

Mooreville Athletic Department Communication Guidelines

As Parents You Should expect these types of Communication from Coaches

1. ***Philosophy of the Coach*** – how/why a coach coaches – not why a coach runs a certain scheme
2. ***Expectations of the Athletes and the Team*** – reasonable goals for the athletes and the team (sportsmanship and effort of the team and athletes) – not performance based expectations (not how many minutes each athlete will play or how many games will be won)
3. ***Location of all Practices and Games*** – schedules for both, communicating changes in practice times/locations
4. ***Copy of the Team Rules*** – coaches will provide any sport specific rules that are to be followed by the athlete.

As Parents You Should Communicate the Following Information to Coaches

1. ***Concerns related to your son/daughter's mental, physical, or emotional well-being*** – coaches will want to know if something is going on in their personal life that might affect attention or performance
2. ***Specific questions about a Coach's expectations of Parents*** – Parents can discuss with coaches what role they can provide in supporting the team
3. ***Notification of any Injuries or Illnesses*** – if parents notice something at home that a coach would not notice regarding injuries or illnesses, the parent should communicate that to the coach – such as, battling a stomach bug all weekend
4. ***Prior Notification of any Student absences from practice or games*** – these are pre-arranged absences that the athlete has known about along with illnesses that might prevent them from activities

As a Parent of a Mooreville Athlete, these are APPROPRIATE Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

1. ***Mental or Physical Treatment of your Son or Daughter*** – the first and foremost concern of both parents and coaches should be the well-being of the student-athlete
2. ***Ways in which Parents can help their Sons or Daughters*** – discussion of the student-athlete's role on the team needs to be between him or her and the coach, parents can discuss with the coach how they can help their child improve
3. ***Concerns about the Son's or Daughter's Behavior*** – if parents are seeing abrupt or gradual changes in mood or behavior, they may want to discuss with coaches to see if they are seeing the same signs
4. ***Concerns about the Athlete's Academic Performance*** – if parents notice an athlete struggling to maintain an appropriate academic performance, they should bring this to the coaches attention

As a Parent of a Mooresville Athlete, these are INAPPROPRIATE Topics for Parents to Discuss with Coaches

1. **Playing Time** – discussion only between the athlete and coaches – coaches will decide playing time
2. **Team Strategy** – coaches will determine the scheme that they feel they need to run to be successful – changes/questions with schemes will not be discussed with parents
3. **Play Calling** – coaches will make the play call that they deem best for the situation – execution of the play by the athletes is just as important as the call itself
4. **Team Selection** – coaches will determine which athletes are on their team
5. **Another Athlete** – coaches will not discuss any other athlete on the team or past teams

Expectations/Guidelines for Communications

1. **Engagement Process** – parents will not contact coaches 24 hours before and 24 hours after a contest – extenuating circumstances may require this to be adjusted
2. **Conduct** – All conversations will be in a civil and professional manner. If a parent uses profanity, acts in a rude or disrespectful manner, or threatens a coach, the coaches are instructed to end the conversation immediately. The meeting can be rescheduled for a later date.
3. **Discussion of Inappropriate Topics** – If any of the five inappropriate topics come up during the conversation, the coaches are instructed to end the conversation immediately. The meeting can be rescheduled for a later date.
4. **Chain of Communication**
 - a. Step 1 – All communications regarding any conflict must begin between the coach and the athlete. This is one of the great aspects of education-based athletics is allowing students a platform to advocate for themselves. This allows them to respectfully address concerns.
 - b. Step 2 – After the student-athlete has talked to the coach, the parent then can contact the coach to set up a meeting to discuss the situation. This meeting will be with the coach, athlete and parent.
 - c. Step 3 – After the parent/coach/athlete meeting, the parent can request a meeting with the Athletic Director and Coach.
5. **Information will be shared** – All discussions with the Athletic Director will be forwarded to the student and to the coach.

It is important to note that the Mooresville High School athletic department does not guarantee a resolution to all extra-curricular concerns. Further, not all concerns will be granted a Step 3 meeting. This will be at the discretion of the athletic director.