

Communication Guide

The goal of the Southeastern Local Schools Athletic program is to provide rich and meaningful experiences in athletics, through which the student will develop to the greatest degree the talents and skills needed in the performance of his/her duties as a responsible citizen in our society. The administration and Board of Education believe that his goal may not be realized without appropriate lines of communication between all parties involved. This 'Communication Guide' has been developed to help coaches, parents, administrators, and student-athletes communicate more effectively.

Communication you should expect from your coach

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach may have from your child and team.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements i.e. attendance, special equipment, off-season opportunities.
- Procedures to follow should your child become injured during participation.
- Additional team rules.
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication the coach should expect from parents and athletes

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach FIRST.
- Notification of schedule conflicts in advance.
- Special needs of the athletes i.e physical limitations that may not be known or obvious to the coach.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

When your child is involved in the various athletic programs at Southeastern, it is everyone hope that he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that things may not go as you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach may be desirable (in fact is encouraged) to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding.

Many aspects of the highly emotional and dynamic setting of interscholastic athletics are often questioned. These may include decisions made by coaches, administration, officials, athletes, parents, and fans. As you have seen from the lists above, certain concerns can and should be addressed with your child's coach. Other items must be left to the discretion of the coach. Our coaches make decisions based on what they believe to be best for their program and for all of the student athletes under their watch. Therefore, there are some issues that should not be brought up in a meeting with your coach.

Areas not appropriate to discuss with the coach

- Playing time/Position Assignment
- Team Strategy/Play calling
- Matters concerning other student athletes

Procedure to follow if you have a concern to discuss with a coach

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. Such a meeting is encouraged when necessary. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. Each should be willing to listen. The following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution of the issue.

- Contact the coach to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached in a reasonable amount of time, call the athletic director. An appointment with the coach will be arranged for you.
- Allow at least 24 hours to set up a meeting. Any issue that the parent feels should be immediately addressed should be brought to the administrator/site manager on duty.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution. Although total agreement may not always be reached after a meeting between the coach, parent, and athlete; most often such a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive discussion and a better understanding of every one's position. If the parent desires further communication, please call the

athletic director to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step will be determined.

Chain of Command

The staff, administrators, and Board of Education feel open communication between parents, students and Southeastern employees are crucial in creating an successful environment for all involved. There are situations and concerns that you as a student, athlete, or parent may feel need to be addressed. The best way to resolve these situation is to start with a dialogue between the people directly involved with the situation. We ask that you observe the order below if you elect to pursue any concerns you may have with regard to the athletic program

1st step: Head Coach

2nd step: Craig Isaac, Athletic Director (937) 462-8308 or cisaac@sels.us

3rd step: PJ Bertemes, Principal (937) 462-8308 x 201 or pbertemes@sels.us

4th step: David Shea, Superintendent (937) 462-8364 or dshea@sels.us

5th step: Board of Education

We hope that this communication guide will help you and your child have a rewarding athletic experience