Magnet School
Bryan Mahon, Principal

Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, Multi-Magnet Campus
Chris Vamvakides, Principal

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