

The next step....

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

1. Call or e-mail and set up an appointment with the school Activities Director to discuss the situation.
2. Call or e-mail and set up an appointment with the school Principal to further discuss the situation.

Research indicates that a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance of success in adulthood. That is why these programs have been established.

Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are the same as those that will promote a successful life after high school.

We hope the information provided in this pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with Bismarck Public Schools athletic programs more enjoyable.

Parent / Spectator Guidelines

Parents and spectators at games/performances are to set a good example for their children by exemplifying the highest standards of sportsmanship. Their role is to watch, cheer, and boost the efforts of ALL participants in a particular event. Activities should be fun and the game must for the kids. Their involvement in the activity is the single most important thing to consider. Your child is watching you. What type of example do you want to set?

Parents and spectators have responsibilities to the coach, team, school, and community of which they are a part. Parents and spectators should have respect for coaches, other members of the team, opponents, and decisions of game officials. All parents and spectators should take it upon themselves to learn as much as possible about the rules of the game in which their child is participating. Parents and spectators should NEVER:

- Criticize abuse, harass, or berate a coach/advisor, team member, opponent, or game official. Each will perform to the best of their abilities. Sarcasm or negative comments will not help them to be their best.
- Confront a coach/advisor immediately after a game/performance. It is best to wait at least 24 hours so as to give all parties involved time to relax and reflect.
- Be extremely loud when cheering on their child. Remember, others are there to watch as well.
- Use profane or abusive language toward anyone for any reason.
- Enter the field/court of play unless requested by a coach/advisor.

Bismarck Public Schools Activities



Parent & Coach Communication

Information contained in this pamphlet can also be found on each school's activities website.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult jobs. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of each and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are set on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach/advisor

1. Philosophy of the coach*
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.*
3. Location and times of practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.*

*Coaches are encouraged to provide this information to parents in an easily accessible way. If you did not receive communication from the coach, please reach out to them.

Communication coaches expect from parents

1. Concerns are expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notifications of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns about a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in the programs at Bismarck Public Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there will be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

1. Treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make this judgment based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. Remember, the coach sees your child perform in practice everyday. You might only see them perform at contests.

Inappropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

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

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged if you feel there is a concern. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the others position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote the resolution to the issue.

Concern Procedure

1. Call the coach at school to set up an appointment. Please do not call the coach at home unless directed to do so.
2. If the issue is important enough, you may want to also call the Athletic Director and/or building principal.
3. Please *do not* attempt to confront the coach immediately before or after a contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature create animosity; they do not promote a resolution. Wait 24 hours before contacting a coach to discuss issues