



ALLENDALE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE

The Parent/Coach Relationship

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

The First Step: What can a parent do to assist the coach and team?

1. Join the Athletic Boosters and get involved!
2. Attend all events and be a positive, supporting fan
3. Support the coach in the presence of your child
4. Try to see things from the coach's perspective
5. Volunteer as a photographer, statistician, parent rep, etc.

Communication you should expect from your son/daughter's coach

1. The philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child and the other players on the squad
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure for injuries during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
7. Transportation policy to and from contests

Communication coaches expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of an schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
4. Any specific information about your child that the coach might need to know

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
4. Information that the coach needs to know concerning the athlete

Areas of concern that are inappropriate to discuss during the season

1. Strategy
2. Playing time
3. Other athletes

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow is:

Level I: Discussion with coaches for information purposes is encouraged at any time.

- Meeting between coach and player
- Meeting between coach and parents to discuss appropriate concerns

Level II: Discussion with coaches when you have a concern or conflict with the coach.

- Level II meetings will be set up by the Athletic Director. These meetings will include the coach, Athletic Director, parent, and student athlete. Minutes/notes of the meeting will be taken.
- Should be designed to promote a resolution.
- Should not be done before/after a contest, which is an emotional time

Level III: Meetings with the Superintendent, Athletic Director, coach, parent, and player.

- Level III meetings occur when resolution is not achieved at Level II meetings

In conclusion...

Research indicates that students involved in co-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood. We hope the information provided within this guide will make both your child's and your experience with the AHS Athletic Program more enjoyable.

We believe that the Allendale High School Athletic Program helps develop the character traits that promote a successful life after high school.

GO FALCONS!!!