Athletic & Activities Communication Guide

Athletic achievement requires a sincere commitment from all stakeholders. The ability to succeed requires effective communication. We work hard to continually improve communication between all stakeholders [players, parents, coaches and administrators].This communication guide provides a framework in which successful communication can begin.

It is reasonable, as a parent, to expect your child's coach to inform you….

1. when and where practices and contests are held;
2. about the program's coaching philosophy;
3. about the expectations he/she has for all athletes, as well as your child;
4. what is required to be part of the team [fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc];
5. if your child is injured during participation in a practice or contest;
6. whenever any disciplinary action results in your child being denied participation in a practice or contest;

There are aspects of our programs that are the responsibility of the coach that can be discussed but at the appropriate time as part of our communication system outlined below; for example….

1. playing time;
2. team strategy or play calling;
3. other student-athletes;

Coaches often need parents to tell them….

1. any specific health concerns about their child;
2. notification of any schedule conflicts, well in advance;
3. your commitment to the program, and how you can make a contribution to the program's success. For example…. be sure your child is at practice each day on time and that your child is getting enough rest and nutrition at home;

Email: It is preferable that email be used as a tool for information sharing and not conversation. Often times, tone and meaning can be misunderstood in an email. It is our goal to have clear, effective and meaningful communication between all stakeholders.

If you have a concern to discuss then we would like you to….
Step #1 = encourage your child to resolve his/her conflict with the coach; intervention by a parent should be a last resort;
Step #2 = make an appointment with the coach to discuss the concern; please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during or immediately following a contest – this can be a busy and emotional time for both the parent and
the coach and does not promote objective analysis of the situation;
Step #3 = what should a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not result in a satisfactory resolution to the issue? Inform the Coach that you would like to continue the conversation with the Athletic Administrator and Coach present and the Coach will set-up a mutually agreeable time. This meeting will include all participants (student-athlete, parents, coach, etc)

Failure to follow this protocol may result in an untimely response.