

Parent Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching can be quite trying at times. By understanding and respecting the position of both parents and coaches, children are better served through their experience in athletics. Clear communication between parents and coaches can help both understand the position of the other and enhance the positive experience that can be gained from participation in athletics.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations and goals the coach has for your child as well as for the team and season.
- Location and times of all practices and games.
- Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs.
- Procedure if your child is injured during participation.
- Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions.
- Lettering criteria.
- Team selection process.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notifications of any schedule conflicts in advance
- Notification of any illness as soon as possible.

As your child becomes involved in athletics in the Paris ISD he or she 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 your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most important step to understanding and resolution.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The treatment of your child
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

COACHES ARE EDUCATORS FIRST AND FOREMOST

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are educators. They make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes and the educational goals of the Paris ISD. Certain concerns are appropriate to discuss with your child's coach. Other areas, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach:

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes

These are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important all parents involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position. When a conference is necessary, the procedure outlined on the following pages should be used to help resolve any concerns.

**IF YOU HAVE A
CONCERN TO
DISCUSS WITH A
COACH- PLEASE
FOLLOW THE
PROCEDURE BELOW**

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. Call the main number of the school and ask for the coach's extension.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and a meeting will be arranged.
4. 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 coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

THE NEXT STEP

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

- Call the Athletic Director and he will arrange a meeting to discuss the matter of concern.
- Athletic Office phone number (903) 737-7427

**PARENT CODE OF
CONDUCT**

1. Make sure your child understands that win or lose, you love him or her.
2. Be realistic about your child's ability.
3. Help your child set realistic goals.
4. Emphasize "improved" performance, not winning.
5. Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
6. Control your emotions at games and events.
7. Be a "cheerleader" for your child and other children on the team.
8. Respect your child's coaches. Communicate with them in a positive way. Encourage others to do the same.
9. Be a positive role model.
10. Be sensible, responsible and keep your priorities in order. There is a lot more at stake than a win or loss.

**REMEMBER: SPORTSMANSHIP BEGINS
WITH RESPECT FOR YOURSELF AND
OTHERS.**

PARIS

Independent School District

Parent/Coach
Communication
Guide

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