

Ohio High School Interscholastic Athletics

Mayfield High School Athletic Department

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both 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 children become involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach

1. Philosophy of the Coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the squad
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches should expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concern in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

1. The treatment of your child, mentally, and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professional. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent(s). These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

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

1. Call and set up an appointment with the coach.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.
3. Friendly reminder: please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for all parties involved. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director, Keith Leffler to discuss the situation (440) 995-6830.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided here makes both your child's and your experience with the Mayfield Athletic Program less stressful and more enjoyable.