



Guide to Dealing With Teacher-Coaches

What you deserve to hear from the coach:

- The basic requirements (equipment needed, fees, rules, and off-season expectations)
- When and where practices and games will take place
- The coach's expectations of your child and other players
- The coach's policies such as rules on who gets to play
- What the team will do if your child gets hurt

What the coach deserves to hear from you:

- Advance notice of any schedule conflicts
- Concerns about your child or the coach's philosophy (expressed *at the proper time and place*)

What concerns you can discuss with a coach:

- How your child can improve
- Your child's behavior
- The mental and physical treatment of your child

What concerns you CAN'T discuss with a coach:

- Team strategy
- Play-calling
- Athletes' playing time
- Situations dealing with other student-athletes

What to do when discussing concerns with a coach:

- Contact the coach and arrange an appointment.
- If you can't reach him/her, ask the athletic director to set up a meeting with the coach.
- Think about what you can reasonably achieve with the discussion. Try to put yourself in the coach's shoes.
- At the meeting, stick to discussing the facts. Don't get emotional.
- Don't confront the coach before, during, or after a practice or game. These emotional times rarely resolve the situation and often worsen it.

What to do if the meeting doesn't provide satisfactory resolution:

- Set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and yourself.
- At the meeting, determine an appropriate next step if necessary.