



ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS PARENT & COACH/SPONSOR COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS



Parents,

We understand that both parenting and coaching/sponsoring are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children became involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach/sponsor of your child's team/program.

When your children becomes involved in athletics or activities at Hinsdale Central, they will experience some of the most challenging and rewarding moments of their lives. However, it is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, the expectation is that the *student*, not the parents, will initiate a discussion with the coach/sponsor about the concern. We believe this approach is both the most likely way to a positive end and a valuable learning experience for the student. Coaches and Sponsors have been instructed to encourage this type of dialogue and to promptly set aside time for individual, private appointments when requested.

During the course of the season, it can be difficult to accept that your child is not playing/participating as much as you hope or in the way you would prefer. It is important to remember that Coaches and Sponsors are professionals. They make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. Please, do not attempt to confront a coach/sponsor before or after a practice or contest! These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach/sponsor. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

We acknowledge that there are situations that may require a conference between the coach/sponsor, student, and the parent. In those instances, it is important the parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position and are prepared to communicate in a way that is conducive to a positive outcome.

If a meeting with the coach/sponsor did not provide a satisfactory resolution, write/email/call the Athletic Director or Activities Director outlining the facts and concerns of the situation. As appropriate, they may set up additional conferences to address the situation.

Remember: Parents support, but don't replace, the student's voice. Together we can ensure your student has the best possible experience as a Red Devil!

On the back of this letter you will find an FAQ for Parent & Coach/Sponsor Communication



PARENT COMMUNICATION FAQ

What Communication Should I Expect From My Child's Coach/Activity Sponsor?

- Any of the philosophies of the coach/activity sponsor
- Expectations of their players/students
- Location/time/dates of all practices/activities
- Team/Program Requirements and Rules

What Communication Should My Child's Coaches/Activity Sponsors Expect From Me?

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach/sponsor
- Notifications of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Concerns with the team or activity's rules/expectations

What Are Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With My Child's Coaches/Sponsors?

- The treatment of your child, mentally or physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

What Issues Are Not Appropriate To Discuss With My Child's Coaches/Sponsors?

- Playing Time
- Team Strategy
- Play Calling
- Role on the Program/Team
- Other Students/Athletes

The Procedure to Follow if You Have an Appropriate Concern to Discuss with a Coach/Sponsor

- Request a meeting to take place with the student in attendance
- Call to set up an appointment with the coach/sponsor
 - The Athletic Department's telephone number is (630) 570-8240
 - The Activity Office's telephone number is (630) 570-8580

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP THEIR STUDENT BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE COMPETITION?

Before

Know their goals, roles and needs, and accept them. Release them to the competition, their coach/sponsor and team

During

Model poise, confidence, and correct behavior. Focus on our team

After

Give them all the time and space they need. Be a confidence builder. DO NOT be a coach

