PARENT COMMUNICATION & EXPECTATIONS

Parent communication is extremely important to me and I have found that communicating up front and setting expectations is critical to our partnership. Please know that I am always available to speak with you by phone or in person.

After coaching children’s sports for 15 years, one of my biggest challenges has always centered on meeting parental expectations. Let’s face it… we all have expectations for our children, whether it be in academics, athletics, music, etc. Whatever the endeavor, we want our kids to excel and do well. However, my job as coach is to meet the expectations of the team and the players. It is important to me to talk to each player before the season starts to get an idea of their expectations and impart to them my expectations for the team.

Regardless of the sport, these are my expectations for the student-athletes:

1. Improve and develop as a player from the beginning to the end of the season.
2. Understand the concept of teamwork and how working together can help the players overcome obstacles they could not take on as individuals.
3. Have fun and enjoy their experience as a student-athlete.

If we are achieving these three goals, our team will have success. As you can see my goals do not include meeting parent expectations, which can often be varied and complex. For me, it is about the kids and the team. With that said, please make sure you speak to me if you have any concerns or frustrations. I am always willing to listen. I may not always agree with you, but I am always open to constructive dialogue.

During the season, please do not try to contact me immediately after a game. It is always best to wait until the next day so that I am free of game day distractions and am able to give you my full attention. If you would like to speak with me, please make an appointment to meet in person or talk over the phone so I am able to give you the proper time to deal with your concerns.

Please do not unload your frustrations onto your child. The projected negative feelings and frustrations may manifest itself in the way your child performs at practice or in the games. Your input, positive or negative, has a direct impact on your child’s attitude and performance. Vent with your spouse, neighbor, family pet, or therapist, but please leave your child out of it.

In addition, please do not coach your son during games. This does not help your child. It actually makes it more difficult for them to succeed and it becomes a distraction to the other players on the team.

Throughout the season, I will compliment all of the kids and provide constructive criticism as the need arises. In fact, at postgame practices, one of the first things I do is compliment every child on something they did well during the game. After that, I will go into things we need to work on as a team.
I hope after our games, your conversation will reflect the same tone. “Did you have fun?” or “That was a great game!” are both great ways to start an after game conversation. Compliment your child on some of the things they did well before you start discussing things they could have done better. Sometimes after a difficult game just saying: “Don’t worry about it. We’ll play better next week,” and a long quiet ride home is all that needs to be said.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. With any team, the frustration of unmet parent expectations may come to the surface at some point, but I am hopeful this letter will provide us with a format for communicating well and dealing with issues without negatively affecting your child or the team.

The following video has some great information in it and I would appreciate if you take a moment out of your day to watch it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geufhfqUi5s&list=PLT0820MYcA-jNd_ej-cxGMZhFTJY87bYW

We are looking forward to a great season.

Thank you,

Coach Fields

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"The fight is won or lost far away from witnesses, behind the lines, in the gym, and out there on the road, long before I dance under those lights"
Muhammad Ali