

PALISADES SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOME OF

THE PIRATES

HANDBOOK

FOR

**INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETICS**

SECTION III

THE PARENT

PARENTS SECTION

Team Building – “The Coach and Parent”

- A. 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 our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child’s program.
1. Communication you should expect from your child’s coach:
 - a. Philosophy of the coach
 - b. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
 - c. Team requirements; e.g., practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning
 - d. Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation
 - e. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child’s participation
 - f. Team commitments and expectations
 2. Communication coaches expect from parents:
 - a. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
 - b. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
 - c. Specific concerns with regard to a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations
- B. As your children become involved in the programs at Palisades they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important that they understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Examples:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child’s attitude
3. Academic support, college opportunities

It is very difficult to accept your child’s not playing as much as you would like or where you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgements based on what they believe to be 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 should be left to the discretion of the coach.

Examples:

1. Team strategy
2. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. They are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other’s position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the school to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Director of Athletics. A meeting will be set up 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 and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to call to set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.

- C. 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 a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

Go Pirates!

THE PARENTS' PLEDGE

Cooperation among coaches, athletes, parents, and school personnel is essential if students are to realize the values of athletic participation. Like coaches and athletes, parents must make commitments to the athletic program to assure such cooperation.

As the parent of an athlete in the Palisades School District, I promise:

- To accompany my child to as many orientations and informational meetings offered by the athletic department, as my schedule will permit.
- To work closely with all school personnel to assure an appropriate academic as well as athletic experience for my child while he or she is in high school.
- To assure that my child will attend all scheduled practices and athletic contests.
- To require my child to abide by the athletic department's training rules.
- To acknowledge the ultimate authority of the coach to determine strategy and player selection.
- To promote mature behavior from students and parents during athletic contests.
- To work cooperatively with other parents and school personnel to assure a wholesome and successful athletic program for our school.
- To work closely with coaches and other school personnel to identify a reasonable and realistic future for my child as a student athlete, both in school and in college.
- To not approach coaches at inappropriate times with complaints/issues, but to meet at a mutually agreed upon time.
- Any failure to live up to the Palisades School Policies, Palisades Athletic Policies, or the rules and regulations set fourth by the PIAA will result in an appropriate consequence deemed necessary.

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Signature
(please sign and return this to the head coach)

Date