

## *Coaches Responsibilities*

Each coach is a professional educator who has completed specialized training in educational/athletic philosophy and fundamentals in the given sport in which they coach. The coach is responsible for all aspects of the team's operations during the season. In making decisions, the coach must consider the educational goals of the Holly Area Schools and what is most appropriate for the team as a whole. Parents may not always agree with the decisions that are made. While each coach is open to comments and suggestions, the ultimate decisions about team and player matters rests with the coach. Some of the specific issues left to the coach's discretion include:

- Playing Time
- Team Strategy
- Play Calling
- Team Selection

In addition, the coach **WILL** not discuss other student athletes with parents. If you have concerns about your child's interactions with other athletes or with the coach, follow the procedure outlined within this pamphlet to address those issues.

## *Conflict Resolution*

Regular communication promotes understanding and mutual respect, and provides a framework to address concerns that may arise. While most concerns can be addressed through informal conferences and contact, more formal procedures are available if needed. Parents and student-athletes are encouraged to follow the Holly Area Schools Chain of Command should any potential issues arise. Expected steps to follow are listed on the next page and can be found on the district's website. If an issue occurs, please follow the following steps:

1. Student athlete has a conversation with the coach expressing concerns
2. If a resolution is not reached, the parent and student-athlete, together, should speak directly to the coach
3. Should step 2 not resolve the issue, please contact the athletic director, who will schedule a meeting between all stakeholders

## *Parent Code of Conduct*

- Be a positive role model and set a positive example for others through your conduct at sporting events. Remember your actions reflect on the school and district
- Be a "cheerleader" for your child and the other student athletes on the team
- Respect your child's coach – communicate with him or her in a positive way and encourage others to do the same
- Set realistic goals for your child's athletic participation and help your child do the same
- Emphasize improved performance and skill attainment rather than winning
- Keep your priorities in order – there is much more at stake in a contest than a win or loss
- Take time to thank coaches for the time and effort they put into coaching your student-athlete
- Please do your very best to support the coach. If you have a question or concern, communicate them promptly with the coach
- Maintain open lines of communication with the coach
- Work to promote a positive environment that is to the benefit of your student athlete
- Treat all officials and referees with respect

# Holly Athletics Communication Guide for Coaches, Parents, and Student- Athletes



## *Three Pillars of Holly Athletics*

- Respect Everyone
- Compete Every Day
- Enjoy the Experience

## ***Parent/Coach Relationship***

The Holly Area Schools Athletic Department offers a diverse athletic program to provide interested students with a wide variety of team and individual sports from which to choose. Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege that offers students an enriched school experience, lessons that carry over well beyond the athletic realm, and development of lifetime memories. One of the pillars is for athletic experiences to play an enjoyable and rewarding role in each student-athlete's school career. Support and encouragement from parents is integral to ensuring that goal is achieved. This guide is intended to foster good communications between parents and coaches, and to help parents understand the channels available to them to discuss athletic issues concerning their students.

## ***Communication to Expect From Your Student-Athlete's Coach***

You will receive a great deal of information from your student-athlete's coach before, during, and after the season. The communications may be verbal or in writing, and are intended to ensure that you and your student-athlete have all the information you need for a safe and enjoyable season. If you have questions or need additional information, contact your coach. Some topics about which you should expect to receive information include:

- Discussion of the coach's philosophy
- Explanation of the expectations and goals the coach has for your student-athlete, team, and season
- Explanation of the team selection process
- A list of team rules and an explanation of guidelines and consequences for rule infractions

- Explanation of requirements for student-athletes to earn a varsity letter
- Explanation of team requirements, special requirements, and equipment your child may need
- A list of locations and times for all practices, games, and other important events
- Explanation of strength and conditioning programs and expectations
- Explanation of the procedure that will be followed if a child is injured during athletic participation

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

An effective communication process must work both ways. To avoid confusion and misunderstanding, and to enhance the student's overall experience in athletics, parents should always communicate directly with the coach when questions or concerns arise. When communicating with your student-athlete's coach, keep the following in mind:

- The coach must plan for events based on the participation of the entire team. Notify the coach in advance of known schedule conflicts, pertinent health information that a coach should know, and any other information that will benefit the coach in interacting with your son or daughter. Similarly, when illness or injury will prevent your student-athlete's participation in a scheduled game or practice, notify the coach as soon as possible.

- If you have concerns or questions about any matters related to your student-athlete's athletic participation, please address them directly with the coach. The goal is to maintain mutual understanding and respect at all times
- When you desire to discuss a concern or question with the coach, please be sensitive to the coach's responsibilities. Follow these simple procedures to arrange a conference:
  - If the coach is a teacher, please call the school directly at (248) 328-3200 and request the coach's voicemail in order to leave a message to request a time to meet with the coach
  - All coaches (teachers and non-teachers) all have a district provided gmail account. Please feel free to email the coach regarding a conference and the coach will follow up with a phone call (within 48 hours) establishing a time to meet.
  - If you cannot reach the coach or do not get a response within 48 hours, contact the athletic director and he will communicate with the coach in order to set a meeting time.
- Please do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. The coach has responsibilities to the entire team at these times and may be emotional, and therefore are rarely conducive to positive resolution of concerns.