



**ATTICA JUNIOR-SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**
Parent-Coach Communication



“Building Better Programs for our Student-Athletes”

The 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 our 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 you should expect from your child’s coach

- The coach’s philosophy of coaching
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad/team
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, such as special equipment or practice gear needs as well as off-season conditioning expectations
- Procedures should your child be injured during participation
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child’s participation

Communication that coaches expect from parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regards to a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations
- Any specific medical information the coach/department may need to know

As your child becomes involved in programs at AJHS and AHS, 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 times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

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 very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved, and the team as a whole. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other items should not.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches

- Playing Time
- Team Strategy
- Play Calling
- Other Student-athletes

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

1. Call or email the coach to set up an appointment with the coach. Please understand that all of our coaches, like you, have full time jobs they work.
2. If the coach does not respond in a timely manner (24 hours), please contact the Athletic Office. We will be glad to set up the meeting for you.
3. Please refrain from confronting a coach before, during or after a practice or game. These are emotional times for everyone involved and do not produce resolution to situations.

The Next Step

What should you do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution to the situation? Please call the Athletic Office and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. At this meeting, the next appropriate step can be determined. Since research indicates that a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits learned through sports and activities are required to be successful in life after high school. We hope the information provided within this handout makes your student's and your experience with the Attica Junior-Senior High School Athletic Program less stressful and more enjoyable.