



Parent-Coach Communication Guidelines

One goal of the Athletic Department is to provide our athletes with the best environment in which their sport experiences may be as rewarding as possible. We believe that this goal may not be realized without appropriate lines of communication available to all parties involved. These communication guides should help coaches, parents, administrators, and athletes communicate more effectively.

Communication Parents Should Expect From Their Child's Coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has of their child and the team
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team Requirements. For example: fees, special equipment, eligibility, attendance, off-season conditioning, etc.
- Procedure to follow should their child become injured during participation
- Requirements to earn a letter

Communication Coaches Should Expect From Parents:

- Concerns should be expressed privately and directly to the coach first.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts should be made well in advance.
- Specific concerns should be expressed that are directly related to the program.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches:

An athlete who becomes involved in the various programs in Canton Local Schools 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 child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach may be desirable to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstandings. Listed below are examples of issues that are appropriate for discussion.

- How your child is doing, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior or grades

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches:

It is very difficult to accept the fact that your child is not playing as much as you would want. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach.

Other things such as those things listed below must be left to the discretion of the coach.

- Playing time/Position assignment
- Team strategy/Play calling
- Matters concerning other student athletes

Procedure to Follow If You Have a Concern to Discuss With a Coach:

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. Such a meeting is encouraged when necessary. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. Each should be willing to listen. The following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue.

- Call or email the coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached in a reasonable amount of time, call the athletic director and an appointment will be made for you.
- Important: Please DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice session. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and may even escalate the issue.

The Next Step:

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution? Although total agreement may not always be reached, most often such a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding. If the parent desires further communication, please call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step will be determined.

Chain of Command:

Canton Local Schools, in conjunction with its Athletic Department, follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe the order of this line of communication if you elect to pursue any concern you may have regarding the athletic program:

- Assistant Coach or Head Coach
- Athletic Director
- Building Principal
- Superintendent
- Board of Education

We hope that the information provided here will help you and your child to have a rewarding and enjoyable athletic experience.