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## *Coaches Responsibilities*

Each coach is a professional educator who has completed specialized training in educational philosophy and fundamentals of the educational process, in addition to training in particular subject areas. The coach is responsible for all aspects of the team's operations during the season. In making decisions, the coach must consider the educational goals of RISD and what is most appropriate for the team as a whole. Parents may not always agree with the decisions that are made. While each coach is open to comments and suggestions, the ultimate decisions about team and player matters rests with the coach. Some of the specific issues left to the coach's discretion include:

- Playing Time
- Team Strategy
- Play Calling

In addition, the coach should not discuss other student athletes with parents. If you have concerns about your child's interactions with other athletes or with the coach, follow the procedure outlined below to address those issues.

## *Conflict Resolution*

Regular communication promotes understanding and mutual respect, and provides a framework to address concerns that may arise. While most concerns can be addressed through informal conferences and contact, more formal procedures are available if needed. If parents are unable to resolve concerns through informal conferences, a complaint may be filed under the district's Student and Parent Complaint Policy-FNG (Local). This complaint procedure is described in the Student and Parent Code of Conduct that each student receives at the beginning of each school year.

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## *Parent Code Of Conduct*

- Be a positive role model and set a positive example for others through your conduct at sporting events. Remember your actions reflect on the school and district.
- Be a "cheerleader" for your child and other children on the team.
- Respect your child's coach – communicate with him or her in a positive way and encourage others to do the same.
- Set realistic goals for your child's athletic participation and help your child do the same.
- Do not try to relive your own athletic past through your child.
- Emphasize improved performance and skill attainment rather than winning.
- Keep your priorities in order – there is much more at stake in a contest than a win or loss.
- Do not condition your interest in your child's athletic participation on winning.
- Do not undermine the coach. If you have questions or concerns, address them with the coach.
- Maintain open lines of communication with the coach.

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## *Steroids/Drugs Alcohol*

RISD strictly prohibits the use of steroids or other controlled performance enhancing substances. The district offers educational seminars and materials to educate parents and athletes about the dangers of these substances. Any parent or student who has questions about steroids or other controlled substances should contact their coach or campus athletic coordinator.

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**RICHARDSON ISD**

*Where all students learn, grow and succeed.*

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# **PARENT / COACH COMMUNICATION GUIDE**



**R I S D   A T H L E T I C S**



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*Sportsmanship begins  
with respect for  
yourself and others.*

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## *Parent/Coach Relationship*

The Richardson Independent School District offers a diverse athletic program to provide interested students with a wide variety of team and individual sports from which to choose. Participation in interscholastic athletic competition is a privilege that offers students an enriched school experience, the possibility of scholarship opportunities, and development of lifetime leisure skills. RISD's goal is for athletic experiences to play an enjoyable and rewarding role in your child's school life. Support and encouragement from parents is integral to ensuring that goal is achieved. This guide is intended to foster good communications between parents and coaches, and to help parents understand the channels available to them to discuss athletic issues concerning their students.

## *Select/Club Participation*

Coaches may not require athletes to participate on non-school teams such as select or club. The endorsement of specific outside teams is prohibited. RISD coaches may not coach students in grades 7-12 who attend school in their attendance zone. (PER UIL)

## *Communication to Expect From Your Child's Coach*

You will receive a great deal of information from your child's coach before, during and after the season. The communications may be verbal or in writing, and are intended to ensure that you and your child have all the information you need for a safe and enjoyable season. If you have questions or need additional information, contact your coach. Some of the topics about which you should expect to receive information include:

- Discussion of the coach's philosophy.
- Explanation of the expectations and goals the coach has for your child, team, and season.
- Explanation of the team selection process.
- A list of team rules and an explanation of guidelines and consequences for rule infractions.
- A list of the locations and times for all practices, games, and other important events.
- Explanation of team requirements, special requirements and equipment your child may need.
- Explanation of strength and conditioning programs and expectations.
- Explanation of the procedure that will be followed if a child is injured during athletic participation.
- Explanation of awards or recognition students may receive for participation in athletics.

## *Communication Coaches Expect From Parents*

An effective communication process must work both ways. To avoid confusion and misunderstanding, and to enhance the student's overall experience in athletics, parents should always communicate directly with the coach when questions or concerns arise. When communicating with your child's coach, keep the following in mind:

- The coach must plan for events based on the participation of the entire team. Notify the coach in advance of known schedule conflicts, etc. so he or she can plan accordingly. Similarly, when illness or injury will prevent your child's participation in a scheduled game or practice, notify the coach in advance.

- If you have concerns or questions about any matters related to your child's athletic participation, please address them directly with the coach. The goal is to maintain mutual understanding and respect at all times.
  - When you desire to discuss a concern or question with the coach, please be sensitive to the coach's responsibilities. Follow these simple procedures to arrange a conference:
    - If you do not have the coach's direct dial extension, contact these school's main number to obtain the extension. During school hours, voice mail usually will answer.
    - Leave a message to request a time to meet with the coach.
    - If you cannot reach the coach, contact the campus athletic coordinator to request a meeting be arranged.
  - Please do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. The coach has responsibilities to the entire team at these times. In addition, these times may often be emotional for coaches, athletes and parents, and therefore are rarely conducive to the positive resolution of concerns.
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