

- To provide students with opportunities for physical, mental and emotional development.
- To experience team play, along with loyalty, cooperation, and fair play.
- To create a desire to succeed and excel.
- To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity while learning to make decisions under pressure.
- To develop an understanding of the value of co-curricular activities in a balanced educational experience.
- To demonstrate leadership qualities and skills.
- To provide a positive image of school activities at Brighton Area Schools.

The interscholastic athletic program at Brighton Area Schools is a vital and integral part of the total educational program. Research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities had a greater chance for success in adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to make a positive contribution to the development of the participants, spectators, school and community.

As an integral part of the educational process, the athletic program should always conform to and support objectives and standards of the school. The total educational curriculum must take precedence to the athletic program. Athletes should strive for educational excellence, playing excellence, as well as staying within the boundaries of good sportsmanship.

We hope the information provided here makes both your child's and your experience with Brighton Area Schools' athletic programs less stressful and more enjoyable.



**T OGETHER**  
**E VERYONE**  
**A ACHIEVES**  
**M ORE**

*"Good coaches teach respect for the opposition, love of competition, the value of trying your best, and how to win and lose graciously."*

*- Brooks Clark*

#### BULLDOGS

Work together

Work hard

Play safe

Respect the opponent

Respect the officials

Accept the results

Learn from mistakes

Focus on the goal

NEVER GIVE UP



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## BRIGHTON

Interscholastic Athletics

# GUIDE FOR PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATIONS



## PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role we are able to communicate the benefits of co-curricular activities to children. As parents, when your children become involved in the athletic program, you have a right to understand what is expected for your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

## EXPECTATIONS

The following expectations are what a Brighton Area Schools student athlete should encompass:

1. Follow all training rules, school rules and regulations.
2. Exhibit good sportsmanship towards opponents, officials, teammates and fans.
3. Work to excel in academics.
4. Put team goals ahead of personal goals.
5. Be a role model for all students before, during and after school.
6. Have pride in yourself, your team, your school, and care for your facility.
7. Respect, but never fear the opponent.
8. Work harder than the competition both in and out of season, and never quit.
9. Be on time and prepared for practices, meetings and games.
10. Accept the results; learn from mistakes; focus on the goal; and never give up.

## COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS (PARENTS)

As a parent you should expect to receive the following information from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all of the players.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, e.g. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in denial of your child's participation.
7. Parent/athlete feedback forms will be available for your constructive input at the conclusion of the season.

## COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS (COACHES)

The coach of your child's sport expects to receive the following communications from parents:

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

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at Brighton Area Schools, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his or her life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way your or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

## CONCERNS TO DISCUSS

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches include:

1. What the expectations are for your son/daughter during practices and games.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child.
4. Academic support and college opportunities.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues *not* appropriate to discuss with the coach are:

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

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, this is the procedure to follow:

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

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach. The Brighton High School Athletic Office telephone number is 810.299.4184.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director at 810.299.4186. He will set up the meeting for you.
3. 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 coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
4. Use the 24-hour rule: wait 24 hours after the contest to discuss a situation with a coach.

What can a parent do if the meeting did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and schedule an appointment to meet with the Athletic Director at 810.299.4186 to discuss the concern.
2. At the meeting the appropriate next step can be determined if the situation is still unresolved.

