

FISD Coaches, Parents, and Chain of Command

Forney ISD offers the privilege of athletic participation in a wide variety of team and individual sports as an enrichment to the school experience. We believe athletics is a valuable training ground for those who choose to make the commitment to participate.

Each Forney ISD coach is a professional educator, dedicating his or her life's work to young people. Coaches have completed specialized training in educational philosophy and applications as well as subject areas and sports. They complete professional development each year to remain current in their fields, and they teach full class loads in academic subject areas as well as managing team operations.

In making decisions, FISD coaches must consider the educational goals of the school district and what is most appropriate for the team and athletic program as a whole. Parents may not always understand or agree with the decisions coaches make.

While each coach is open to comments and friendly communication, decisions about team and player matters end with the head coach.

If concerns exist that cannot be addressed satisfactorily through conference with the coach, the athlete and parent will follow chain of communication and command of the FISD Department of Athletics.

If desired, the parent may follow up a coach conference by requesting a conference with the Campus Athletic Coordinator. If the campus cannot adequately address concerns, they may then be addressed to the FISD Director of Athletics.

Thank you for your cooperation and for supporting your child's choice to be a student-athlete!

TEN COMMANDMENTS

for PARENTS of ATHLETES

1. Make sure your child knows that win or lose you love him or her and are not disappointed.
2. Be completely honest with yourself about your child's competitiveness, sportsmanship, and *actual* skill level.
3. Be supportive, but leave coaching to the professional. Don't try to coach on the way to the arena, on the way home, at breakfast, or ever from the stands.
4. Winning is not the only goal in school athletics, but it is very important. Don't devalue winning.
5. This is your child's experience. You had your shot. Don't try to relive your own glory. This puts undue pressure on your child.
6. Support and respect the coach. The coach is important to your child and can reinforce positive personal growth.
7. Support all members of the team, not just your child.
8. Get to know the coaches so you can back their philosophies and goals.
9. Children tend to exaggerate, both about praise and criticism. Temper your reactions to tales of woe or heroics.
10. Be a positive role model and set a good example for others through your conduct at sporting events. Remember your actions reflect on the school and district.

and the eleventh commandment...

Thou shalt not cause the coach to think about you while trying to coach your child.

Always Loved; Never Entitled



Guide to Communication For the Athletic Parent and Coach

If character is what you do when no one is watching, perhaps sportsmanship is your conduct with everybody watching.

What to expect...



Expectation—PARENT FROM COACH:

- Clear Communication Regarding Philosophy, Expectations, and Goals
- Fair Treatment of the Athlete—Understanding Fair is Not Always Equal
- Explanation of the Selection Process and Team Rules
- List of Locations and Times for Practices, Games, and Important Events
- Explanation of the Procedure to Follow if a Child is Injured
- Protection of Athletes and Care for Their Well-Being
- Support of the Educational Process and Academics as a Priority
- Professional Behavior at All Times

Expectation—COACH FROM PARENT:

- Recognition of the Coach's Level of Commitment—They Do Not Coach to Get Rich
- Questions or Concerns Addressed Directly to Coach First—by Athlete and Parent
- Follow Established Communication Guidelines if There is a Problem
- Support the Athlete's Efforts and Commitment to the Program and Team
- Support of the Educational Process and Academics as a Priority
- Act as an Enthusiastic and Respectful Fan

Mission Statement:

FISD Athletics will produce a holistic program committed to the physical, mental, and emotional development of student-athletes.

Our defining goal will be to guide learners to reach their full potential, producing success through junior high, high school, and life beyond.

Contacts:



Neal Weaver, FISD Director of Athletics



Aaron Woods FHS Athletic Coordinator



Randy Jackson, NFHS Athletic Coordinator



Appropriate to Discuss with Coach:

1. Mental and physical treatment of child
2. Methods of improvement
2. Behavioral concerns of child

Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coach:

1. Playing Time
2. Team strategy/play calling
3. Other students

How To Communicate:

If you have questions or concerns about any matter related to your child's athletic participation, address them directly with the coach. The goal is to maintain mutual understanding and respect at all times.

Follow these procedures to arrange a conference:

- ⇒ If you do not have your coach's direct extension, contact the campus athletic office or voicemail.
- ⇒ Request a time for a phone conference or meeting with the coach.
- ⇒ If you cannot contact the coach, the campus athletic coordinator can assist in setting up a meeting.

We realize athletics can be an emotional topic.

*Do not confront a coach before, during, or after a game or practice.

*Always use the 24 hour rule for emotionally charged concerns, waiting a day to set up a conference.