

PARENT / ATHLETE / COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE

DRHS Philosophy

- Athletic achievement requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For success, effective communication must occur.
- The school athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff and student-athletes.
- We are continually attempting to improve communication with the students and parents. For our programs to be truly successful, it is necessary that everyone understand the focus and direction of the program.

Your Expectations as a Parent: (Please also see Chain of Communication on website)

- A. Be supportive on the sideline or in the stands! Attendance is a privilege, not a right.**
 1. Unsportsmanlike behavior can cause removal from games or events.
- B. Do not air your grievances with your athlete. Be there to support them and to listen.**
 1. *Listen to your student-athlete and help them problem solve. They will become stronger adults with parents having them solve their own problems when applicable. Encourage them to discuss their situation with a coach that they have bonded with on the team.*
- C. It is reasonable to expect your child's coach to inform you:**
 1. When and where practices and contests are held.
 2. About his/her coaching philosophy.
 3. About the expectations he/she has for all athletes on the squad as well as your specific child.
 4. What is required to be part of the team, i.e., fees, special equipment, off- season programs, lettering requirements, etc.
 5. If your child is injured during participation in a practice or contest.
 6. Whenever any disciplinary action results in your son/daughter being denied participation in a practice or contest.
- D. Typical concerns of parents appropriate to discuss with a coach are:**
 1. Any unhealthy mental or physical strain you detect in your child at home (especially when it affects his/her academic performance).
 2. How you can contribute to your child's skill improvement and development.
 3. Any dramatic changes you detect in your child's behavior.

Our Expectations as Coaches:

- A. It is inappropriate to discuss with a coach:**
 1. Playing Time—it is expected that the *student-athlete* initially conducts this conversation.
 2. Team strategy or play calling
 3. Other student athletes
- B. Coaches often need parents to call them with:**
 1. Any specific health concerns about your son/daughter expressed directly and informally to the head coach at a mutually convenient time.
 2. Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance.
 3. Your commitment to the program, and how you plan to make a contribution to the program's success. For example, one way is to be sure that your child is at practice each day on time and to supervise that your child gets enough rest and nutrition at home.
 4. Strategies that have worked for you in dealing with your son/daughter being successful in the past.
- C. If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, what procedure should you follow?**
 1. Have your *student-athlete* talk to the coach first if applicable. If not--
 2. Make an appointment with the coach. Never approach the coach after a game unless the coach requests this.
 3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletics Director to set up a meeting.
 4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or following a contest or practice. These can be a busy and emotional time for both the parent and the coach and this period does not promote objective analysis of the situation.
- D. What should you do if the meeting with the coach does not result in a solution to the problem?**
 1. Call the Athletics Director to set up an appointment to discuss the situation.
 2. At this meeting, the appropriate next steps can be determined.