

Harwood Union High School Communication of Athletic Concerns

Both parenting and Coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents, you have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on you and your children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication, you as a parent should expect from their child's coach:

1.) Coach's philosophy; 2.) Expectations the Coach has for your son or daughter and the team as a whole; 3.) Locations and times of practices and contests; 4.) Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations; 5.) Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation

Communication Coaches can expect from you as parents: 1.) Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place; 2.) Specific Concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations; 3.) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

AS your child becomes involved in interscholastic athletics, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach: 1.) The mental and physical treatment of your child; 2.) What your child needs to do to improve; 3.) Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the Coach.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

- 1.) How much playing time each athlete is getting
- 2.) Team strategy
- 3.) Play calling
- 4.) Any situation that deals with other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue.

If you, as a parent, has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

1.) Call the Coach to set up an appointment; 2.) Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting; 3.) Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them. Only discuss your son or daughter; 4.) Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach didn't provide satisfactory resolution? 1.) Complete the Harwood Union High School Communication of Athletic Concerns Plan of Action Form and submit to the Director of Athletics & Activities and a meeting between the parent, coach, athlete and activities director will be arranged. 2.) At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

Students' involvement in co-curricular activities has been proven to increase their chances of success later in life. We hope the information contained in this handout helps make that experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.