

## Welcome to Deer Park High School Athletics!

As your child becomes involved in our programs, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their life. At times, however, things may not go as hoped. During these moments, open and respectful communication between parents and coaches is essential to support the best outcomes for our student-athletes.

### The Parent-Coach Relationship

Parenting and coaching are both challenging roles. By understanding each other's responsibilities and perspectives, we can work together to better serve our children. As parents, you have the right to understand what is expected of your child, and this begins with clear communication from their coach.

#### Communication You Should Expect from Coaches:

- The coach's philosophy
- Expectations for your child and the team
- Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season expectations, etc.)
- Procedures if your child is injured
- Suggestions for improvement

#### Communication Coaches Expect from Parents:

- Appropriate concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of scheduling conflicts well in advance
- Questions regarding practice times or changes

#### Appropriate Topics to Discuss with Coaches:

- The mental and physical treatment of your child
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

#### Topics Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other athletes

While it can be difficult to accept when your child isn't playing as much as you'd hoped, please remember that coaches make decisions based on what they believe is best for the entire team. If your child wants feedback, we encourage them to first speak directly with their coach.

#### If You Have a Concern:

1. **Email the coach** to set up an appointment to discuss the issue.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, **contact Athletic Director Mr. Gilbert** to schedule a meeting.
3. Please **do not approach coaches before, during, or after games or practices**. These are emotional times and not conducive to productive conversations.
4. If the issue remains unresolved, you may request a meeting with school administration to discuss further steps.

*Thank you for supporting our programs and promoting a positive environment for all of our student-athletes.*

