

Lake Washington High School Parent-Coach Communication Policy 2009-2010 School Year

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 parents should expect from coaches and the school:

- Philosophy 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 policy, out-of-season training and conditioning, special equipment)
- The procedure to follow should your student-athlete be injured during participation
- Disciplinary action that may result in your student-athlete being denied the right to participate
- Ways parents can become involved in helping support the goals and expectations for the program and the upcoming season

Communication coaches should expect from parents:

- Appropriate feedback and/or concerns regarding a coach's decisions, philosophy, and/or expectations
- Positive support and respect for the time and energy the coach and his/her staff put in
- Notification of any illnesses or injuries, or any other information that may affect your student-athlete from participating

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- Proper treatment of your student-athlete, emotionally and physically
- Ways to help your student-athlete improve
- Concerns you may have regarding your student-athlete's behavior and/or attitude

It is difficult, at times, to accept that your student-athlete is not playing as much as you or your child may desire. However, our coaches are professionals. They have been hired by Lake Washington High School and the district to make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for their entire program and for student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the above list, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. However, other issues, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach and staff.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes/other parents

Coach-Parent Communication:

Before or after games is not the suitable time to voice your concern about your student-athlete. The head coaches will be glad to discuss issues regarding your son or daughter, such as those items listed under “appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach”, during a scheduled appointment. Appointments can be made by using the coach’s contact information.

The Communication Process:

When a problem, question or situation arises, many times it is due to incomplete or inaccurate information. Therefore, the operating procedure for your questions/issues/concerns directed to the coach and/or the athletic department is similar to the operating and communication principles for Lake Washington High School. The LWHS Operating Principles were established in September, 1999.

The Process:

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 in-person appointment 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 the LWHS Athletic Director.
4. 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.

Please sign the signature page that accompanies this policy.

I have read and reviewed the LWHS Parent-Coach Communication Policy
2009-2010 School Year

Coach-Parent Signatures:

Coach:	_____	Date Signed: _____
Parent:	_____	Date Signed: _____
Student:	_____	Date Signed: _____