

Athletic Communication Expectations Warrior Parent/Athlete

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 a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our programs, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATIONS YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations and goals the coach has for your child and the team/season.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements; special equipment, strength, and conditioning programs.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
6. Team rules and guidelines and consequences for infractions.
7. Lettering criteria.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM ATHLETES/PARENTS:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

As your children become involved in the programs at Wildwood Middle and High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go how you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most integral step to understanding and resolution.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Accepting your child's not playing as much as you hope is very difficult. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the aforementioned list, certain things can be and *should be* discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the coach's discretion.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

Some situations may require a conference between the coach and player or coach and parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that all 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, THESE ARE THE PROCEDURES YOU SHOULD FOLLOW:

1. E-mail the coach to set up an appointment. Emails are: first initial followed by last name, then @wwschools.org
(example – Tom Kelly – tkelly@wwschools.org)
2. The Wildwood Middle and High School telephone number is (609) 522-7922, Ext. 2451
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call or e-mail the Athletic Director, Tom Kelly. He will set up a meeting for you.
4. Please 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 usually do not promote positive resolutions.

WHAT CAN A PARENT DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DOES NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION?

1. Call and schedule an appointment with the Director of Athletics to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. Make sure your children understand that, win or lose, you love them.
2. Be realistic about child's physical ability.
3. Help your child set realistic goals.
4. Emphasize "improved" performance, not winning.
5. Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
6. Emphasize the importance of maintaining good grades.
7. Control your emotions at games and events.
8. Be a "cheerleader" for your child AND other children on the team.
9. Respect your child's coaches. Positively communicate with them.
10. Be a positive role model.

Student-Athlete Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Sport** _____
(please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date** _____

**NJSIAA
SPORTSMANSHIP RULE/POLICY
HIGH STANDARDS OF COURTESY, FAIR PLAY AND SPORTSMANSHIP
MUST BE FEATURED AT ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS.**

While this rule is a general statement and may be difficult to reduce to objective standards regarding enforcement, it is the heart of the entire Association program. Good sportsmanship, respect for rules, respect for others, and fair play are the motives for an interscholastic athletic program being justified and defended. Each member school shall be responsible for ensuring that all individuals employed by or directly associated with the athletic program, including its Student-Athletes, comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when representing their school, especially at interscholastic events. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the individual to disciplinary action. The member school with which the individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that the member school's policies, actions, or failure to act substantially contributed to the individual's conduct.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator.
- b. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- c. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators.
- d. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion at an interscholastic event.
- e. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) or Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of a game official, opponents, and/or opposing coaches/players.
- f. The administration of a member school will be responsible for the unsportsmanlike conduct of that school's fans or spectators.

CL 1 Schools are not permitted to conduct pre-meet/game activities of an intimidating nature, e.g., the use of fog machines, the blaring of sirens or loud music/unusual sound effects, strobe/unusual lighting effects, or similar type activities.

I have read the above policy issued by the NJSIAA and agree to the terms listed. Furthermore, I agree to abide by the TCC and WHS/WMS Sportsmanship and athlete/fan code of conduct outlined in the WHS/WMS athletic contract.

Student-Athlete Signature: _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

(please print)

Sport _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date _____

SPORTS PARENTING

- Make sure your child knows, win or lose, that you love them, appreciate their efforts, and are not disappointed in them.
- Be completely honest about your child's athletic capability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship, and skill level.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrills of competition, trying, working, improving their skills and attitudes... taking the physical bumps, and returning for more.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure.
- Remember, you fumbled too; you lost and won; you were frightened; you backed off at times; and were not always heroic.
- Don't pressure them because of your pride. Don't compete with the coach. The young athlete often comes home and chatters, "The coach says this, coach says that." This is often hard, especially for a father or mother with some sports experience.
- Don't compare your child's skill, courage, or attitude with that of other squad or team members, at least not in front of them.
- Be informed of the Wildwood Athletic Department Philosophy, the coaching philosophy, expectations, and requirements.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reactions to their tales of woe or heroics they bring home.
- Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Explain to your youngster that courage does not mean an absence of fear but means doing something despite fear or discomfort.
- Never approach a coach on game day to talk about your child before, during, or after a contest. Follow the WHS/WMS parent/athlete communication guidelines to help your child be their own advocate.

A parent's "Coaching Job" is the toughest and takes a lot of effort. Sometimes, the best intentions can be counterproductive in your desire to help your child. Applying the Rules for Parents will go a long way towards fostering an environment your child can use to enjoy and excel in their sport.