

Lowell Red Arrows

Parent-Coach Communication

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult roles. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to young people. As parents, when your son/daughter becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your athlete. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your athlete's program.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Son/Daughter's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
 2. Expectations the coach has for our athlete, as well as all of the athletes on the squad.
 3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
 4. Team requirements (i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
 5. Procedure should your athlete be injured during participation.
 6. Discipline that results in the denial of your athlete's participation.
 7. The Athletic Department Policies and Rules handbook.
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Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance of practice and contests.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your athlete becomes more involved in the programs with the Lowell Area Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments in their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your athlete wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

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

It is very difficult to accept your athlete's not playing as much as you may hope. **Coaches are professionals.** They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen above, certain things can be, and should be, discussed with your athlete's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, 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 and/or coaches.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. 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 will be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

*If you Have a Concern to Discuss With a Coach,
the Procedure to Follow is..*

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, and a meeting will be set up for you. The Lowell Athletic Department telephone number is 987-2907.
3. Please **do not** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote a resolution of the problem.

The Next Step

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

The procedure to follow is:

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director (987-2907) and the Coach to discuss the situation.
2. If the problem is still not resolved, set up a meeting with the Building Principal, Athletic Director, and the Coach.
3. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

We hope the information provided within this brochure makes both your athlete's and your experience with the Lowell Athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

Lowell High School
11700 Vergennes, Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 987-2907

Lowell Middle School
750 Foreman, Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 987-2800

Lowell High School is Proud to be a Member of the...

