



Freeman Flyers

Parent/Coach Communication Guide

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 program, you have the 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
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedures that are followed should your child be injured during participating
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication Coaches Expect from parents

1. Concerns need to be expressed directly to the coach at an appropriate time
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and or expectations

As your child becomes involved in the various programs at Freeman High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their life. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach may be desirable to clean up the issue and avoid any misunderstandings.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

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

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. 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 discussed with your child's coach. Other things 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, participant, and the parent. 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.

Coach Discussion Procedure Tips

It is encouraged that the first step of the discussion should be athlete to coach. If the next step is necessary – **wait 24 hours** and then follow the procedure below.

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment with the participant included.
2. If you cannot reach the coach, contact the Athletic Director, Mrs. Sage and she will set up the meeting for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings

of this nature do not promote a resolution and may be more detrimental.

4. Social Media is not the appropriate place to air grievances.

If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution the following steps should be followed to determine the appropriate course of action:

1. Meet with the Athletic Director and/or Principal.
2. Meet with the Superintendent

3. Present concern to the School Board

Research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance for success in adulthood. For this reason, these programs have been established and encouraged. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this form helps to make the Freeman High School Athletic program as enjoyable as possible for you and your child. Thank you for your participation.

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