

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR AND COACHES/SPONSORS THINGS TO COVER AT THE PRE-SEASON MEETING WITH PARENTS

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in a school program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach/sponsor of your child's program.

Communication Coaches/Sponsors Expect From Parents

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

In school activities, your child will experience some of the most rewarding

moments of their lives. 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/sponsor is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches/Sponsor

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

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing/participating as much as you may hope. Coaches/Sponsors are professionals; they make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach/sponsor. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach/sponsor.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss with Coaches/Sponsors

1. Playing/participation time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/sponsor and the parent. These conferences are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, this is the procedure you should follow:

1. Call to set up an appointment. **DO NOT** call a coach at home.
2. The Southwest High School telephone number is 436-1306.
3. If the coach cannot be reached call the Athletic Director, Dave Gillespie. He will set up the meeting for you.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional time for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

What can a Parent Do If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resoultion?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in extra-curricular activities had a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with the Lincoln Southwest High School Athletic program less stressful nad more enjoyable.

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Parent/Coach
Communication