

General McLane Athletic Program Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept each others' actions and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our sports program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for the team
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements – i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season condition
5. Procedure should you child be injured during participation

Communication that coaches expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and / or expectations

As your children become involved in the athletic programs at General McLane, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes.

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

1. Call or email the Coach to set up an appointment. 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, and meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
2. If the issue is not resolved following a meeting with the coach, parents may then contact Rob Kennerknecht, Athletic Director, at 814-273-1033 ext. 1600, or by email at kennerknecht.r@generalmclane.org
3. If the issue is not resolved following a meeting with Mr. Kennerknecht, parents may then contact Dan Mennow, High School Principal, at 814-273-1033 ext 1903, or by email at mennow.d@generalmclane.org

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

1. The treatment of your child (mentally and physically)
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

Parent communication with student/athletes

1. Be supportive of the coach's rules and decisions
2. Make your child aware of the need for hard work and discipline for practices and contests.
3. Be understanding of the coach's philosophy while supporting your child at the same time.
4. Avoid conversation that would berate the coach or another athlete.
5. Be a positive influence, reflecting the feeling of the overall positive influence of scholastic athletics.

Parents may find it difficult to accept the amount of playing time for their child. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved and the team.