

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

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Coach's philosophy.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season equipment.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in programs at Watervliet, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may 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.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those on the following page, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other students / athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both 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.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW TO DISCUSS A CONCERN WITH A COACH

1. Call Rick Cowles, Athletic Director, at 629-3303 to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. ***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 do not promote resolution.***

THE NEXT STEP

What Can A Parent Do If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution?

1. Call the athletic director to set up an appointment. The parent/guardian, coach, and athletic director will meet to discuss the problem.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Parents are encouraged to discuss issues and problems with the Athletic Director. However, if a parent has specific complaints regarding a coach, then the coach must have the opportunity to be present to meet with the parent.

We hope the information provided will help to make you and your child's experience with the Watervliet High School Athletic Program more enjoyable and rewarding.