

Keystone Athletics Parent-Coach Communication

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Parent/Coach Communication

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each perspective, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to our student-athletes. Parents/guardians have a right to understand what expectations are placed on a child involved in our program. 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 players on the team.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., practices, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

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

As your child participates in programs of the Keystone School District, he/she will experience the most rewarding moments life offers. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussions with the coach are encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

1. Physical/mental treatment of your child.
 2. Ways to help your child improve.
 3. Concerns about your child's behavior/attitude.
- It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you hope. *Coaches are professionals.* They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As mentioned above, certain concerns are appropriate to discuss with your child's coach. Some concerns, such as the following must 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/guardian. It is important that each party involved has a clear understanding of the other's position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the concern.

Procedures to Deal With Concerns

1. As a first step, the issue should be discussed between the student and the coach, if possible. Many problems can be resolved at this step.
2. If the problem is not resolved with a student/coach discussion, the parents/guardians may request a meeting with the coach or coaching staff **and** the Athletic Director. Parents/guardians should request a meeting at a mutually convenient time. ***It is important not to attempt to resolve issues during or after competitions, games or practices.***
All practices for Keystone athletes are closed to the general public and this includes parents/guardians.
3. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved by the coach and the Athletic Director, the problem should then move first to the Building Principal, then to the Superintendent, then the Athletic Council, then to the School Board.

Expectations of Parents/Guardians

1. Support your student-athlete's effort toward success.
 2. Promote a positive home environment that is conducive to the development of the student athlete.
 3. Become familiar with the rules and regulations of the District's interscholastic athletic program.
 4. Communicate concerns in a timely manner following District protocol.
 5. Treat all coaching personnel with courtesy and respect, and insist that your student-athlete does the same.
- Research indicates that a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood. 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 that the information provided here makes both your child's and your experience with the Keystone School District Athletic Program less stressful and therefore more enjoyable.

Athletic Philosophy

The Board of School Directors recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletes as an integral part of the total school experience for all students of the District and the Keystone community. Interscholastic athletes should compliment academic life, rather than compete with it, and sports should enhance students' experiences during their school years.

Athletic contests and practice sessions provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and sportsmanship. Students participating in the District's interscholastic athletic's program are expected to compete at the highest level of athletic competence, and every effort should be made to ensure the team's success. Athletes should aspire to reach these objectives through traditional and universal values, such as honesty, integrity, commitment and hard work. Winning is important, but winning within the rules is paramount.

