

# **OCEAN TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

**Home of the Spartans**



**Department of Athletics**

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Parent/Coach Communication Guide

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The program of interscholastic athletics presents additional opportunities for a school system to develop the interests and abilities of the students. Interscholastic athletics offer a special opportunity to capture the enthusiasm generated by interscholastic contests and to channel these enthusiasms toward the development of useful citizenship. Athletics provide a laboratory of experiences and equips the student with standards for functioning in a social situation. These experiences are only valuable with quality coaches leading our programs. We must stress honesty, loyalty, sincerity, and integrity above all. Most importantly, our concern is to provide students with a worthwhile and positive experience.

## **COACHES CODE OF ETHICS**

A code of ethics is a number of ethical principles and standards designed to guide a group of people in taking acceptable and approved action.

We expect a coach to:

1. Understand that the purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental and social well being of students.
2. Set an example of good conduct for his/her team members, students, and general public:
  - a. Act in a sportsman like manner at all times.
  - b. Maintain high personal standards in dealing with students and the public.
  - c. Maintain control of your team members at all practices and games.
3. Respect the decisions of officials and remain undemonstrative in accepting those decisions.
4. Strive for good working relationships with the opposing coaches and schools.
5. Achieve a thorough knowledge and understanding of the rules of the game.
6. Consider the health of his/her players
7. Not play anyone who is sick or injured regardless of the immediate need or consequence.
8. Be supportive of the entire athletic program and coaching staff.
9. Integrate his/her philosophy of athletics with the school's philosophy of education.
10. Treat visiting teams, coaches and officials as guests.
11. Be responsible for his/her players' conduct at away contests on the bench, during the game, and also preceding and following the game.
  - a. Do not remove your team from the field or court during a contest. Insure their safety and keep the athletes on the sidelines if a problem arises
12. Conduct him/herself so as to be a credit to the educational profession.

- a. Unprofessionalism will erode your credibility and effectiveness as a coach with everyone involved directly or indirectly with your progress. Vulgarity, profanity and sarcasm are not the trademarks of an effective coaching style and won't promote good sportsmanship.
  - b. Positive reinforcement and correction should be given. Do not humiliate, denounce or reprimand an athlete in a manner that might be harmful to the athlete.
13. Emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.

### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult jobs. 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. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with your clear communication from the coach of your child's program. This communication from the coach can come through a coach/parent meeting, a pre-season letter or via the telephone.

### **Communication 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.
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Team rules and guidelines and consequences for infractions.
7. Lettering criteria.

### **Communication Coaches Expect from Athletes/Parents**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

As your children become involved in the programs at Ocean Township 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, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most integral step to understanding and resolution.

### **Appropriate Chain of Command to Discuss Concerns Regarding Your Child**

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Building Principal
4. Superintendent
5. Board of Education

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

1. The treatment of your child
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 hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved with the program. As you have seen from the list on the adjacent page, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, 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 student-athletes
5. Selection of captains
6. Practice organization

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution to the issue of concern.

### **If you have a concern to discuss with a coach – the following procedure should be followed:**

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment. This can be done over the phone or in person.
2. The Ocean Township High School Athletic Office telephone number is (732) 531-5650, Ext. 1014.
3. If the coach cannot be reached call the Athletic Office. They will contact the coach in order to set up the meeting for you.
4. All coaches will return the call to the parent within 72 hours. If the coaches do not return the call contact the Athletic Director.
5. 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 usually do not promote positive resolutions.

### **The Next Step**

### **What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?**

- Call and set up an appointment with the Director of Athletics to discuss the situation. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

### **Parent Code of Conduct**

1. Make sure your children understand that win or lose, you love them.
2. Be realistic about your child's physical ability.
3. Help your child set realistic goals.
4. Emphasize "improved performance, not winning."

5. Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
6. Provide a safe environment for training and competition.
7. Control your emotions at games and events.
8. Be a "cheerleader" for your child AND other children on the team.
9. Respect your child's coaches. Communicate with them in a positive way.
10. Be a positive role model.
11. Never communicate with the officials.
12. Never approach a coach or athlete during a contest or coach your child from the stands.
13. Never enter the field of competition.

**Be sensible and responsible and keep your priorities in order. There is a great deal at stake than a win/loss record.**