

SISTERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent/Coach Communication Policy

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult 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 become 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 of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad
3. Locations and time of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach (after step #1 below)
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in the programs at Sisters High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

STEP #1 If a problem arises, encourage your student athlete to talk to their coach first.

The best gift we can give an athlete is the ability to advocate for themselves.

Appropriate concerns for parents to discuss with coaches:

- a. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- b. Ways to help your child improve
- c. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may have hoped. **Coaches are professionals.** They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for **all** student athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those on the following page, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play-calling
4. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

STEP #2 Parent procedure for discussing a concern with a coach:

- a. Call or email to set up an appointment with your coach.
- b. The Sisters High School Athletic Office telephone number is (541) 549-4050. If the coach cannot be reached call the Athletic Director, Gary Thorson. He will help set up a meeting for you.
- c. **Please do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.** These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Do everything possible to schedule meetings a minimum of **48 hours** after the event.

Step #3 What can you do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- a. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
- b. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood. By participating in athletics here at Sisters High School your child will learn values such as:

- Hard work
- Teamwork
- Sportsmanship
- Interpersonal relationship
- Handling adversity

Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant in athletic are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this document makes both your child's and your experience with the Sisters High School Athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable. With your help and positive support of the staff at Sisters High School, the experience will be rewarding for all.

