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Asst. Athletic Director:

Coach's Name:

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Dalton Middle School Athletics



**Parent/Coach
Communication**



Parent/Coach Relationship

Parenting is difficult, and so is coaching. We want to understand each other in order to better reach the students and provide a fulfilling experience for the child in athletics and in life. As coaches we hope to communicate the expectations and requirements being asked of your student. This brochure is to help build a bridge between parents and coaches.

Communication You Can Expect From the Coach

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all members of the team
- Location and times of all practices and contests. Team requirements; i.e.: fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
- Procedures should your child be injured during practices or contests
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication Coaches Can Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Parent/Coach Discussions

If your child participates in sports, they will have many rewarding experiences. However, there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

As a parent, it is very difficult to accept your child is not playing much as you may hope. Our coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things should be discussed with the coach. Other issues should be left to the discretion of our professional staff.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling and game strategy
- Other student-athletes



Steps for Communication

When situations arise that require a conference between the coach and parent, dialogue is encouraged. It is important that both parties understand the other position. When a conference is necessary, use the following procedure to help promote a resolution.

Procedure to Use in Discussing Concerns with a Coach

1. Call (or email) to set up an appointment. Please keep in mind that most of our coaches are classroom teachers, and meeting time during the academic day may be limited.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, please call the Athletic Director.
3. Please do not attempt to initiate a discussion or confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. This can be an emotional time. Meetings in this setting usually do not promote a reasonable 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 to discuss the situation further.
2. At this meeting, next appropriate steps can be discussed and determined.