

## **Parent / Coach Communication**

Both parenting and coaching are huge responsibilities. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to the student athletes. As parents, when your student becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand the expectations that are placed on your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student's team.

### **Communication You Should Expect From Your Student's Coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Members of the coaching staff and which coaches may be specifically working with your student.
3. Expectations the coach has for your student as well as all the players on the team
4. Location and times of all practices and contests
5. Team Information, i.e. donations, special equipment, off-season conditioning, specific team rules.
6. Procedures should your student be injured during practice or a contest
7. Discipline procedures that may result in the denial of your student's participation

### **Communication Coaches Expect From Parents**

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
2. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
3. Specific medical problems that could adversely impact your student's performance or safety

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches**

1. The treatment of your student mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your student improve
3. Concerns about your student's behavior
4. Bullying or Hazing
5. Family concerns that may have an emotional impact upon your student and their athletic participation
6. Concerns of hazing or harassment by others.

It is very difficult to accept your student's playing less than you hoped for. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all the student athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your student's coach. Other things, such as the following items, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches**

1. Playing Time
2. Team Strategy
3. Play Calling
4. Lineups
5. Substitutions
6. Other student athletes on the team.

## **Unacceptable Contact with Your Student's Coach**

1. Prior to, during, or immediately after practice.
2. Prior to, during, or immediately after a contest.

These are typically either very busy times or in the case of a contest, very emotional times for all parties involved. Things can and will be said that are not meant. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

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

1. We ask that your student make contact with the coach first.
2. Then the parent can contact the coach. Though we understand your desire to talk with the Athletic Director or Principal first, those phone calls will be first referred to the appropriate coach.

### **If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, this is the procedure you should follow:**

1. Call the school to set up an appointment with the coach. The school phone number is 327-1000.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Clovis High Athletic Department at 327-1329.

### **What Can a Parent Do if The Meeting With the Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?**

1. Call and set up a meeting with the Clovis High School Athletic Director to discuss the situation. That number is 327-1329.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.