



MORTON JUNIOR HIGH ATHLETICS

Parent/Coach Communication

Parents and Coaches share an important role in an athlete's life. Both are there to support and help him/her to become the best possible player and person he/she can be. However, each of these positions has extremely different roles. In order to greater benefit the players, it is important to establish an understanding of each role. Also as parents, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. To do this, we must have clear communication from the coaching staff.

Communication Parents Should Expect From the Coaches

1. Philosophy and expectations of your child as well as the players on the team
2. Locations and times of practices and games
3. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
4. Procedure should your child be injured during participation
5. Discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. ALL Concerns expressed DIRECTLY to the coaches
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in ADVANCE
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

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

It is very difficult to accept their child's not playing as much as he hopes. However, you must keep in mind that the coaches are professionals. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved.

As you have seen from the list above, certain issues can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those that follow, will 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. *Other Student-Athlete's Playing Time*

If a problem or concern should arise that requires a conference between the coaches and the parents, there are certain procedures that need to be followed. These procedures will help promote finding a resolution to the concern and give all parties involved a clear understanding of the other's position.

Conference Procedure

If a concern presents itself, players are expected to talk to the coach themselves first. If there is still a question, call to set up an appointment with the coach. If after this meeting there continues to be a question, please contact the assistant principal/athletic director and all parties will meet to discuss the situation. Please DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or game. These can be emotional times for both parents and coaches. Meetings of this nature DO NOT promote resolution.