

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

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed 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 programs at Elida High School, 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 on the following page, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time.
2. Game strategy or play calling.
3. Team strategy.
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, THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW IS:

1. Call to set up an appointment. The High School telephone number is 331-4115.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, Mr. May. He will set up the meeting for you.
3. **Do not attempt to 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.**

THE NEXT STEP

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 Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. 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 this information provided within this pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with the Elida High School athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILDREN

1. Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them

- to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
2. Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
 3. Don't compete with the coach. Be helpful but don't coach them. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
 4. Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying" to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
 5. Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure; you lost as well as won. You were frightened, you backed off at times, and you were not always heroic. Don't pressure your child because of your pride. Athletic children need their parents, so you must not withdraw. Remember, there is a thinking, feeling, sensitive, free spirit out there in that uniform who needs a lot of understanding, especially when their world turns bad. If they are comfortable with you, win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum achievement and enjoyment.
 6. Don't compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
 7. Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
 8. Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

9. Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear and discomfort.

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A PLAYER'S PLEA

Please don't yell and scream at me,
 I'm doing the best I can;
 I'm only just a kid you know,
 And you're a grown up fan.

I may not be a superstar,
 But these are just fun games;
 I need to hear you cheer for me,
 It hurts when you call me names.

I listen as you tell me,
 How to play my games;
 But my coach wants me to play his way,
 ...sometimes it's not the same.

I've never tried to lose a game,
 I like to play fair and square;
 And when I play the best I can,
 I'm really glad you're there.

The game is played for me you see,
 And you are just a guest;
 I don't need a fan that gripes,
 I deserve the best.

So please remember when you're at a game,
 I don't always have to be number one;
 Because win, lose or tie you see,
 I'm just there to have fun.

Love,
 Your Kids

**ELIDA HIGH
 SCHOOL
BULLDOGS**



**PARENT/COACH
 COMMUNICATION**

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*Together building better programs
 for the students-athletes of Elida
 Schools.*
