



## HOLLY AREA SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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### PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE

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.

**Communications you should expect from your child's coach:**

- 1) Philosophy of the coach
- 2) Locations and time of all practices and contests
- 3) Team requirements; i.e. practices, special equipment, out of season conditioning
- 4) Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation
- 5) Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

**Communications coaches expect from parents:**

- 1) Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- 2) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- 3) Specific concerns with regard to coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the athletic program at Holly Area Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important that they understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, a discussion with the coach is encouraged.

**Examples:**

- 1) The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- 2) Ways to help your child improve
- 3) Concerns about your child's attitude
- 4) Academic support and college opportunities

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much or where you hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based upon what they believe to be best for all student/athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach.

**Examples:**

- 1) Team strategy
- 2) Other students/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 procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

- 1) Call the coach to set up an appointment.
- 2) If the coach cannot be reached, call the school or athletic director. A meeting will be set up for you.
- 3) 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 the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
- 4) 24-48 hour rule... *Contact the coach after 24 hours, but within 48 hours.*

If the meeting with the sub-varsity (step one) or varsity (step two) coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to call to set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success in adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided on this page

Home of the "Bronchos"