

Communication:

Parent/Coach Relationship:

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we can better be able to accept the actions of the others and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your children become involved in our programs, 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 coach

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off season conditioning.
4. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.
5. Team rules and guidelines and lettering requirements.

Communication coaches expect from athletes

1. Notifications of any schedule conflicts in advance.
2. Injuries or illness the student sustains during the season.

3. Special concerns in regards with coaches philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the athletic programs at Bennington Jr./Sr. High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also 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 coaches

1. The treatment 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 hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the 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 the following 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 have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach the procedure you should follow is:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment. The Bennington High School number is 402-238-2447.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director, Mr. Spoehr. 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 parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. It is also suggested not to call the coach at home.

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

1. Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director and/or principal to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step will be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

We hope the information provided here makes both your child's and your experience with the Bennington Activity programs less stressful and more enjoyable.



**BENNINGTON BADGERS
ATHLETICS**

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BENNINGTON BADGER ATHLETICS

BENNINGTON BADGERS

This pamphlet contains general information for parents/guardians of student/athletes who compete on athletic teams in the Bennington Public Schools.

A special thank-you to the parents, for your support of our young athletes as they participate in our programs.

Janice Saunders is a certified athletic trainer employed by the Bennington Public Schools. She is available during 8th period of the school day, as well as after school. She can be reached at the high school by calling 402-238-2447.

If your child suffers an injury during a practice or contest please inform the coaches immediately. Coach Saunders can be contacted to examine the injury and give advice on further treatment or the need to seek medical assistance