

## ATHLETIC COMMUNICATION

**Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefits to our children. As parents, when your children become involved in athletics, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.**

*Communication you and your student athlete should expect from your child's coach:*

- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the other players on the team
- Location and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements; i.e. fees, equipment, etc.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation for a game or tournament

*Communication that the coach should expect from student athletes and parents:*

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance (Athletic schedules are created years in advance. Please reach out when planning trips during sport seasons.)
- Specific concern regarding the coach's expectations

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at Monticello, he/she will hopefully experience some rewarding moments. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At that time, discussion with the coach is encouraged and should be initiated by the student athlete first.

*Appropriate concerns to discuss with your child's coach:*

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

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals. They are, at times, forced to make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for all student-athletes involved. As you may have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those in the following paragraphs, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

*Issues not appropriate to discuss with your child's coach:*

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Performance of other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent after a student athlete and coach meeting has occurred. The meeting between the student athlete and the coach is the initial step. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be taken to help promote an understanding of the issue or concern.

*Procedures to follow if you have a concern to discuss with the coach after the student athlete and coach meeting has occurred:*

- **Do not confront the coach before, after, or during a practice or a game.** These confrontations can be emotional for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.
- Contact the coach to set up a meeting on a date and time mutually agreed upon.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and leave a message for the coach.
- If the concern is not resolved, a meeting with the coach, athlete and athletic director may occur after the first two meetings have taken place.

### **Parents have a legitimate right to know**

1. Expectations you have for their child as well as all the players on the squad;
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests;
3. Team requirements, ex) fees, special equipment, off-season activities;
4. Procedures should your child be injured during participation;
5. Team rules, Extra-Curricular Activity Code, and the Athletic Department Code of Conduct, and the effect each may have on their child's participation.

**Social Networks**: Playing and competing for Monticello Schools is a privilege, not a right. Student-athletes are held in high regard and are considered as role models in the community. It is imperative that student-athletes represent their teams and school in a positive manner at all times. Social network sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, VINE, Pinterest, and other digital platforms have increased in popularity and are used by student-athletes and parents. Participation in such networks has both positive appeal and potentially negative consequences. It is important that Monticello student-athletes and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a respectable manner as a member of their teams and our Athletic program. Student athletes are responsible for their social media use. Any malicious use of social media platforms by students or parents shall not be tolerated. Derogatory comments or implied statements / messages or any other misuse of social media may result in consequences from administration. Only our coaches or administrators are authorized to release any statements or statistics to the media.