

RSU No. 5 ATHLETICS

DURHAM • FREEPORT • POWNAL

PARENT - COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE



DURHAM TIGERS



FREEPORT FALCONS

SUPPORT SPORTSMANSHIP

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Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing communication and an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to student athletes. To be successful, communication is vital and requires involvement, dedication, sacrifice and commitment from parents, student athletes and coaches.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Coach's and program's philosophy.
2. Individual and team expectations.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., practices, special equipment, off season conditioning.
5. Procedure followed should your child be injured during practice.
6. Any discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES SHOULD EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Support for the program and the attributes of dedication, commitment and responsibility that are essential ingredients for success and excellence. Encourage your child to excel.

While your child is involved in athletics at Freeport High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding and inspiring moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also 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

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve and develop.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. *Coaches are professionals.* They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for the team and all athletes involved. There are certain areas and issues that can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those below, should be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

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

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH

1. Call for an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Administrator. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. *Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach and this situation does not promote resolution nor objective analysis.*

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

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Administrator.

Research indicates that students involved in athletics are most likely to succeed at their chosen profession and make creative contributions to their communities. Many of the character traits, qualities and attributes required to be a successful student athlete are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within the pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with the Freeport High School athletic program more enjoyable. We are constantly attempting to improve communication with the students and parents. For our programs to be successful, it is necessary that everyone involved understand the direction the program is headed.

~ SPORTSMANSHIP ~

We support the initiative that school athletics promote the values of respect, integrity, cooperation, self-discipline, sportsmanship and citizenship. It is important to learn to control one's emotions and conduct, not only in defeat, but in victory as well. It is our goal to have Freeport recognized for our sense of fair play, sportsmanship, outstanding effort and character. We expect our students and parents to accept the officials' decisions and conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times. Violent, threatening, negative or abusive language and/or behavior have no place in our school sponsored activities. Athletes, coaches, students and parents are expected to demonstrate and promote the positive values and characteristics of good sportsmanship in all aspects of interscholastic athletics. Exhibiting inappropriate spectator behavior at school sponsored athletic activities may result in one or more of the following:

- directed to leave the facility for the remainder of the contest
- prohibited from attending subsequent games and/or rest of the season, or seasons
- suspension from school

PARENT'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Remain in spectator area during contest.
- No derogatory comments directed towards officials, coaches or players of either team.
- Do not officiate from the sidelines.
- * No attempts to coach child from the sidelines during contest.
- * Be in control of emotions.
- * Show interest, enthusiasm and support for your child.
- * Demonstrate and promote the positive values and characteristics of good sportsmanship.
- Do not question or criticize the coach or his/her decisions in front of your child.
- Our athletic classroom consists of the coach (teacher) and the official (ed. tech.), both help facilitate learning.
- While observing our athletic classroom, parents should conduct themselves in the same manner as if observing a teacher's class in an academic classroom setting.