

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope that the information provided within this pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with the San Marcos Unified School District Athletic Program less stressful and more enjoyable.

Pursuing Victory With Honor

San Marcos Unified School District
Athletic Department

- Support your child and attend as many contests as possible.
- Avoid putting pressure on your child to star, score or be the star of the team.
- Support the coach in public, around other parents, athletes, and fans.
- Serve as good role models for the students, athletes, and fans.
- Avoid speaking negatively about the coach in front of your child.
- Contribute as a member of the Foundation; volunteer to help with projects and committees.
- Follow the chain of command whenever you have a concern.
- Understand that the goals of the team and the athletic program are more important than the hopes and dreams that you have for your child.
- Understand the ultimate purpose of athletics. The athletic program exists as an integral part of the total educational mission of the school. Participation is a privilege and not a right.
- Serve as beacons of good sportsmanship.

San Marcos Unified School District "Building Champions"



MISSION HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
GRIZZLIES

SAN MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL
KNIGHTS



Parent/Coach Communications

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 a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication Parents Should Expect From The Athlete's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations of athlete and team.
3. Location and times of all practices and games.
4. Team requirements, ie: fees, special equipment, off-season training.
5. Procedure should your athlete be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your athlete's participation.

Communication That Coaches Can Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coaches.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy.

As your children become involved in the programs in the SMUSD, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

1. Treatment of your child (mentally or physically)
2. Ways a parent can help his/her student athlete improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be best for all of the 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, such as those on the following page, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Inappropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Another athlete

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These interactions are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach

1. Call to set an appointment.
2. The telephone number for the high schools are:
Mission Hill - 760-290-2700
San Marcos - 760-290-2200
3. If the coach cannot be reached, please call the Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up for you.
Mission Hills - 290-2770
San Marcos - 290-2318

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 resolution.