



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS



## ATTENDANCE

As a coaching staff we need to reinforce the importance of players attendance at all practices and meetings. A player's high school football career is a short time in his life but he will remember it forever. While unforeseen circumstances can and do occur, the following is the coaching staff's policy regarding attendance. We will reserve the right to make decisions based on this policy.

- **Players are expected to attend all practices and meetings.**
- Players and parents will be provided with a detailed season calendar and scheduling considerations will be made for holidays and ACT testing dates. Please coordinate work hours and schedule travel plans accordingly.
- If you are unable to practice for any reason YOU are responsible for reporting to a coach BEFORE practice. This would be considered an excused absence. Failure to report an absence in this way will be considered an unexcused absence.
- Because football requires a coordinated effort from many and because preparation time is limited, being absent from practice affects the entire team. In short your teammates are depending on you.
- Excused absences will require time to be made up as extra conditioning and/or meetings with coaches. Unexcused absences will result in extra conditioning and may also result in additional penalties including playing time.

## PLAYING TIME

"I will study and get ready and maybe my chance will come" –Abraham Lincoln

Without question the greatest point of contention between parents and a coaching staff is playing time. Understandably, this is an emotional issue as often players have invested much in their pursuits to contribute to the team or "to be a starter". You should know that as a coaching staff we are engaged in discussions, assessments, and evaluations of players on a daily basis. It is inconceivable that we would ever finish a season with the same lineup we had at the beginning. Players move positions, get injured, or play their way into or out of playing time. Players have a chance to draw our attention and earn playing time every time we practice, scrimmage, watch film, or compete in Varsity or JV games. Conversely, playing time for players may be reduced due to their behavior, performance, or improved performance of another player. To be frank, we have never had the problem of having "too many" good players, thus it is hard to ignore someone that makes plays.



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## **Some General Statements About Playing Time:**

- Playing time is not an entitlement.
- We will play the combination of players that we believe gives us the best chance to be successful.
- Special teams players are “starters”.
- We will play as many players as possible without creating liabilities for the team.
- We will not put players in a situation where they are at increased risk for injury.
- Playing time does not reflect a player’s importance to our team.

## **Considerations For Playing Time:**

### **1. Trust**

- Do you know your assignments? If the answer is “no” we cannot play you.
- Have you attended practices, meetings, lifting, and classes?
- Have you demonstrated to your teammates that you are reliable?

### **2. Effort**

- What kind of practice player are you?
- Do you play hard on every play?
- Are you coachable and disciplined in your techniques?

### **3. Ability**

- Do your physical skills allow you to execute your assignments?
- Can you perform assignments on a consistent basis?
- When given the opportunity do you make the play/block/tackle?

## **PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES**

We realize that good communication is essential to any well functioning relationship or organization. Today communication is easier than ever with cell phones, texting, and email and as coaches we want to be available to players and parents whenever possible and appropriate. Having said that, we also believe that the ability to advocate for oneself is a great life skill and one that can be developed through player/coach communication. Our coaching staff is committed to treating players with respect and honesty and most issues can be resolved with a simple discussion. Protocol for communicating questions or concerns about a player should be as follows:



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1. Discussion between player and his position coach and/or coordinator.
2. Discussion between player, position coach and/or coordinator and head coach.
3. Discussion between player, parent, and head coach.
4. Discussion between player, parent, head coach and athletic director.

### **Parent and Coach Meetings**

When meetings between parents and coaches become necessary or desired the following guidelines must be followed:

- Meeting must be prearranged
- No meetings with parents will be conducted on game day (either prior to or following a game)
- Communication is expected to be respectful and professional

Concerns that may be discussed with coaches:

- Treatment of your son
- Safety of your son
- Work habits, attitude, and behavior of your son
- Improvement of your son
- Opportunities for your son
- Academic performance of your son

The following topics will not be discussed with parents:

- Playing time
- Other players in the program
- Game planning
- Play calling

### **THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN OUR PROGRAM**

Our program welcomes and needs your involvement and there are many opportunities for you to do so. Being involved in the program will provide a more meaningful experience for you as a parent, for your son, and for all of our athletes; however, it is imperative that your actions support the objectives of the program. The role of parents in our program is to be a fan of your son, to support his athletic, academic, and character development, and to support our team. It is critical that parents support our program in this way! Nothing will be more damaging to your son's development and the chemistry of the team than messages from parents that contradict the messages they receive from their coaches and teammates. This includes speaking negatively about other players in the program, coaches in the program, game planning, or play calling.