

Liberty Union High School District
Heritage High School Athletic Department
Guidelines for Parent-Coach Communication

Inter-scholastic athletics are a compelling part of a high school's educational program. Because of the high profile nature of competitive athletics, the coaches, student participants, and parents/guardians often have an emotional investment that can turn what should be a positive experience into a negative one when misunderstandings occur. This guideline has been created to clarify the expectations for communication between coach, parent, and student-athlete. It also outlines a complaint process, if a problem develops.

A. Communication a Parent/Guardian Should Expect from a Coach

1. The coach's background and philosophy, for all levels of the program
2. Expectations for student-athletes on team (i.e., attendance, grades, dress, conduct)
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Transportation procedures and fees
5. Team requirements (i.e., special equipment, fund raisers, practice setup/cleanup)
6. Procedures to be followed in case of injury during practice or contest
7. Team rules and disciplinary consequences for violations

B. Communication a Coach Expects from a Parent/Guardian

1. Notification that the student-athlete is ill or injured
2. Advance notice if the student-athlete will miss practice or a contest
3. Clarifying questions about the coaches' expectations re: the items in **A.** above
4. Any concerns are first addressed directly to the coach, not other parties.

While a coach may choose to respond to a question in this regard, it is not appropriate to seek to engage in a discussion about roster selection, starting lineup, playing time and team strategy/play calling. Also, the coach will NEVER discuss student athletes other than the child of the parent involved.

Even when the above communication expectations are met by all parties, concerns may become complaints. Should that happen, please address your complaint according to the process below:

COMPLAINT PROTOCOL

1. The student discusses his/her concern directly with the coach - If Not Resolved
2. The parent contacts the coach to discuss the concern – If Not Resolved
3. The parent, coach and student are required to meet personally – If Not Resolved
- 4. The parent or student puts the concern in writing and contacts the Athletic Director**
5. The Athletic Director will present the concerns to the coach and discuss possible solutions – If Not Resolved
6. The Athletic Director will meet with the parent, student, and coach – If Not Resolved
7. The parent, student, and/or Athletic Director will refer the matter to the Principal

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COACH WITH COMPLAINTS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER THE GAME. Pick a time when everyone has less adrenaline.

Working together in a constructive and reasoned manner, the most significant adults in a student-athlete's life, his/her parent/guardian(s) and coach(es), can make high school sports a great experience!!

Please sign below indicating that you have received these guidelines:

Student Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Date: _____ Sport/Team: _____