

Since research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established.

Many of the character traits required to be successful athletes are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

We hope that the information included in this pamphlet will help make your son's / daughter's athletic participation and your experiences with our high school athletic programs more enjoyable.

A Different Take on Sportsmanship

At one point during the game, the coach said to one of his young players, "Do you understand what cooperation is?" "What a team is?"

The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

"Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team?"

"So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you are out at first base, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all of that?"

Again the little boy nodded yes.

"Good," said the coach. Now go over there and explain it to your mother!"

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Parent / Coach

**Relationships
&
Communication**



**Escambia
County
School District
Athletic
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**Roger Mayo, CAA
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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 other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in the school's athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your son's / daughter's program.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all of the players on the team.
3. Locations and times of all practices and games.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fundraising.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communications Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Communications directly to the coach .
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and / or expectations.

As your children become involved in the athletic programs at Escambia County 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 development of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child to improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept that 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 and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those on the following page, 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 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 procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach, This Is The Procedure To Follow

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the school's Athletic Director. He will set up the meeting for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a game or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote a resolution.