



South Lyon Community Schools Parent / Coach Communication Plan

**Good Sports Are Winners!
Sportsmanship Begins at Home!**

Parent / Coach - Relationship:

Parenting and coaching are two very difficult vocations. By attempting to understand each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to the student-athletes. As parents, when your children become involved in our programs, you have a right to understand the expectations placed on your child. Clear communication from your child's coach is essential in establishing this understanding.

Communication you should expect from your son / daughter's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the other players on the squad.
3. Sites and schedules of all practices and competitions.
4. Special team requirements such as: fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts at least three days in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and / or expectations.

As your children become involved in the athletic programs of the South Lyon Community

Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. However, it is also important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way your son / daughter wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate issues to discuss with coaches:

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

It may be very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you had hoped. Our coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based upon what they believe to be the best for all participants. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those following 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. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the parent and the coach. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's 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 you should follow is:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director - every effort will be made to set up an appointment for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or contest.

These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Confrontations of this nature do not promote resolution.

The Next Step . . .

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and make an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step will be determined.

Our interscholastic athletic program has been established because research indicates that a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance of achieving academic and life-long success. Many of the character traits necessary to be a successful participant are similar to those that will ensure success in post-graduate life. The South Lyon Athletic Department hopes that the information provided here makes both your child's and your experience with athletics a positive one.

Member: Michigan High School Athletic Association