



WHAT SHOULD PARENTS EXPECT FROM A COACH?

Just what can parents expect from a coach? Can they expect assurances of playing time for their children or a guarantee of being a starter? Can parents count on their child playing a particular position or receiving special treatment? No, they cannot.

But there are several things that a parent should be able to expect from a coach.

Being fair and consistent with all players, having a passion for the sport, possessing and maintaining expertise in their sport, being supportive and positive, supporting academic priorities, being a good role model, communicating effectively, guiding the athlete with college selection and the recruiting process, and being receptive to concerns, are all valid expectations of a coach.

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. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Guidelines for selecting the team.
3. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
4. Location and time of all practices and contests.
5. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
6. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
7. Discipline which results in the denial of your child's participation.
8. Requirements to earn a letter.
9. Notice for lost or missing equipment and/or uniforms.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regards to the coach's philosophy and/or expectation.

As your children become involved in the programs at Wilson 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 your or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged and may be the most effective way to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstandings.

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 not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches 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 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 and coaching staff.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy and/or play calling.
3. Matters concerning or comparing other student-athletes.

Meeting with The Coach

There may be situations that 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:

1. Your child should first talk with the coach about his/her concern.

2. If your child has met with the coach and the matter is still unresolved, you may set up an appointment with the coach.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call John Portenier, the Athletic Director at 571-6071 or email him at jporten@tacoma.k12.wa.us. He will set up the meeting for you.
4. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.** These can be emotional times for you 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. Set up an appointment with the Athletic Director, John Portenier, to discuss the situation. He can be reached at 571-6071 or by email at jporten@tacoma.k12.wa.us.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

We hope this information helps you understand the athletic program at Wilson High School. We look forward to a great year working with your child.

PARENT CHECKLIST FOR SPORTS

1. Remain in the spectator area.
2. Do not coach your son or daughter during the contest.
3. Provide only supportive comments to coaches, officials and athletes of all teams (regardless of the team's athletic skills).
4. Avoid ridicule or sarcasm.
5. Emphasize teamwork in team sports. Teach them to think "we" instead of "me".
6. Help your child deal with adversity. It will happen.
7. Do not attend athletic events or practice while intoxicated. The use of tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs is not permitted on school property.
8. Show interest, enthusiasm and support for your child.
9. Remain calm when mistakes are made and help your child learn from mistakes. Then move on.
10. Abide by the coaches or officials requests.
11. Don't be obsessed with your involvement in sports. **Keep it in perspective.** It's your child's experience that counts.
12. Lead by setting a good example in sportsmanship. **Integrity in victory, dignity in defeat.**

PARENT - COACH COMMUNICATION



Wilson High School Athletic Department