

Smyrna School District Athletic Parent-Coach Communication Plan

As a parent of a student entering the Smyrna Athletic Program, you must remember that participation on an athletic team is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, you have the right to know the expectations placed upon your child. Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult jobs. Therefore, the clearer the communication between parent and coach, the more benefits for our athletes.

As a parent, you should expect the following from the coach:

1. Coach's philosophy.
2. Expectations for your child, all the players, and the team.
3. Times and locations of all practices and contests.
4. Requirements for practices and games, i.e., proper uniforms and equipment.
5. Discipline: Actions which would cause disciplinary measures and what the consequences of those actions are, i.e., suspension, dismissal, etc.
6. Coaches should be approachable about parental concerns.

Coach's expectations of parents:

1. Parents should encourage their son or daughter to speak to the coach first about concerns.
2. Parents should express concerns directly to the coach at appropriate times.
3. Aforementioned concern should be addressed at a mutually agreed upon time. Immediately preceding or following a contest is in no one's (athlete, parent or coaches) best interest.

Hopefully, the student athlete will experience some of the most memorable moments of his/her high school career through his/her participation in our athletic programs. However, there are times when things will not always go the way the athlete or parent wishes. At these times open discussion is encouraged with the coach.

Parental concerns which should be discussed with the coach:

1. The treatment of your child both physically and psychologically.
2. The way in which your child could improve.
3. Behavioral concerns.

All parents wish that their child has as much playing time as possible. Many times it is difficult for parents to understand why their child is not playing as much as they wish. It is the district's expectations that the coach, as a professional, makes the correct judgments based on what the coach feels is best for the athletes, team and program. Things such as coaching strategies and concerns about other students should be left to the discretion of the coach.

There may situations that require a conference between the parents and coach. These are to be encouraged so both sides understand the other's concerns and ideas. The discussion should be handled confidentially and in a professional manner. The following guidelines should be followed to help resolve the issue or concern.

If there is a concern to discuss with a coach, please follow this procedure:

1. Encourage your son or daughter to speak to the coach directly. An athlete should not fear retribution from a coach. This should be a positive approach.
2. Call to schedule an appointment with the coach.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. He will assist in arranging a meeting.
4. Do not approach a coach before or after a practice or contest unless an appointment has been scheduled. This is a very emotional time for the athlete, parent and coach.
5. If a meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call the Athletic Director to schedule an appointment to discuss the problem.

Smyrna School District's expectations of the parent or guardian:

1. Support your son or daughter's efforts toward success.
2. Be positive in your approach to your student athlete's role on the team.
3. Understand the rules and regulations that the student athlete must follow for the coach, as well as the school district.
4. Communicate any concerns following the protocol listed.
5. Parents should treat coaches with courtesy and respect and insist that their son or daughter do the same.

**Smyrna School District
Smyrna, Delaware**

Certainly, your son or daughter's participation in Smyrna's Athletic Programs will be a positive experience and help prepare them for life's activities. Many of the character traits needed to be successful in sports are the same, which help build success in school and life. We hope the information provided here makes both your child's and your experience with the Smyrna Athletic Program a rewarding one.



Smyrna Athletics

Athletic Director:

Bill Schultz
302-653-2750

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High School Principal:
Stacy Cook