

PARENT-COACH COMMUNICATION

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefits to our children. As parents, when your children become involved in athletics, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the other players on the team.
- Location and times of all practices and contest.
- Team requirements; i.e. fees, equipment, etc.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication that the coach should expect from parents:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to the coach's philosophy/and or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at A-O, they will hopefully experience some rewarding moments. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At that time, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with your child's coach:

- The treatment of your child: mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals. They are, at times, forced to make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for all student-athletes involved. As you may have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those in the following paragraphs, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with your child's coach:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. This is encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be taken to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Procedures to follow if you have a concern to discuss with the coach:

- Call the school to set up a time to meet with the coach.
- 795-4821 H.S. or 795-4448 J.H.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and leave a message for the coach.
- Do not confront the coach before or after a practice or a game. These confrontations can be emotional for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

Research indicates students involved in extra-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants in extra-curricular activities are exactly those that will promote successful lives after school.