

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 who are student/athletes. 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 coaches.

Communications You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

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

Communication Coaches Expect From Athletes & Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in the athletic program at River Dell, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their high school experience. It is important that they and you understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concern about your child's attitude.
4. Academic support and college opportunities.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much or where you may hope. The coaches at River Dell are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved and for the good of the team. At River Dell our philosophy is to involve as many students as possible in our extra-curricular programs. We also recognize that athletics is a competitive environment in which playing time is earned by performance not only in games, but in practice. There is a distinct difference between recreation level athletics and interscholastic varsity sports. Game situations may not allow all players to participate in every game.

Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Other student athletes

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolution. Call to set up an appointment.