

Kaw Valley USD #321

Parent and Coach/Sponsor Communication Guidelines

Research has shown that students involved in extracurricular activities have greater chances for success during adulthood. This is the foundation for the existence of the athletic and activity programs in the Junior and Senior High Schools. The skills required to be a successful participant are similar to those that will promote a successful life after high school. We believe the information provided here will help enhance your child's experience in Kaw Valley Schools.

Rationale:

Involvement in extracurricular activities can add to the overall education program for students. Kaw Valley recognizes that, as in life, things will not always go the way a student, parent or coach wishes. At those times, we feel discussion with the coaches is encouraged.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss:

- The physical, emotional, and/or mental treatment of the student.
- Ways for the student to improve.
- Concerns about student behavior.

It can be difficult to accept a student's role, varsity or JV placement, and/or playing time. These decisions are made by the coach/sponsor based on what they see in practice everyday and what they believe is best for the team. The USD #321 administration believes these decisions must remain the sole responsibility of the coach/sponsor.

Issues Not Appropriate for Discussion:

- Playing time
- Starting line-up
- Other students

By following the above guidelines USD 321 believes we can continue to improve the student's experience in extracurricular activities. Positive interaction modeled by adults will prepare students for dealing with others on into the future.

Parent/Coach Relationship:

Parenting and coaching teenagers can both be very difficult endeavors. By establishing respect and understanding of both roles we can better build healthy relationships and find combined success. Here are guidelines for what to expect in the Parent/Coach relationship.

Communication to Expect from a Coach:

- Coaching philosophy
- Expectations for all members of the team or group
- Locations and times of all practices, meetings, and contests
- Team requirements such as team policies, transportation policies, attendance policies, special equipment needs, off-season conditioning expectations, etc.
- Procedures to follow should your child be injured during participation.
- Team or school discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication to Expect from a Parent:

- Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflict as soon as possible in advance of the date of the event.
- Specific concerns regarding a coach/sponsors' philosophy, rules, and other program or team expectations.

Proper Procedure for Discussing Concerns with a Coach/Sponsor:

1. Call the school office to set an appointment with the coach/sponsor. If the coach/sponsor cannot be reached at that time, please leave a message for the coach/sponsor to return your call.
2. If the coach does not return your call, or you cannot reach an agreement on a time to meet, call the school office and ask for the athletic director who will take the responsibility of scheduling a meeting.
3. If you are not satisfied with the the resolution with the meeting with the coach please contact the athletic director to discuss the situation.
4. If after meeting with the athletic director, a resolution cannot be reached, appropriate next steps can be discussed.
5. Please **do not** attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

Patron Misconduct/Sportsmanship:

Patron misconduct and poor sportsmanship will result in removal from the event and may result in the suspension of entry privileges to future events up to 1 year.

**Kaw Valley USD #321 Supports KSHSAA and its commitment to sportsmanship!
Rule 52 - Sportsmanship/Citizenship**

Introduction

The effective American secondary school must support both an academic program and an activities program. We believe that these programs must do more than merely coexist - they must be integrated and support each other in "different" arenas. The concept of "sportsmanship" must be taught, modeled, expected and reinforced in the classroom and in all competitive activities. Therefore, all Kansas State High School Activities Association members stand together in support of the following sportsmanship policy.

Philosophy

Activities are an important aspect of the total education process in American schools. They provide an arena for participants to grow, to excel, to understand and to value the concepts of SPORTSMANSHIP and teamwork. They are an opportunity for coaches and school staff to teach and model SPORTSMANSHIP, to build school pride and to increase student/community involvement; this ultimately translates into improved academic performance. Activities are also an opportunity for the community to demonstrate its support for the participants and the school, and to model the concepts of SPORTSMANSHIP for our youth as respected representatives of society. Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action!

**All ACTIONS are to be FOR, NOT AGAINST; POSITIVE, NOT
NEGATIVE or DISRESPECTFUL!**

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Parental/Guardian Sign-Off

I have read the Kaw Valley Parent and Coach/Sponsor Communications Guidelines. I understand the importance of following these guidelines to ensure a healthy and enjoyable experience for my student/athlete.

This must be signed by a parent or legal guardian before the student athlete may compete in any competition. This sign-off sheet will be kept on file with the school's athletic director.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Print the name(s) of your children that will be participating in a sports program or other school sponsored organizations.
