

## MISD Parent/Coach Relationship Expectations

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know and understand the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have a right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

### **Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:**

1) Coach's philosophy.

Although each coach at MISD has their own philosophy, as a whole our goal is to create an environment that encourages athletes to learn and develop on and off the playing field and to create a positive learning environment for all. To the best of our ability we will try to mold a group of individuals to communicate, to be responsible, to show good sportsmanship, to have a positive self-image, to learn discipline, grit and perseverance and to hold themselves accountable. We believe in nurturing their dreams to be the best on and off the court.

2) Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter.

Expectations from MISD athletes are explained in the MISD Athlete Contract

3) Times of practices and contests.

Schedules are sent out before school starts. Most volleyball and basketball games are on Mondays with the exception of some holidays. Football games are on Thursdays. Practices and games are subject to change but coaches will always let parents know in advance.

### **Communication coaches expect from parents:**

1) Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.

2) Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy or expectations.

3) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

*As your child becomes involved in UIL athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussions with the coach are encouraged.*

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:**

1) The mental and physical treatment of your child.

2) What your child needs to do to improve.

3) Concerns about your child's behavior.

*It is very difficult to accept your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating.*

### **Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:**

1) How much playing time each athlete is getting.

2) Team strategy.

3) Play calling.

4) Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

### **If a parent has a concern to discuss with a coach, the following procedure should be followed:**

1) Contact the coach and set up an appointment.

2) If the coach cannot be reached, call Mrs. Hennessey to ask her to set up a meeting with the coach for you.

3) Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.

4) Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.

5) Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

*Students' involvement in co-curricular activities has been proven to increase their chances of success later in life. We hope the information contained in this handout helps make that experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.*

