

Belton Activities Handbook

Parent/Coach Communication

- All concerns should be brought to the coach/sponsor first. Students should bring any issue to the coach/sponsor
- If as a parent you need further clarification email/call to set up a conference with the coach/sponsor
- If further resolution is needed, set up an appointment with the athletic director
- Do not confront a coach/administrator before, during or after a contest
- All meetings should include the coach, parent, and student

Appropriate

Mental/Physical treatment of your child

Ways to help your child improve

Behavior concerns

Ways your child can contribute to the team

Inappropriate

Playing time

Team Strategy

Play calling

Other students or athletes

Why all parties including the student should be present at a meeting

A student should be present not to embarrass or intimidate the student but to get all information out in the open from all sides so there is no miscommunication. Another reason is that our goal is to produce quality adults. What better way than to let a child see how adults such as a parent and a coach can sit down, show respect to one another, and work together to come to a resolution in a respectful adult manner. These meetings are the perfect opportunity to model how to have difficult conversations and work through them.

Talking to a Coach

Remember that kids are kids and they are still learning how to be a young man/woman and how to act in adult situations. Kids tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction, investigate, and talk to all parties involved before overreacting. Coaches are human too and enjoy being treated with the same respect all people do.

Remember that before a game or after a game is an inappropriate time to confront a coach. Things are most hectic before a game and after a game and emotions are high for players, coaches, and fans during those times. Any conversations had during these times of high emotions most likely will not produce positive results.

Playing Time

Remember in high school athletics, playing time is not guaranteed to anyone. Participation is a privilege, not a right. Instead of demanding playing time, ask what your child has to do to improve as an athlete. Please keep in mind a lot of things that go into deciding playing time. Some examples include: work ethic, knowledge of position, execution of responsibilities, grades, attitude, competition at the position and other things. It is the coaches responsibility to put all the players to put the best team on the field.

In many cases, high school athletics are the forest situation where playing time is not guaranteed to all participants and many players may have to change habits learned on former teams to be successful. In these cases, many high school coaches get a "bad rap" because they are the first coach in an athlete's young career that is honest about what needs to be done to be successful.

Belton Spectator Code of Conduct

I Will:

- Display good sportsmanship at all times
- Be polite and respectful to those around me
- Be a positive and an encouraging fan and participate in cheers that support, encourage and uplift the student athletes
- Accept that bad calls are part of the game and I will model proper behavior to show our kids how to reason with such adversity
- Realize there are four roles in sports: Player, coach, official, and fan. I am a fan and will respect the other roles
- Let the players play, coaches coach, and officials officiate
- Remember that it's just a game, enjoy the competition, and to have fun supporting my child
- Understand that watching is a privilege that can be taken away

I Will Not:

- Criticize or harass officials, coaches, and players from both teams during or after a game
- Engage in unsportsmanlike behavior that negatively reflects upon myself or my child
- Bring in or consume alcohol or illegal substances to the event
- Enter the playing surface at any time
- Approach a coach before or after a game

I understand that watching high school athletics is a privilege and if at any time I do not follow the spectator code of conduct and expectations, I will be subject to removal from the event and facility.

Belton Activities: Commitment to Character

Why We Play: Gains Beyond Winning

Ask the question: why do we play? What was the original reason we wanted our kids to play?

We Are Belton

Our mission is to inspire our students by instilling pride and fostering success through character based life lessons. Our goal is to teach our students character and life lessons through participation in our programs and prepare them for life as an adult. Activities are an extension of the classroom where kids are taught our core values.

Participating in our programs will provide opportunities that contribute to student growth and help equip them with tools to be a successful adult. Participating in our programs will provide opportunities to be part of once-in-a-lifetime bonds and something special. Scholarships, collegiate sports, etc..are a byproduct. Less than 3% of Seniors across the nation participate yearly in college programs. The reason for participating in extracurricular activities is not to produce hundreds of college athletes but to produce millions of quality citizens.

We Are Belton

Success is...Gains beyond winning and maximizing our students' potential as young adults.

Only one team wins the state title in their respective divisions each year. If we don't win, then something must still be gained from the experience. What will that be? It must be a positive experience for our kids, where they learn character based life lessons that will help them later in life.

Participation is a Privilege, Not a Right

Belton Parents' Pledge

As the parent of a student athlete at Belton, I pledge to:

- Display positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or event
- Maintain realistic expectations, stay positive, and avoid criticizing my child and other children's play
- Understand that sports are fun and do my best to keep sports fun for my child
- Understand just as it is a privilege to play high school athletics, it is also a privilege to watch
- To acknowledge the ultimate authority of the coach to determine strategy and player selection
- To promote mature, respectful, and positive behavior from students and parents during a contest
- Respect the coach, player, and parent relationship and follow the chain of command when talking with a coach
- Make sure that my child knows, win or lose, I appreciate his/her effort and are not disappointed in him/her
- Pledge to set an example for my child or how to act and react in all situations
- Follow the Belton Spectator Code of Conduct

As a parent, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that high school activities are an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences and life lessons for the students. I accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent of a student athlete. I pledge to understand that the goals of extracurricular athletes at Belton is to produce gains beyond winning for our kids, not hundreds of college athletes but millions of quality citizens.