

Examples of Good Sportsmanship

- Exhibits spirit of benevolence and genuine concern for the opponent
- Accepts results gracefully and acts fairly and courteously towards opponents and fans at all times
- Maintains self-control in all circumstances
- Refuses to cheer at an opponent's failure
- Assists a fallen opponent
- Compliments an opponent with gesture or praise
- Demonstrates courtesy towards the official
- Refuses to engage in any physical conflict

Expectations of Coaches

- Sets a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior
- Instructs participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demands that they make sportsmanship their number one priority
- Respects judgment of contest officials, abiding by rules of event and displays no behavior that could incite fans
- Treats all opposing coaches, participants, and fans with respect, shakes hands with officials and opposing coaches in public
- Develops and enforces penalties for participants who do not abide by the sportsmanship standards

Expectations of Student Athletes

- Treats opponents with respect, shakes hands prior to and after contests
- Respects judgment of contest officials, abides by rules of the event and displays no behavior that could incite fans
- Cooperates with officials, coaches, and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest
- Accepts seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community, displays positive public action at all times
- Exhibits high standards of sportsmanship established by the coach

Expectations of Cheerleaders

- Stimulates desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs, and praises without antagonizing or demeaning opponents
- Treats opposing spirit groups and fans with respect
- Recognizes outstanding performances on either side of the playing field or court
- Knows the rules and strategies of the contest in order to cheer at proper times
- Maintains enthusiasm and composure, serving as a role model

Expectations of Parents and Other Fans

- Realizes that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious
- Respect decisions made by the contest officials
- Is a role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content in cheers and signs
- Respects fans, coaches, and participants
- Is a Fan-Not a Fanatic

Expectations of Booster Groups

- Demonstrates good sportsmanship at gates and in discussions
- Promotes good sportsmanship in the community
- Maintains equanimity when winning or losing
- Represents the booster organization and school with class, never stooping to public criticism of a player, coach, or program
- Does everything in the organization's power to promote good sports; Serves on behalf of the sports program without expecting any "favoritism" in return
- Participates actively in fund-raising projects to help underwrite the athletic program
- Permits school officials to conduct the athletic program without interference
- Supports the coaches

Mechanicsburg
Exempted Village Schools
60 High Street
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Communication Guide

By

The Board of Education

Approved 5/00

Mechanicsburg Schools

937-834-2453

High School Office	Ext. 1501
High School Principal	Ext. 1506
Elementary Office	Ext. 1600
Elementary Principal	Ext. 1603
Superintendent's Office	Ext. 1400
Superintendent	Ext. 1405
Athletic Director	Ext. 1057

Introduction

The Athletic Department is very pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the interscholastic program of the Mechanicsburg School. A goal of the Athletic Department is to provide all athletes with the most rewarding sports experiences possible. The department believes that this goal may not be realized without appropriate lines of communication available to all parties involved. This "Communication Guide" has been developed to help coaches, parents, administrators and athletes communicate more effectively.

Chain of Command

The Mechanicsburg School in conjunction with its Department of Athletics follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that parents observe the order of this line of communication, if they elect to pursue any concern they may have with regard to the athletic program

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach
3. Athletic Director
4. Grade/Building Principal
5. Superintendent
6. Board of Education

Communication the Coach Expects from the Parents and Athletes

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach first
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
- Special needs of the athlete; example, physical limitations that may not be obvious to the coach

Communication the Parents should Expect from the Coach

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach may have for the athlete and the team
- Locations of times and practices and contests
- Team requirements, for example: fees, special equipment, eligibility, attendance, off-season conditioning, etc.
- Procedure to follow should the athlete become injured during participation
- Requirements to earn a letter
- Disposition of lost/outstanding equipment at the end of the season

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with a Coach

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

As the athlete becomes involved in the various athletic programs of the Mechanicsburg School District, it is the Athletic Department's hope that he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that things may not always go as the parent or athlete wishes. Then discussion with the coach may be desirable (in fact encouraged) to resolve the issue and avoid a misunderstanding.

Inappropriate Areas to Discuss with a Coach

- Playing time/Position Assignment
- Team Strategy/Play Calling
- Matters concerning other student athletes

Many aspects of the highly emotional and dynamic setting of interscholastic athletics are often questioned. These may include decisions made by coaches, administration, officials, athletes, parents, and fans. As seen from the previous list, certain concerns can and should be discussed with the athletic coach. Other items are must be left to the discretion of the coach. The district coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved under the circumstances present.

Procedure to Follow If Parents Have a Concern to Discuss With the Coach

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. Such a meeting when necessary is encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. Each should be willing to listen. The following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue.

- Contact the coach to set up an appointment (see list of phone number on front)
- If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable period of time, call the Athletic Director. An appointment with the coach can be arranged
- Important: Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice session. These can be emotional times for both parents and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and in fact often escalate the issue.

The Next Step

What can a parent do the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution? Although total agreement may not always be reached, most often a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding. If the parent desires further communication, please call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step will be determined.