

# **SPASH Athletic Department**

## **Parent/Athlete/Coach Expectations**

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each other's expectations we are better able to accept the actions of both parties and provide greater benefits to the student/athlete. When a child becomes involved in a co-curricular activity, parents and coaches have a right to understand what EXPECTATIONS are going to be placed on the athlete and on each other. ***This begins with clear communication from the athlete, parent, coach, and athletic department.***

### **Communications/Expectations Parents/Athletes Should Expect FROM the Coaches:**

1. The expectations the coaches have for their children and all team members
2. Location and time of all practices
3. Team requirements, fees, special equipment, game dress, off-season opportunities
4. The policy dealing with excused and unexcused absences (What will consequence be for missing a game/practice because of vacation?)
5. The SPASH and WIAA requirements for eligibility
6. Team rules beyond the SPASH Athletic Code
7. The lettering requirements
8. The coaches' act as a role model for good sportsmanship, use of appropriate language, promoting a healthy environment and safe teaching techniques
9. Well-planned, energetic practices

### **Communications/Expectations Coaches Should Expect FROM the Athlete and Parent:**

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts that may occur, well in advance of the season
2. Special concerns regarding coaching expectations
3. Support for the Athletic Code of Conduct and all team rules
4. If the athlete has a concern, the parents should encourage their son/daughter to speak with the coach or coaching staff
5. Support for all team members and the coaching staff
6. Positive support at games for the son/daughter, their teammates, and the coaching staff
7. Exhibit good sportsmanship and appropriate language by the athlete and parents at games and/or practices
8. A great work ethic at practices and in games

## **Appropriate Concerns Athlete/Parent May Address with Coaching Staff:**

1. The treatment of the athlete mentally and physically
2. Ways to help the athlete improve his/her performance and skill level
3. Concerns about the athlete's behavior in school/practice/games

## **Areas That Are NOT Appropriate for Parents to Discuss With Coaching Staff:**

1. An individual's playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play selections
4. The make-up of the team and the decision as to who plays a particular position and on a particular team
5. Other members of the team, other parents, and other coaches.

## **The PROPER Method to Address a Concern:**

### **Step One:**

The athlete speaks with the coach. (I would suggest the coaching staff be involved/present when this conversation takes place)

### **Step Two:**

The parent asks for a conference with the coach (staff) and the athlete. The athlete must be present if a meeting is to take place. If the coach cannot be reached, the parent may contact the AD and he will arrange for the coach to contact parent

### **Step Three:**

If the conference between parent/athlete and coach does not resolve the concern, there will be a meeting set up by the Athletic Director. The AD will moderate the conference.

The conference will deal with specific issues that the parent/athlete has. Both parties will be allowed to speak in an uninterrupted manner. The conference will be non-threatening environment.