

White Cloud Jr/Sr High School

Parent-Coach Communication Guide

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging roles. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of each other, providing greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. 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 your athlete and the other players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements (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 White Cloud Jr/Sr High School Athletic Handbook.

Communication coaches expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Support the coach.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

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

It is very difficult to accept your athlete's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As seen above, certain things can and should be discussed with your athlete's coach. However, there are other things which 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 meetings are encouraged. When parent-coach conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Procedures to Set Up a Meeting

1. Make an appointment to talk privately with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the athletic director. An appointment will be scheduled for you by the athletic director.
3. **Please do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.** The coach has responsibilities to the entire team at these times. In addition, these times may often be emotional for coaches, athletes, and parents, and therefore, are rarely conducive to the positive resolution of concerns.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?
Contact the White Cloud Jr/Sr High School Athletic Director (ext. 3224) to discuss the situation.

Research indicates that students involved in co-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood within their chosen profession and make positive contributions to their communities. Many of the character traits, qualities, and attributes required to be a successful student athlete are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this guide makes both your athlete's and your experience with the White Cloud Public Schools athletic program more enjoyable.



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