



Parent/Guardian – Coach Communications

Sumner-Bonney Lake School District

Athletic Department

Parent/Guardian/Guardian-Coach Relationship

We are very pleased that your student has chosen to participate in the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District athletic program. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for them. Possibly the most important ingredient necessary to achieve this outcome is communication. Our goal is to assure that lines of communication are developed to allow free and easy resolution of questions before they become issues. As a parent/guardian, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your student athlete. This flyer is intended to spell out all levels of communications so that parent/guardians, coaches, and athletes are aware of the steps they have available to resolve anything they think is or might become an issue.

Communication You Should Expect from Your Athlete's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your student.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirement: equipment, off-season training, etc.
5. Procedure to follow should your student become injured during participation.
6. Co-Curricular Code of Conduct/Training Rules and consequences for not following these guidelines.
7. Requirements to earn a letter.
8. Disposition of lost/outstanding equipment at the end of the season.
9. Communication concerning your athlete's role on the team and how he/she fits into the future of the program.

Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parent/guardians

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach first.
2. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your student athlete becomes involved in various programs at Sumner-Bonney Lake, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student athlete wishes. At these times, your student's discussion with the coach may be the quickest and most effective way to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

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

At times it may be difficult to accept the fact that your student athlete is not playing as much as you or he/she would like. Coaches are professionals who make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and all involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your student's coach. We ask that other things, such as those listed below, be left to the discretion of the coach.

Coaches' Decisions

1. Playing time.
2. Team Strategy.
3. Play Calling.
4. Matters concerning other student/athletes.

If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach, Please Follow the Procedure Below

1. Your student athlete should first talk with the coach about their concerns. * You can help your child with the words to use to ask the question respectfully.
2. If they feel it is necessary to involve you, then call the school to set up an appointment with the coach.
3. If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable time, call the Building Athletic Coordinator. They will arrange the appointment for you.
4. Please do not approach a coach before or after a contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent/guardian and the coach. Meetings at these times usually do not work well for the coach, the parent/guardian or the player.

*District-approved digital communication channels between staff and students are district email, FinalForms, and StudentSquare (high school only).

The Next Step

What can a parent/guardian do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Building Athletic Coordinator to discuss the situation
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined as necessary.

Whether or not this step is ever reached, please keep in mind the following protocol when you elect to pursue a concern you may have regarding your student's experience one of the SBLSD sports teams. Please make contact as follows (see contact information below):

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable).
2. Head Coach
3. Building Athletic Coordinator
4. Principal
5. Sumner-Bonney Lake School District Athletic Director, Brian Kaelin – brian_kaelin@sumnersd.org
6. Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Thu Ament – thu_ament@sumnersd.org

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established and encouraged. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this flyer helps to make the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District Athletic Program as enjoyable and as positive as possible for both you and your student athlete. Thank you for your support.

School Contact information:

High School

	<u>Phone</u>
Bonney Lake High School	253-891-5700
Sumner High School	253-891-5500

Athletic Coordinator

Aaron Radford
Chris Paulson

Principal

Anthony Clark
Jeff Baines

Middle School

	<u>Phone</u>
Lakeridge Middle School	253-891-5100
Mt. View Middle School	253-891-5200
Sumner Middle School	253-891-5000

Athletic Coordinator

Tim Luhring
Dave Rumpza
Cassandra Waddle

Principal Resp. for Athletics

Toby Udager
Amy Montgomery
Jenny Williams