

## 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 our students. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand the expectations placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

### Communication You Can Expect From the Coach

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all members of the team.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements: fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- Procedures should your child be injured during practices or contests.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

### Communication Coaches Can Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become more involved in the programs of Indiana School for the Deaf, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand, however, that there 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

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

As a parent, it is very difficult to accept your child's not playing much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments 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 issues, such as those listed below must be left to the discretion of our professional staff.

### Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

- Playing time.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling and game strategy.
- Other student-athletes.

There are situations that arise that may require a conference between the coach and parent. This dialogue is encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be used to help promote a resolution of the concern.



## Procedure to Use in Discussing Concerns with a Coach

1. Email to set up an appointment. Please keep in mind that most of our coaches are classroom teachers and contractors. The meeting time available during the academic day and daytime job outside ISD may be limited. Coaches email addresses can be found on the athletic website.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, please contact Paul Wood, Athletic Director at pwood@isd.k12.in.us
3. Please do not attempt to initiate a discussion or confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. This can be an emotional time for all parties. Meetings in this setting usually 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. Email and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation further with you, your son or daughter, the coach, and the Athletic Director.
2. At this meeting, further appropriate steps can be discussed and determined.

Research shows us that participation in extra curricular activities in high school gives the student a greater chance of success during adulthood. A recent survey of America's CEOs revealed that over 40% of these individuals participated in extra curricular activities while in high school. We are confident that the athletic program at ISD will aid in the preparation of those students who chose to participate in our programs. We are also hopeful that the information provided in this brochure will enhance both student and parent participation in our athletic program.