



Parent/Coach Communication Guide

Highland Park ISD | Department of Interscholastic Athletics

Director of Athletics

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Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching can be quite trying at times. By understanding and respecting the position of both parents and coaches, children are better served through their experience in athletics.

Clear communication between parents and coaches can help both understand positive experiences that can be gained from participation in athletics.

Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations and goals the coach has for your child, as well as for the team/season
- Locations and times of all practices and games
- Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs
- Procedure if your child is injured during participation
- Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions
- Awards for participation in athletics
- Team selection process

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
- Notification of any illness or injury in a timely manner

As your child becomes involved in athletics in Highland Park ISD, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life.

It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most important step to a mutual understanding.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coach

- The coach's interaction with your child
- Ways to help your child improve athletic skills
- Concerns about your child's interaction with others

Coaches are Educators First and Foremost

As a parent, it is sometimes difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you wish. Coaches are educators who make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes and the educational goals of Highland Park ISD. Certain concerns are appropriate to discuss with your child's coach. Other areas, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of each other's position. When a conference is necessary, the procedure outlined below should be helpful for resolving concerns.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, please follow the procedures below:

- Email the coach, express your concerns.
- Request a time to meet with the coach.
- If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Coordinator and request a meeting to be arranged.
- Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for the parent, athlete, and coach. Confrontations usually do not promote positive resolutions.

Next Steps

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not result in a satisfactory resolution?

- Call the Boys/Girls Athletic Coordinator to discuss the situation.
- Call the Director of Athletics for guidance regarding the next step.

Parent Code of Conduct

- Make sure your child understands that win or lose, you love him/her.
- Be realistic about your child's athletic ability.
- Help your child set realistic goals.
- Emphasize "improved" performance, not winning.
- Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
- Control your emotions at games and events. Be a "cheerleader" for your child and other children on the team.
- Respect your child's coaches. Communicate with them in a positive way and encourage others to do the same.
- Be a positive role model.
- Be sensible, responsible and keep your priorities in order.
- There is a lot more at stake than a win or loss.

Sportsmanship begins with respect for yourself and others.

