

PARENTS OF STUDENTS INVOLVED IN ATHLETICS AT MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL

The following is information that I hope you will find helpful in creating a better understanding between parents and coaches of the various sports.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

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

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
4. Procedure to be followed should your child be injured during participation.
5. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PLAYERS

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
2. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Midland Community Schools, 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

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

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 things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those following must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. 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, THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW:

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. The Midland Community School telephone number is 563-488-2292.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Activities Director. If he cannot be reached, call the High School Principal. We will be happy to set the meeting up for you.
4. **Do NOT confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.** Call the coach the next day at school to set up an appointment.

WHAT CAN A PARENT DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DID NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Activities Director to discuss the situation.
2. If you would like the High School Principal to be part of the meeting, you may request this when you contact the Activities Director.
3. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided makes both your child's and your experience with the Midland Community Schools Activities program less stressful and more enjoyable.

In closing, we are interested in your input as well as your concerns. All of us should be working together to create the most positive, safe, and productive environment for all students. Thank you for taking the time to read the information.

Carol Reilly
Midland High School Principal

Casey Hack
Midland High School Activities Director