

Spectator Expectations

- ◆ Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to ridicule the other team or its fans.
- ◆ Remember that high school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- ◆ Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- ◆ Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- ◆ Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.
- ◆ Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contest due to undesirable behaviors.

Sportsmanship

Respect: Win with grace and lose with dignity.

Responsibility: Be a positive role model and exercise self control.

Trustworthiness: Do not lie, cheat, steal, or engage in any other dishonest conduct.

Caring: Be positive and promote the TEAM concept.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- ◆ Make sure your child understands that win or lose, you love him or her.
- ◆ Be realistic about your child's athletic ability.
- ◆ Help your child set realistic goals.
- ◆ Emphasize "improved" performance, *not* winning.
- ◆ Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
- ◆ Control your emotions at games and events.
- ◆ Be a "cheerleader" for your child and other children on the team.
- ◆ Respect your child's coaches. Communicate with them in a positive way. Encourage others to do the same.
- ◆ Be a positive role model.
- ◆ Be sensible, responsible and keep your priorities in order. There is a lot more at stake than a win or loss.

Midlothian Independent School District

Department of Interscholastic
Athletics



Building A Bridge With Positive Communication

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Parent/Coach Relationship

Parenting and coaching can be quite trying at times. By understanding and respecting the position of both parents and coaches, children are better served through their experience in athletics. Clear communication between parents and coaches can help both understand a positive experience that can be gained from participation in athletics.

responsibility

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

- ◆ Philosophy of the coach
- ◆ Expectations and goals the coach has for your child as well as for the team
- ◆ Location and times of all practices and games
- ◆ Team requirements, special equipment, off-season expectations
- ◆ Procedure if your child is injured during participation
- ◆ Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions
- ◆ Awards for participation in athletics
- ◆ Team selection process

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- ◆ Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- ◆ Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
- ◆ Notification of any illness or injury in a timely manner

As your child becomes involved in athletics at Midlothian ISD, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most important step to a mutual understanding.

respect

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- ◆ The coach's interaction with your child
- ◆ Ways to help your child improve their athletic skills
- ◆ Concerns about your child's behavior

Trustworthiness

As a parent it is sometimes difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you would like. Coaches are educators that make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interest of all students participating. Certain concerns are appropriate to discuss with your child's coach. Other areas, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues NOT appropriate to discuss with your child's coach:

- ◆ Playing time
- ◆ Team strategy
- ◆ Play calling
- ◆ Other student-athletes

Caring

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When a conference is necessary, the procedure outlined should be useful in resolving concerns.

1. Contact the coach through the high school or email the coach directly to request a meeting.
2. If the coach cannot be reached call the Athletic Department and request a meeting be arranged.
3. Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
4. Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.
5. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for the parent, athlete, and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

communication

MISD Contacts:

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