

STARMONT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION
Starmont Community School District
3204 40th St.
Arlington, Iowa 50606

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GOAL STATEMENT

“Through participation in the athletic program, students will have the opportunity to gain and sustain emotional, intellectual, and physical growth and well-being.”

ROLE MODELS

Parents and coaches are important role models for students. They both provide necessary guidance to young adults in their development and their understanding of the world in which they will live and work as adults. When parents and coaches understand and respect each other, they can work together to benefit children. You have a right as a parent to understand the commitment, expectations and responsibilities that accompany participation in Starmont athletic programs. Clear communication between parents and coaches facilitates this understanding,

It is important to remember that the first link in the communication network is the one established between the coach and the student. Encourage your child to exercise the opportunity to speak directly with his/her coach about any topic, preferably before you initiate any of the contact opportunities found outlined here.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching can at times be extremely trying. By establishing a clearer understanding of positions, we are better able to accept the actions of others and benefit the student-athlete. When your child becomes involved in one of our school programs, you have a right to know the expectations that will be placed upon your child. This begins with clear communication between parents and coaches. This several communication outlines ways to encourage appropriate parent/coach communication.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Starmont Community School District 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. Head/Appropriate Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Building Principal
4. Superintendent

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. The expectations the coach has for your child and the rest of the team
2. Practice and game schedules
3. Team requirements
4. Procedures during injury
5. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
6. Notification of lost equipment

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns are expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts will be given in advance
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy

As your child becomes involved in athletics at Starmont Community High School they will experience some very rewarding moments. But, it is also important to understand that there may be times when things don't go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve

It can be very difficult to accept that your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professional and they make tough judgment decisions based upon what they believe is best for all the athletes involved. As seen above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

There may be situations that require a conference between a parent and the coach. These are to be encouraged. It is important that communication occurs so there is a clear understanding of the other parties' position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be used.

HOW TO SET UP A CONFERENCE

1. Reach out to the coach via email or phone call to the coach to set up a meeting with the coach.
2. The coach will contact you within 24 hours.
3. A phone call or meeting will be set up.
4. Coaches can reach out to have assistant coaches or an administration at the meeting if they would like.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT THE COACH BEFORE OR AFTER A CONTEST OR PRACTICE. These can be emotional times for both parties. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

THE NEXT STEP

If a meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Email the athletic director to set up an appointment to discuss the situation
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined

CONSEQUENCES OF INAPPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION TOWARDS COACHES

Should there be any inappropriate communication towards coaches, the following consequences will be given:

1. Written warning – outlining the inappropriate behavior/communication and detailing the possible future consequences should that inappropriate behavior/communication continue
2. The fan will not be allowed to attend the next three home contests. The fan may be required to view the IAHSAA sportsmanship video. This will be done with the activities director or superintendent.
3. Three month ban from Starmont-hosted events – subject will be prohibited from attending ANY extracurricular event held at Starmont CSD facilities for three months. Fan must apply for reinstatement with administration. Reinstatement of privileges is not a guarantee.
4. One year ban from Starmont-hosted events – subject will be prohibited from attending ANY extracurricular event held at Starmont CSD facilities for one calendar year. Fan must apply for reinstatement with administration. Reinstatement of privileges is not a guarantee.
5. Lifetime ban from Starmont-hosted events – subject will be prohibited from attending ANY extracurricular event held at Starmont CSD facilities for life.

Inappropriate communication includes

- Vulgar language/verbal abuse towards a coach
- Confronting coaches directly after practices/contest after the coach has given verbal notice that they are not willing to have a discussion at that moment
- Attempting to discuss inappropriate issues after the coach has given verbal notice that they are not willing to discuss these topics

-Playing time

-Play calling

-Team strategy

-Other student-athletes