

Menno School District

Athlete/Parent/Coach Communication Guide

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

We are pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in one or more of the Menno Athletic programs. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him/her. Possibly the most important ingredient to achieve this outcome is to insure that lines of communication are developed. This will allow for free and easy resolutions of any questions before they become conflicts. As a parent, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your son/daughter. This form is intended to spell out all levels of communication so that parents, coaches, and athletes are aware of the steps they have available to resolve anything they think is or might become an issue.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child
3. Practice and game schedules
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, equipment, off-season conditioning, etc...
5. Emergency procedures in case of injury
6. Code of conduct and/or discipline plan
7. Notification of lost or outstanding equipment at the end of the season
8. Changes in schedule due to weather etc...

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns need to be expressed directly to the coach at an appropriate time
2. Encourage the athlete to discuss issues with the coach first
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations may exist
4. Make sure to notify head coach of any scheduling conflicts well in advance

As your child becomes involved in the various programs at Menno High School, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussion with the coach may be desirable to clean 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. Concern about your child's behavior

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

1. Call the school at 387-5161 to set up an appointment
2. Ask the Athletic Director to arrange a meeting, which will include the coach, A.D., and/or Supt. /Prin.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, 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 and can even intensify the issue.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Matters concerning other student athletes

It is very difficult to accept the fact that your child is not playing as much as you would want. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. Certain topics can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as these listed above, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

THE NEXT STEP

What a parent can do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director and/or Supt./Prin. only to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance for success in adulthood. For this reason, these programs have been established and encouraged. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this form helps to make the Menno Athletic program as enjoyable as possible for you and your child. Menno High School follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe it if you elect to pursue any concern you may have regarding the athletic program.

1. Assistant Coach (if applicable)
2. Head Coach
3. Athletic Director
4. Superintendent / Principal
5. Board of Education

UNRULY AND UNACCEPTABLE SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

Unruly behavior includes:

1. Cursing or yelling at players, game officials, coaches or other spectators
2. Threatening violence against players, game officials, coaches, or other spectators
3. Physical violence or fighting of any kind
4. Throwing trash or other items onto the playing field or surface
5. Entering the playing field or surface at any time during the game, except for emergency circumstances to render aid

Consequences:

First Violation – Game administration will point out the violation and ask the spectator to stop. Game administration will also remind the spectator of further consequences if the behavior happens again.

Second Violation – The spectator will be asked to leave. If necessary, the spectator will be escorted away by security personnel. If a spectator is asked to leave, they will be banned from the next home contest in the sport from which they were ejected. If a spectator is ejected from two contests during a school year, they will be banned from all home games for the remainder of the school year.