



# Athletics Expectations

## Parent/Coach Relationship

Athletics can be one of the most rewarding endeavors a student/athlete can have. Anchor Bay MS South is committed to providing a positive experience for our athletes. Part of this commitment is to ensure that parents of our athletes understand what our athletic program stands for and the policies/ procedures it follows. One very important aspect of our program is the parent/coach relationship. This relationship must be a productive partnership that has the same goal - "A Positive Athletic Experience". To achieve this goal, it is essential that both the parent and the coach foster communication, sportsmanship, and support.

## Sportsmanship

One of the goals of school athletics is the learning of lifetime values. Sportsmanship is one such value. Anchor Bay Schools puts the highest priority on SPORTSMANSHIP. We expect our athletes, students, parents and coaches to help promote good sportsmanship by observing the rules of fair play. Each person is asked to take personal responsibility for keeping the highest level of good sportsmanship. We must recognize that judgment calls by officials are made in good faith, and we must respect their decisions. Spectators must support everyone involved in athletic contests by refraining from derogatory comments or behavior. We ask you to support the competitors, the coaches, and the officials in a positive and sportsmanlike manner.

## Communication

### FROM THE COACH

- Philosophy
- Expectations
- Practice/game schedule and calendar
- Team rules and Discipline
- Team requirements
- Emergency procedures

### FROM THE PARENT TO COACH

- Schedule conflicts in advance
- Physical or mental limitations of athlete
- Challenging personal issues

### APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION

- How to improve child's athletic performance
- Injuries
- Perceived mistreatment



## **INAPPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION**

- Playing time
- Strategy/Play calling
- Other athletes

## **HOW TO ADDRESS CONCERNS**

### ***Step 1: Start with the Source***

The player/parent will speak directly to the coach. A cooling off period of 24 hours is mandated for all parties and will be utilized before resolution is sought. This meeting should be done in private, away from practice sites and game arenas, and should be conducted face to face. Students who do not feel comfortable speaking solely to the coach may request a parent to be present, however the meeting should be conducted by the athlete.

### ***Step 2: Move to the Program Head***

This step is only necessary if the issue is in regards to a subordinate or assistant (i.e. assistant coach, JV coach, freshman coach, etc...). If going to the source does not solve the problem, then the head of the program should be notified and he/she should attempt to facilitate a solution. If the 'source' is the head of the program, move to step three.

### ***Step 3: Contact Athletic Director***

If an agreeable solution is not reached, then the athletic director will conduct a meeting between the parties in an attempt to find resolution.

## **Officials**

Officials do not make much money officiating games. Officials just like coaches are involved for the love of sport. Their primary role is to make judgments on plays throughout the game. They WILL NOT make the right judgment all the time. They WILL make mistakes. When they do make mistakes, we must always trust their integrity that they did not do it intentionally. When these mistakes occur, it is vital for the coach to respond in a professional manner. Disagreeing with the official and letting them know that they may have made a mistake can be handled only two ways...right and wrong. The wrong way would be for the coach to scream and act in a unsportsmanlike manner. By acting unsportsmanlike, a coach sets a poor example to his players and parents who will feed off of his/her actions. In contrary, a coach who displays good sportsmanship will set the tone for everyone involved. I have spent many years in athletics and through the years, I cannot remember a time in which officiating determined the outcome of a game. The outcome of a game is determined by the preparation of a coach and the performance of their team...period. Using officials as an excuse for defeat only degrades the effort by all involved and implies that the other team only won by cheating. In defeat coaches should congratulate their opponent and use the defeat as a "teachable moment" to improve their preparation and team performance.