

NORTHLAND PINES ATHLETICS: PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE

This communication guide is designed for the parents of NPSD athletes. This pamphlet supports communication between student-athletes, their parents, and the athletic department/coaches of their respective athletic teams. The topics of sportsmanship, sports etiquette, communication expectations, and some of the general rules of the athletic program are included.

SPORTSMANSHIP

We support the initiative that school athletics promote the values of respect, integrity, cooperation, self-discipline, sportsmanship and citizenship. It is important to learn to control one's emotions and conduct, not only in defeat, but in victory as well. It is our goal to have Northland Pines recognized for our sense of fair play, sportsmanship, outstanding effort and character. We expect our students and parents to accept the officials' decisions and conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times. Inappropriate, threatening, negative or abusive language and/or behavior have no place in our school-sponsored activities. Athletes, coaches, students, and parents are expected to demonstrate and promote the positive values and characteristics of good sportsmanship in all aspects of interscholastic athletics. Exhibiting inappropriate spectator behavior at school sponsored athletic activities may result in one or more of the following for the perpetrator.

1. Directed to leave the facility for the remainder of the event.
2. Prohibited from attending subsequent events.
3. Prohibited from attending events for the remainder of season and/or future seasons.
4. Suspension from school. (students)
5. Law enforcement involvement

SPORTS ETIQUETTE

"The Team Bench"

The team bench is an athletic classroom. Athletes on the bench are expected to focus and concentrate on the game, listen to the coach and support their teammates. The bench area can provide an important and unique opportunity to learn and teach. Athletes may be asked to go in any time. It is their responsibility to know what is going on: game plans, assignments, any adjustments already made, opponents tendencies, key strategies, techniques and skills the coach is trying to identify and teach.

We ask that parents and spectators afford the coach and players the same respect and courtesy that they would to teachers and students in the academic classroom. Most of our playing spaces provide ample spectator viewing areas located on opposite sides or ends of our fields, courts, or rinks. Please maintain an appropriate distance from team areas to allow an athletic classroom atmosphere to prevail.

COMMUNICATION PHILOSOPHY

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult. By establishing communication and an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to student-athletes. To be successful, communication is vital and requires involvement, dedication, sacrifice and commitment from parents, student-athletes and coaches.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

1. Coach's and program's philosophy, rules, regulations and guidelines.
2. Individual and team expectations.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., practices, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure followed should your child be injured during practice.
6. Any discipline or incident that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES SHOULD EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach. Email is utilized to forward information, not for voicing concerns.
2. Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Support for the program and the attributes of dedication, commitment and responsibility that are essential ingredients for success and excellence. Encourage your child to excel.

While your child is involved in athletics at Northland Pines, they will experience some of the most rewarding and inspiring 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 as follows:

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve and develop.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior
4. Health issues

Coaches make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and all the athletes involved. There are certain areas and issues that can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those below, should 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.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH

1. Before you call to express a concern it is always best to have your student/athlete talk with the coach first if it is student/athlete related. Most concerns are best addressed at this level.
2. If step one does not resolve the issue or you need clarification it is best to set up a meeting with the coach, the student/athlete and yourself in a private setting during a non-emotional time for all. Call the coach for an appointment.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and a meeting will be set up for you. Again, preferably involving the coach, student/athlete, parent and athletic director if needed.
4. If those meetings do not solve the issue it would appear that the concerns are more serious and the principal and even Superintendent may need to get involved.

It is best to follow this chain of command if at all possible!

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach and this situation does not promote resolution nor objective analysis.

PARENTS ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN ATTENDING A CONTEST

1. Remain in spectator area during contest.
2. No derogatory comments directed towards officials, coaches or players of either team.
3. Do not officiate from the sidelines.
4. No attempts to coach from the sidelines during the contest.
5. Be in control of emotions.
6. Show interest, enthusiasm and support for your child and **the children of others**
7. Demonstrate and promote the positive values and characteristics of good sportsmanship.
8. Do not question or criticize the coach or officials in front of your child.
9. Realize that athletics is an integral part of the school's total curriculum: the coach (teacher) and official (ed. tech.) help facilitate learning.
10. Never approach an official at a game questioning his/her calls or interpretations.
11. Avoid negative interactions with opposing coaches, players, and spectators.
12. Sit back and enjoy the contest. The event is all about the athletes. Let them enjoy what they are doing.
13. Let your child talk to you about the event that just happened not you to them. Give them space.



Research indicates that students involved in athletics are most likely to succeed at their chosen profession and make creative contributions to their communities. Many of the character traits, qualities and attributes required to be a successful student-athlete are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope that the information provided within this pamphlet makes your child's and your experience with the Northland Pines athletic program more enjoyable. We are constantly trying to improve communication with students and parents. For our programs to be successful it is necessary that everyone involved understand the direction and goal of the NPSD athletic program.