

Parent/Coach Communication Protocols For Knights Traveling Teams

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging 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 a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

- *Philosophy of the coach.*
- *Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team.*
- *Locations and time of all practices and contests.*
- *Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.*
- *Procedure should your child be injured during participation.*
- *Student actions that may result in the denial of your child's participation.*

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

- *Concerns expressed directly to the coach.*
- *Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.*
- *Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.*

When your children become involved in the Oceanport Basketball Association's Knight's Travel Program they will experience some of the most challenging and rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. At these times, the expectation is that the athlete, not the parents, will initiate a discussion with the coach about the concerns. We believe this approach is both the most likely way to a positive end, and a valuable learning experience for the young athlete. The coaches have been instructed to encourage this type of dialogue and to promptly set aside time for individual, private appointments when requested.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

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

It is difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for the team. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches

- *Playing time.*
- *Team strategy.*
- *Play calling.*
- *Other students/athletes.*

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach 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 of the issue of concern.

The Procedure to Follow if You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach

- *Call to set up an appointment with the coach.*

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before/after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution? Write a letter or send an e-mail to the Oceanport Basketball Association's President outlining the facts and concerns of the situation. As appropriate, additional conferences will be set up and the situation will be addressed. In the event that a parent is not satisfied with the response from or actions of the Oceanport Basketball Association, a grievance can be filed with the Oceanport Recreation Committee.

Conclusion

Research indicates that youths involved in athletic activities have a greater chance for success. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants are exactly those that will promote a successful life outside of athletics. We hope the information provided within this pamphlet make both your child's and your experience with the Oceanport Basketball Association's Knights Travel Program enjoyable.

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____, have read the
Print Name Here Print Child's Name Here
Parent/Coach Communication Protocols for Knights Traveling Teams and I agree to
abide by them.

Signature Here Date: _____

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____, have read the
Print Name Here Print Child's Name Here
Parent/Coach Communication Protocols for Knights Traveling Teams and I agree to
abide by them.

Signature Here Date: _____

HEAD COACH ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, coach of the Knights _____, have read
Print Name Here Print Team Name Here
the Parent/Coach Communication Protocols for Knights Traveling Teams and I agree to
abide by them.

Signature Here Date: _____

I

ASSISTANT COACH ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, coach of the Knights _____, have read
Print Name Here Print Team Name Here
the Parent/Coach Communication Protocols for Knights Traveling Teams and I agree to
abide by them.

Signature Here Date: _____

ASSISTANT COACH ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, coach of the Knights _____, have read
Print Name Here Print Team Name Here
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abide by them.

Signature Here Date: _____