

Grain Valley School District

Parent-Coach/Sponsor Communication

Parent/Coach/Sponsor Relationship

Parenting and coaching are extremely challenging. By establishing an understanding of each other's position, we are better able to provide greater benefits to the young people we work with. As parents, when your children become involved in one of our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach/sponsor of your child's program.

Communications you should expect from your child's coach/sponsor

1. Philosophy of the coach/sponsor.
2. Expectations (i.e., team rules) the coach/sponsor has for your child as well as the participants involved with the program.
3. Locations and times of all practices, meetings and contests.
4. Team requirements - fees, special equipment, off-season training requirements etc.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation in an activity.
6. Firm, fair and consistent enforcement of rules as written in the Grain Valley Athletic Handbook.

Communications coaches/sponsors expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach or sponsor.
2. Notification of any schedule conflict well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regards to a coach's or sponsor's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Grain Valley they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that when there is a concern both the coach and the parents need to communicate to find a solution. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the others position.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches/sponsors

1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.
4. Special needs of the child.
5. Non-school team membership.
6. Eligibility concerns.
7. Your child in the total team concept.

Coaches and sponsors are professionals. They make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be best for all the members of their team. Decisions involving issues such as:

- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Team Personnel
- Other student participants

are not appropriate items to discuss with coaches and sponsors.

Appropriate Time and Place for Discussion of Concerns

Please do not attempt to confront a coach/sponsor 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.

Communication Chain of Command

1. We will encourage the young people in our programs to consult with their coach/sponsor first as this develops responsibility and a working relationship between your child and the coach/sponsor. Most concerns can be addressed at this level.
2. If necessary, the next order in the chain of command would be to contact your child's coach about your concern. Communication between the parent and your child's coach/sponsor will provide a clear understanding of the problem and first hand solution(s) to your concern.
3. If a resolution cannot be achieved with the coach, you may contact the Activities Director, Brandon Hart, at (816) 847-5000 ext.2007 to schedule a meeting with the AD, coach, and child.
4. If you are still not satisfied after meeting with the coach and AD, you may contact the building principal to determine your next course of action.

All of us working together will provide our students with the opportunity to be successful.