

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

We are very pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the Meadville athletic program. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him/her. Possibly the most important ingredient to achieve this outcome is to insure that lines of communication are developed to allow for free and easy resolution of questions before they become issues. As a parent, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your son/daughter. This leaflet is intended to spell out all levels of communications so that parents, coaches, and athletes are aware of the steps they have available to resolve anything they think is or might become an issue.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR ATHLETE'S COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your son/daughter.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements: equipment, off season training, etc.
5. Procedure to follow should your son/daughter become injured during participation.
6. Participant conduct code and consequences for not following these guidelines.
7. Requirements to earn a letter.
8. Disposition of lost/outstanding equipment at the end of the season.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach first.

2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your son/daughter becomes involved in the various programs at Meadville, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your son/daughter wishes. At these times, a discussion with the coach may be the quickest and most effective way to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Ways to help your son/daughter improve.
2. Concerns about your son/daughter's academic progress.

At times it may be difficult to accept the fact that your son/daughter is not playing as much as you or he/she would like. Coaches are professionals who make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and all involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your son/daughter's coach. We ask that other things, such as those in the next column, be left to the discretion of the coach.

COACHES' DECISIONS

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Matters concerning other student/athletes.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, PLEASE FOLLOW THE PROCEDURE BELOW:

1. Your son or daughter should first speak with the coach about his/her concerns.
2. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
3. If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable time, call Jon Frye, Athletic Director (814-336-1121, ext. 135 or email him at: Jon.frye@craw.org). He will arrange an appointment for you.
4. Please do not approach a coach Before, during or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings at these times usually do not work well for the coach, parent or player.

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

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined as necessary. Whether or not this step is ever reached, please keep in mind the following protocol when you elect to pursue a concern you may have regarding your son or daughter's experience on one of Meadville's sports

teams. Please make contact as follows:

1. Head Coach.
2. Athletic Director. (336-1121, ext. 135, Jon.frye@craw.org)

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established and encouraged. 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 within this pamphlet helps to make the Meadville Athletic Program as enjoyable and as positive as possible for both you and your son or daughter. Thank you for your support.

REMINDERS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. If an athlete visits a physician for illness or injury, he/she must bring a note from the doctor before being allowed to return to practice.
2. If an athlete misses any class, he/she will not be allowed to play in a contest that day unless the absence was for a doctor or dental appointment. The student athlete has to bring a note from the doctor/dentist and bring it to one of the administrators for them to clear. The administrator will then sign the student's game day slip.
3. Any use of drugs or alcohol will result in a suspension. School, league, and district rules and policy apply.
4. Any athlete who is ejected from a contest will be suspended at least until after the next contest at the same level is completed. PIAA rules will apply.

5. An athlete may not miss a mandatory team practice or contest to participate in a non-school sporting event.



PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS



MEADVILLE BULLDOG ATHLETIC PROGRAM POLICY/PHILOSOPHY