

GIBBS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult undertakings. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to students. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach about your child.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team
- Location and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
- Procedures should your child be injured during practice or contest
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance

As your child becomes involved in the athletic programs at Gibbs 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

- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior
- Concerns about an injury

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 to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain subjects can and should be discussed with our child's coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern. If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, you should do the following:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment. The school number is 689-9130.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director, Jeff Thomas.
3. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.** These can be very emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this type usually do not promote resolution.

Next Step

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

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

Research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance of success during adulthood; therefore these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required for a successful life after high school are learned by playing team sports, and your child will carry these memories for a lifetime. We hope the information provided by this page makes both your child's and your experience with the Gibbs High School athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

Tear off and return with completed physical

I have read and understand the guidelines for parent/coach communication at Gibbs High School.

Student Athlete (please print)

Parent Signature/Date