



MCA Athletics

Parent/Coach Communication Guide

Parent/Coach Relationship: Children are best served in their athletic experiences by understanding and respecting the position of both the coaches and parents. Clear communication between athletes, coaches and parents is an important element in any athletic program.

COMMUNICATION THAT ATHLETES AND PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH:

- Philosophy of the coach;
- Expectations for the season, the team and your son or daughter;
- Team selection process (this will vary in different sports and vary for different levels of competition);
- Team rules and guidelines and consequences for infractions;
- Times and locations of practices and games;
- Injury procedures.

COMMUNICATION THAT COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach;
- Notification of any injury or illness in a timely manner;
- Notification of any scheduling conflicts well in advance (notification of an absence from practice or a scheduled event must be done in advance except in the case of an emergency).

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH THE COACH:

- The coach's interaction with your child;
- Any concerns about your child's interaction with others;
- Ways to help your child improve athletically.

The primary role of every Metro coach is that of an educator. Coaches make decisions on what is in the best interest of all athletes and the program. As a parent it is sometimes difficult to accept these decisions. Certain concerns such as those previously listed 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.

- Team strategy
- Playing time
- Playing position
- Play calling
- Other student athletes



When issues arise it is ideal that the athlete and coach resolve them through direct dialogue. Communications between the coach and athlete are encouraged as it marks a significant maturation in our young athletes and helps prepare them in dealing with difficult issues. When a parent-coach conference is necessary, please follow the procedure outlined below.

WHEN YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH; PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE.

- If the coach-athlete conference does not resolve the situation, please call the main number at the school and ask for the coach's extension. You may also choose to email the coach. Please only use email to set up the conference and not in place of the conference itself. Email, though expedient, is a very poor form of communication any time dialogue turns to emotional topics or differences of agreement. Our school policy is that once discussions turn emotional or to differences of agreement, phone calls or personal conferences is the “rule of the day”.
- Request a time to meet with the coach.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and request that a meeting be arranged between the parent and coach. We request all staff to return phone calls and emails within 24 hours.
- Describe your specific area(s) of concern.
- Limit your discussion to your own child’s issues. Do not discuss issues pertaining to other athletes or parents unless they specifically involve your child.
- Please do not attempt to conference with a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for the parent, athlete, and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive interactions.

WHAT CAN A PARENT DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DOES NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION?

- Call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. At this time the appropriate next steps can be determined.
- Please do not call the members of the TCEC (Metro) Board as you will be re-directed to the above process.