

# **Clarksburg Sports Association 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 benefits to our student-athletes. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand the expectations placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

## **Communication Parents Can Expect From the Coach**

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all members of the team.
- Location and times of all practices and contests. (when confirmed)
- Team requirements; i.e.: fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
- Procedures should your child be injured during practices or contests.
- Discipline that could result in the denial of your child's participation.

## **Communication Coaches Can Expect From Parents**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach. (in private)
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Disclosure of medical or other limitations.
- Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes more involved in the programs of Clarksburg Sports Association, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand, however, that there 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 Coaches**

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

As a parent, it is very difficult to accept your child's not playing much as you may hope. Coaches are dedicated and experienced within specialty areas of sport. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all youth involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other issues, such as those listed below must be left to the discretion of our well qualified staff.

## **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

- Playing time. (in general all CSA programs have a "must play" guideline)
- Team strategy.
- Play calling and game strategy.
- Other student-athletes.

There are situations that arise that may require a conference between the coach and parent. This dialogue is encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the others position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be used to help promote a resolution of the concern.

### **Procedure to Use in Discussing Concerns with a Coach**

1. Call (or email) to set up an appointment. Please keep in mind that our coaches have careers of their own and meeting time during the normal business day may be limited. Coaches email addresses can be found on the Clarksburg Sports Association web site,
2. If the coach cannot be reached, please contact the appropriate Sport Commissioner.
3. Please do not attempt to initiate a discussion or confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. This can be an emotional time for all parties. Meetings in this setting usually do not promote resolution.

### **The Next Step**

***What can a parent do if the meeting with the Coach and/or Commissioner did not provide a satisfactory resolution?***

1. Call and set up an appointment with the association President to discuss the situation further with you, your son or daughter, the coach, and the Sport Commissioner.
2. At this meeting, further appropriate steps can be discussed and determined.

Research shows us that participation in youth sporting activities gives the student-athlete a greater chance of success during adulthood. We are confident that the programs at Clarksburg Sports Association will aid in the preparation of those student-athletes who choose to participate. We are also hopeful that the information provided in this guide will enhance both youth and parent participation in our athletic program.

Our door is always open; please contact us at anytime with your constructive criticism or concerns.