

Bellevue School District Athletic Communication Guidelines

Parents and coaches are two of the most important and significant role models in a student-athlete's life. Therefore, clear communication between these individuals is essential. The guidelines listed below are intended to clarify school expectations for this vital relationship.

Communication Coaches and School Provide

- The vision of the program the student-athlete is participating in
- Expectations the coach has for your student-athlete and for the team
- Team requirements (i.e. attendance, practice, and lettering standards, out-of-season training and conditioning, special equipment)
- The procedure if a student-athlete is injured during participation
- Disciplinary action that may result in a student-athlete being denied the right to participate
- Ways parents can become involved in helping support the vision for the program and goals for the upcoming season.

Parent-Coach Communication

Before, during or after games is not the suitable time to voice concerns about your student-athlete to the coaching staff. The head coaches will be glad to discuss issues regarding your son or daughter; this can be done by a scheduled (in person, telephone or electronic) appointment. Appointments can be made by using the contact information provided by the coach.

The Communication Process

When a problem, question or situation arises, it may be due to incomplete or inaccurate information. Therefore, the operating procedure for your questions/issues/concerns directed to head the coach and/or the athletic department is consistent with the Bellevue School District Policy and procedure 4220 (Complaints Concerning Staff and Programs).

1. The student-athlete goes directly to his/her coach to discuss the issue. This should be encouraged by the parent because this allows for meaningful dialogue to take place for both parties.
2. If there is further need for discussion, the student-athlete's parent(s) will contact the coach to set up an appointment, typically with the student-athlete and the parent.
3. If, after meeting with the coach, the parent(s) and/or player do not feel the issue was satisfactorily resolved, then they may proceed to the next step by meeting with their Athletic Director.
4. If, after meeting with the Athletic Director, the parent(s) and/or player do not feel the issue was satisfactorily resolved, then they may proceed to the next step by meeting with the principal.
5. While e-mail has become an effective way to initiate contact, it is not the best way to resolve conflicts. Accordingly, e-mailing coaches to communicate issues and concerns in order to schedule an appointment

is encouraged and appropriate. However, e-mail will not be used as a substitute for in-person communication.

Parent Expectations

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other Bellevue School District athletic event.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
3. I will support the athletic director, coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
4. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at Bellevue School District events.
5. I will remember that the game is for the student-athletes- not adults.
6. I will do my very best to make athletic participation fun for my child.
7. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
8. I will help my child enjoy the athletic experience by being a respectful fan.
9. I will help kids and their coaches by shouting from the sidelines only to applaud and encourage them. I will work with coaches to teach kids that the bad calls and good calls even out- in sports as in life. Similarly, I will help kids see that, in sports as in life, they will sometimes play well and lose, or play poorly and win. I realize the only sensible goals are to have fun and improve their skills. I will encourage kids to participate in sports for the enjoyment of the game.
10. I have read this document and understand the expectations placed on me as a parent of a child involved in the athletic program in the Bellevue School District and by signing this I also hereby approve my child's participation in any scheduled competitions that may occur at other locations or schools outside the Bellevue School District during the regular or post-season as part of this participation.