

Parent Coach Relationship Guidelines

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 you should expect from your child's coach

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad
3. Locations and time of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Appropriate concerns to discuss with your coach

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

It is very difficult to accept your child's 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. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be, and should be discussed with your child's coach.

Communication coaches expect from parents

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

As your children become involved in the programs at McDowell High School, 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.

Issues NOT appropriate to discuss with coaches

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

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. 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 the procedure to follow is:

1. Phone the coach to schedule a mutually convenient time and location to meet.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Head Parent and he will set up the meeting for you
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution