

Parent and Coach Communication

Both parenting and coaching are challenging endeavors. By establishing an understanding of each other, we are able to accept the actions of each party and provide greater benefit to the young men and women involved in Jonathan Dayton Athletics. As a parent of a child involved in our athletic program, you have the right to understand what the expectations and communication processes are for you and your son.

Communications Parents Should Expect from the Coach:

- . Philosophy and goals of the sports program
- . Staff expectations for individual players and the team
- . Location and times of practices and games
- . Strength/conditioning and out-of-season opportunities
- . Team rules and guidelines
- . Procedures to be followed if a player is injured during participation

Communications Jonathan Dayton Staff Should Expect from Players and Parents:

- . Concerns expressed directly to the Head Coach
- . Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
- . Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible

Appropriate Concerns for Discussion With the Staff:

- . The staff's treatment of your child
- . Methods to help your child improve his/her skills
- . Concerns about a student's behavior

Issues Not Appropriate for Discussion with the Staff:

While the Head Coach and staff are committed to open communication between staff and parents, there is a certain protocol that we ask be observed. In particular, ***the time before and after a game is dedicated to our players. It is not appropriate for a parent to approach a coach to discuss game or individual player concerns at this time.*** The Head Coach will be happy to set up a meeting/phone call to address parent concerns at a time that will not interfere with the attention required by our athletes. An exception to this request is an incident when a player is injured -- the Head Coach and trainer will be available immediately after a game to discuss the situation and any concerns with parents.

It is important for parents to understand that we, as coaches, have been hired to make decisions based on what we believe to be best for the team as a whole and for all players involved with the program. This understood, we will be available to discuss parental concerns with the following exceptions, which we consider either inappropriate or counter-productive to team leadership:

- . Play calling and team strategies
- . Concerns about the playing time/performance of other players

There are certain situations that may require a conference between a player, coach and/or parent. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position, and what procedure should be followed. When a player or parent has a question or concern regarding a program and needs to contact a member of the coaching staff or administration, the communication process outlined below has been adopted by the program.

Communication Process:

Step 1. The concerned player should contact the Head Coach to schedule time to discuss his questions or concerns. If the player does not feel comfortable and satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, he should move forward to Step 2.

Step 2. A meeting involving the player, his position and level coaches, the Head Coach and parent(s)/guardian(s) should be requested via e-mail. The message contained in the e-mail should include a brief explanation of the player/parent concerns. If this meeting does not resolve the situation, the player and his parents should move forward with Step 3.

Step 3. A meeting should be requested involving the player, appropriate Jonathan Dayton coaches, parent(s)/guardian(s), and the Athletic Director, Mr. Jacobs. If all the parties involved are still not comfortable with the outcome of the meeting, additional alternatives should be discussed to resolve the matter.

All discussions should focus on individual concerns and questions. The performance and ability of other players will not be a topic of discussion.

Respectfully,

Lance A. Jacobs
Supervisor of Athletics
Jonathan Dayton High School