

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Parent/Coach Relationship

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 child becomes involved in the Athletic Program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.



Communication a parent should expect from a coach

- ◇ Philosophy of the coach.
- ◇ Expectations the coach has for the child as well as for all the players on the squad.
- ◇ Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- ◇ Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- ◇ Procedure should the child be injured during participation.
- ◇ Discipline that results in the denial of participation.



Communications coaches expect from parents

- ◇ Concerns expressed directly to the coach first.
- ◇ Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- ◇ Special needs of the athlete, for example, physical limitations that may not be obvious to the coach.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

- ◇ The treatment of the child, mentally and physically.
- ◇ Ways to help the child improve.
- ◇ Concerns about the child's behavior.

As a student becomes involved in the athletic program of the school, it is the hope of the coaches and administration that he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that things may not always go as the parent or a child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach may be desirable (in fact is encouraged) to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding.



Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches

- ◇ Playing time.
- ◇ Team strategy.
- ◇ Play calling.
- ◇ Other student/athletes.

Many aspects of the highly emotional and dynamic setting of interscholastic athletics are often questioned. These may include decisions made by coaches, administration, officials, athletes, parents, and fans. Certain concerns can and should be discussed with the coach. Other items must be left to the discretion of the coach. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for all students involved under the circumstances present.



If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:

- ◇ Call to set up an appointment.
- ◇ The Coshocton High School telephone number is 622-9433.
- ◇ If the coach cannot be reached within a reasonable length of time, contact the Athletic Director, Mr. Marty Arganbright. He will set up the meeting for you.
- ◇ Please do not attempt to 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 and, in fact, often escalate the issue.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution? Although total agreement may not always be reached, most often such a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding.

If the parent desires further communication, please call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step will be determined.

Chain of Command

The Coshocton City School District, in conjunction with its Athletic Department, follows the chain of command listed below. Please follow the order of this line of communication if you elect to pursue any athletic concern.

- 1. Coach (if applicable)**
- 2. Assistant Head Coach**
- 3. Athletic Director**
- 4. Building Principal**
- 5. Superintendent**
- 6. Board of Education**

Important Phone Numbers

Coshocton High School - 622-9433
Athletic Department/Coaches' Office - 622-8519
Superintendent's Office - 622-1901

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Coshocton Redskins

T.E.A.M.

Together Everyone Accomplishes More



“Always A Competitor, Often A Winner!”