

# **Parent – Coach Communications**

## **Central Kitsap School District**

### **Athletic Department**

#### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

We are very pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the Central Kitsap School District athletic program. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him/her. Possibly the most important ingredient necessary to achieve this outcome is communication. Our goal is to assure that lines of communication are developed to allow for free and easy resolution of questions before they become issues. As a parent, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your son/daughter. This flyer is intended to spell out all levels of communications so that parents, coaches, and athletes are aware of the steps they have available to resolve anything they think is or might become an issue.

#### **Communication You Should Expect from Your Athlete's Coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your son/daughter
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements: equipment, off-season training, etc.
5. Procedure to follow should your son/daughter become injured during participation
6. Athletic Code of Conduct and consequences for not following these guidelines
7. Requirements to earn a letter
8. Disposition of lost/outstanding equipment at the end of the season
9. Communication concerning your athlete's role on the team and how he/she fits into the future of the program

#### **Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parents**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach first
2. Specific concern in regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your son/daughter becomes involved in various programs at Central Kitsap School District he/she 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 son/daughter wishes. At these times, your son/daughter's discussion with the coach may be the quickest and most effective way to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding.

#### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

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

At times it may be difficult to accept the fact that your son/daughter is not playing as much as you or he/she would like. Coaches are professionals who make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and all involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be

and should be discussed with your son/daughter's coach. We ask that other things, such as those listed below, be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Coaches' Decisions**

1. Playing time
2. Team Strategy
3. Play Calling
4. Matters concerning other student/athletes

### **If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach, Please Follow The Procedure Below**

1. Your son or daughter should first talk with the coach about his/her concerns. You can help your child with the words to use to ask the question respectfully
2. If they feel it is necessary to involve you, then call the school to set up an appointment with the coach
3. If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable time, call the Building Athletic Director. He/she will arrange the appointment for you
4. Please do not approach a coach before or after a contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings at these times usually do not work well for the coach, the parent or the player

### **The Next Step**

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

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Building Athletic Director to discuss the situation
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined as necessary

Whether or not this step is ever reached, please keep in mind the following protocol when you elect to pursue a concern you may have regarding your son/daughter's experience with one of Central Kitsap's sports teams. Please make contact as follows (see contact numbers below)

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach
3. Building Athletic Director
4. Principal
5. Central Kitsap School District Athletic Director, Steve Coons, 360-662-1626
6. Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, Franklyn MacKenzie, 360-662-1631
7. Superintendent, David McVicker, 360-662-1615

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established and encouraged. 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 within this flyer helps to make the Central Kitsap School District Athletic Program as enjoyable and as positive as possible for both you and your son/daughter. Thank you for your support.