



# Parent/Coach Communication Plan



Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children.

As parents, when your child becomes 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 from the Coaching Staff

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of practices and contests.
4. Team requirements; i.e. practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning.
5. Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline, which may impact your child's participation.
7. Eligibility requirements and concerns.

## Appropriate Concerns for Discussion

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 sometimes very difficult to accept your child is 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 on the next list, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with the Coach

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

There are situations, which 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 procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern. For concerns regarding discussion with the coach, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. The Ephrata High School telephone number is (717) 721-1478.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director at extension 19020.
4. A meeting will be scheduled for you.
5. **The Next Step:** What a parent can do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:

- \* Call and schedule an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.

PLEASE NOTE:

- \* Please do not approach a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parents and the coaching staff. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

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 in this handout makes both your child's and your experience with the Ephrata Area School District athletic programs less stressful and more enjoyable.

