



# DAVENPORT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

1120 MAIN STREET  
DAVENPORT IOWA 52803



## ***Communicating With Your Student Athlete's Coach***

### **Communication Adds to Success**

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 athletes. As parents, when your student athletes become involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your student athlete. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

### **Communication to Expect from the Coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach and the program.
2. Expectations the coach has for your students athlete as well as the team.
3. Locations and times for all practices.
4. Team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, off season expectations.
5. Injury procedures.
6. Disciplinary actions that may result in your student athlete being dismissed from the team.

### **Communication Coaches Expect from Parents**

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance (should come from the athlete as well)
2. Specific concerns with regards to coach's philosophy and/or expectations. Participation in DCSD programs will be one of the most rewarding experiences your child will have, but it is also important to understand that there may be times where things do not go the way that you or your student athlete think they should go. At these times, communication between the coach, athlete, and parent(s) is encouraged.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Address with Coaches**

1. The treatment of your student athlete mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your student athlete improve.
3. Concerns about your student athletes behavior.

\*\*It may be difficult to accept that your student athlete may not be playing as much as you hoped. Coaches are professionals and make judgement decisions based on what they believe is best for the team. As you have seen from the prior list, certain things can be and should be discussed with the coach. However, the following should be left to the coach's discretion:

1. Playing time
2. Team Strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other team member's

Situations may arise that require a conference between the coach and parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the procedure listed below should be followed to help promote a resolution.

### **Protocol to Address Concerns with Coaches**

1. Call coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call Athletic Director, Brian Ehlinger at 563-323-1757. A meeting will be arranged.
3. **It is very important that you do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

### **If the Meeting with the Coach Does not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution**

1. Call Athletic Director, Brian Ehlinger at 563-323-1757.

Research shows that participation in co-curricular activities increases the likelihood for success in adulthood. 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 this information helps make your Davenport Community Schools athletic experience more enjoyable for you and your student athlete.

The Davenport Community School District (DCSD) provides equal educational and employment opportunities and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, ancestry, or actual or potential parental, familial, or marital status. DCSD will take affirmative action in recruitment, appointment, assignment, and advancement of women and men, members of diverse racial/ethnic groups, and persons with disabilities for job categories in which any of these groups of people are underrepresented.

Inquiries related to this policy may be directed to Dawn Anderson Rascher, DSCD Equity Coordinator, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803 or by phone at 563-336-3805. Inquiries may also be directed to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the Region VII Office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, or the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, United States Department of Education.

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