

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

The Athletic Department of Marietta High School strives to keep open lines of communication between athletes, parents, coaches and the general public.

Parental Support:

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we strive to be able to better accept the actions of the other for the benefit of the student-athlete. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed upon your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

It is essential that parents and athletes demonstrate respect for coaches. The coach has been appointed to a leadership and decision making position. His/her responsibility is to the individual participant, the team, and the school system. As a result, all coaches have been instructed to make the best decisions they can and not to bow to parent or fan pressure relative to athletic and/or coaching decisions. In all instances, an environment of mutual respect and civility should prevail and the appropriate steps for a solution should be followed.

Communication Your Child Can Expect From Coaches

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the players on the team
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements; i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
7. The availability of the coach to speak with you about your child if you should have a concern

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

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

As your children become involved in programs at Marietta High School, 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 respectful 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 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 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 that follow, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategies
3. Game play-calling
4. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others position. When these conferences are necessary, please follow the steps outlined in the Chain of Communication, to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Solving Conflicts-Chain of Communication

1. Athlete and Coach
2. Athlete, Parent, and Coach
3. Parent, Coach, and Athletic Director
4. Parent and Principal

The 24-Hour Rule will be utilized for any in-season communication with the coaching staff about concerns. Contact with the coaching staff will not be allowed until 24 hours after an athletic event. The only exception to this rule is reporting an injury, illness or emergency situation. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. The correct procedure to contact a coach is to email him/her or by telephone. Parents are urged to contact the coach directly at the phone numbers distributed at the pre-season orientation meeting. Please do not contact the coach at home unless requested to do so. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest, a practice, or event. If the coach does not respond to your phone call, contact the Athletic Office at 770-428-2631, extension 5033 and we will set up an appointment on your behalf.