



## GUIDELINES FOR PARENT & COACH COMMUNICATION

**Parent/Coach Relationship:** Parents and coaches alike must respect the educational role both play in the development of the affected player. Each party must understand that decisions will be made, first and foremost, for the benefit and the interests of the TEAM FIRST, and the individual second. By understanding and respecting this dynamic, team members will be better served through their experiences in athletics. Clear communication will enhance the positive experience that can be realized through athletic participation.

**If you have a concern you wish to express with a coach, please follow the procedures below:**

1. Call or e-mail the coach requesting a time for a meeting.
2. DO NOT attempt to confront the coach immediately following a game or practice. Confrontations such as these do not produce positive talk or meaningful dialogue. Wait until the following day to schedule a time to meet with the desired coach.
3. Strongly consider having your son advocate for himself before approaching the coach.

### **Communication you should expect from your son's coach**

- Expectations and goals the coach has for your son as well as for the team/season
- Game schedule and Practice schedule for the year
- Information on basic team requirements, special equipment or changes to a scheduled event
- Procedures if your son is injured while participating
- Team rules, guidelines and consequences for team infractions when they occur
- Team selection process

### **Communications coaches should expect from parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time
- Advanced notification of any schedule conflicts in regard to team functions
- Advanced notifications of pertinent medical history prior to participation
- Advanced notification of a the need to miss a practice or game due to illness, injury or family matter

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches**

- The coach's direct interaction with your son
- Ways to help your son improve athletic skills and to fulfill his role on the team
- Concerns about your son's interaction with others on the team or in school

### **Inappropriate concerns to discuss with coaches**

- Playing time for your son, strategies employed by coaches; issues with other team members