



Parent Communication Guidelines / Expectations

Because of the high profile nature of competitive athletics, the coaches, players, 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 player. It also outlines a complaint process if a problem develops.

Much of our communication will be centered around the coaches email and cell phone. They might also use a team app such as REMIND 101, or TEAM SNAP. While you will be provided with contact information, this is not the default method of communication and should only be used in the event of emergency.

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

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

B. Communication a Coach Expects from a Parent/Guardian

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

C. Inappropriate Topics of Conversation from a Parent / Guardian

- Playing time
- Starting lineup
- Team strategy/play calling
- Players 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

The player discusses his concern directly with the coach. Most or all of communication must be between coach and player. Our combined efforts should be focused on developing the player's communication skills. This will best serve him best in future dealings with supervisors in the workplace.

- If Not Resolved

- a. The parent emails the coach with a brief outline of the issue so the coach can discuss the concern with the player. Please include your phone # and good times to talk if necessary. – **If Not Resolved**
- b. The parent, coach(s) and player meet – **If Not Resolved**
- c. The student puts the concern in writing and contacts the Athletic Director.
- d. The Athletic Director will meet with the parent, student, and coach.– **If Not Resolved**
- e. The Athletic Director and Administration will meet with parent, student, and coach.

NOTE: Unless an emergency involving the health of your player, **PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COACH WITHIN 24 HOURS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER THE GAME.**

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

Communication Guideline / Expectation Acknowledgement

(Submission required for participation)

I, _____ (player), and _____
(parent/guardian), have read the Communication Guideline / Expectations. By signing below, we acknowledge that we understand its contents and agree to the terms and will follow the protocols. We will do our best to work together to provide a positive experience. We are aware of the commitment it takes to be a part of the HJSD sports programs and are aware that all decisions that are made are for the betterment of the TEAM.

Player _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

*****Parents who choose to not follow protocols and demonstrate actions that are not conducive to the athletic programs, or reflect negatively on the Hagerman Joint School District, will be put under review by the Athletic Director and Administration. The parent will then be notified and will be **required** to meet with the Athletic Director and Administration before attendance of the next HJSD athletic contest.**