

EDWARDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parent/Coach Relationship:

Both parenting and coaching are very 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 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 child's program.

Communication you should expect from you child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communications coaches expect from parents:

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

As your child becomes involved in the activity program at Edwardsville High School, they 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 is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

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 as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is in the best interest of the team as a whole. As you have seen from the proceeding list, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those in the following section, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with a coach:

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

When you choose to discuss these items with a coach you not only put the coaches in a no win situation, but your athlete in a no win situation.

Proper procedure in contacting a coach about a concern:

Chain of Command

Coaches work to maximize opportunities for students who participate in sports while maintaining a competitive program. At times, the decision of a coach may come into question by an athlete or parent.

These are the steps that should follow when this situation arises:

1. Athlete should initiate a conversation with the athletes' position coach.
2. If a resolution or answer does not suffice the athlete should then initiate a meeting with varsity coordinator on the student athlete's side of the ball (offense or defense).
3. If a resolution or answer does not suffice the athlete should then initiate a meeting with the head football coach.
4. If a resolution or answer does not suffice this is where the parent of the athlete would need to get involved. At this time the parent and athlete would initiate a meeting with the athlete's position coach and varsity coordinator.
5. If a resolution or answer does not suffice the parent and athlete will initiate a meeting with the head football coach & varsity coordinator.
6. If a resolution or answer does not suffice the parent and athlete will initiate a meeting with the athletic director and head football coach.
7. If a resolution or answer does not suffice the parent and athlete will initiate a meeting with the principal, athletic director, and head football coach.
8. Parents who contact a school administrator who has not followed this procedure will be referred to this policy and directed back to the coach.

Prior to meeting with a parent, the coaching staff requests notice of specific items or issues that you would like to discuss. As a staff we have an open door policy and encourage players to try and resolve any problems or issues they may have on their own 1st. As a coaching staff we are attempting to teach the athletes accountability, problem solving, and ownership in their athletic venture. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or game. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

24 Hour Rule

This rule applies to parent-coach interactions. If something is bothering you about your child's status on a team, etc. give yourself 24 hours before you contact the coach. Never attempt to contact the coach after a contest, especially a loss. The time away from the situation will give you a chance to search for a perspective that may give you a new way to look at the circumstances. Discussions with the coach will be more meaningful when calmer situations prevail.

Final Thoughts

Research indicates that students involved in extra-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood. 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 in this letter makes you and your child's experience with the Edwardsville High School athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

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PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Expectations of Parents

Both parenting and coaching are challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are able to communicate the benefits of extracurricular activities to children. As parents, it is important for you to be active in your child's athletic experience and help to foster a positive relationship between your student-athlete and their coaches, teammates, fans, officials, and opponents. Parents should be supportive of the coaching staff and team goals in order to help create better members of the community.

Parental Sportsmanship

Parents are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. As a spectator, parents should be supportive of all athletes and cheer positively at all times. Parents should not engage in negative attacks on players, parents, coaches, or officials at any times.

Interaction with Coaches

Parents should be supportive of coaches at all levels of athletic competition. Parents should interact with coaches in order to create a supportive and nurturing environment for their student-athlete. Parents should work with coaches to help build a positive team experience.

Interaction with Officials

At no time should a parent engage in conversations with an official during an athletic competition. Parents should avoid criticizing the officiating of an athletic contest. Parents who are found harassing officials will be asked to leave the athletic competition without reimbursement and may be banned from future athletic events.

Parent Meetings and Communications

We will hold a minimum of one Parent Meetings at the end of the school year. This meeting will outline expectations of the coach, rules for the season, and other information pertinent to your child's involvement in athletic participation. This meeting should be attended by parents and athletes alike. We may choose to hold parent meetings at other times of the year to address issues such as fundraising and banquets.