

FOUNTAIN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

COMMUNICATION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased that your child has chosen to participate in the interscholastic athletic programs of Fountain Valley High School. Our main objective is to provide an atmosphere in which the sports experiences of our athletes will be both positive and beneficial. This goal can only be realized through effective interactions between all involved parties. This "Communication Guide" has been developed to establish effective lines of communication between coaches, parents, administrators and athletes.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH

- Philosophy of the coach and the program
- Expectation the coach has for your child and for the team
- Times and locations of all meetings, practices and contests
- Team requirements (fundraising, special equipment, attendance, off-season conditioning, etc.)
- Procedure to follow in the event that your child should become injured
- Athletic Department Code of Behavior policy and any additional rules that may affect your child's participation

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS AND ATHLETES

- Concerns are to be expressly directed to the coach first
- Notification of schedule conflicts well in advance
- Special needs of the athlete that may not be obvious to the coach

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH

- The treatment of your child both mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve (should start with the player)
- Concerns about your child's behavior

AREAS NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH

- Playing time/position/assignment
- Team strategy/play calling
- Matters concerning other student athletes

PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH

Many aspects of the highly emotional and dynamic setting of interscholastic athletics are often questioned. As you have seen previously in this "Communication Guide", some concerns can (and should) be discussed with the coach, while others should not. Our coaches are professionals and they make judgments based on what they feel is best for all students involved. When a situation arises in which a conference is necessary, it is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. We encourage a healthy give & take of opinions and suggest the following procedures to be followed to help promote a quick resolution to the issues:

- Contact the coach to make an appointment to meet. Coach emails are listed on our athletics website at: www.fvathletics.com under the 'Directory' tab.
- If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable period of time, email Roger Holmes, Athletic Director, to arrange an appointment with the coach.
- **IMPORTANT: Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during or after a contest or practice session. These can be very emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution and, in fact, often escalate the issue.**

THE NEXT STEP

Although total agreement may not always be reached, most often such a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding. If the parent desires further communication, please email the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step will be determined and action will then be taken to rectify the situation and bring closure to the matter at hand.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Fountain Valley High School, in conjunction with the Department of Athletics, follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe the order of this line of communication if you elect to pursue any concerns you may have.

1. The Specific Coach
2. The Head Coach
3. The Athletic Director
4. The Assistant Principal for Athletics
5. The Principal

It is our sincere hope that the information provided in this "Communication Guide" will assist you and your child in enjoying a rewarding and meaningful experience as members of the Fountain Valley Barons Athletic Family.