

The Importance of Middle/High School Athletics

Since research indicates a student involved with extra-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. 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 pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with The Villages Middle/High School Athletic programs more enjoyable.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is defined as that quality of responsible behavior characterized by a spirit of generosity and a genuine concern for an opponent.

Students, coaches, administrators, spectators and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics at all times directly or indirectly related in any manner to interscholastic relationships or events.



The Villages Middle/High School Athletic Department

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Guidelines for Parent/Coach Communication



The Villages Middle/High
School
Athletic Department

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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 the schools' athletic program, you have the 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. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fund raising, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Communicate directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at The Villages Middle/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 you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coach

1. The development 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's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those on the following page, 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 are situations that may 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 others position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Procedure to Discuss Issues with Coach

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the athletic director. He will set up the meeting for you.
3. Please **do not** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent or the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.