



**BCA  
STUDENT ATHLETE and COACHING HANDBOOK**

**Addendum Rev. 8.05**

**PARENT-COACH COMMUNICATION VITAL FOR  
BROADFORDING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETES**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of both responsibilities, we are better able to understand the actions of the other to the benefit of our children and to the glory of God. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand the expectations placed upon your child. This understanding begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

**Communication you should expect from your child's coach:**

- **Philosophy of the coach**
- **Expectations the coach has for your child**
- **Locations and times of all practices and contests**
- **Team requirements (e.g. practices, special equipment, in and out-of-season conditioning)**
- **Procedures followed should your child be injured during participation**
- **Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation in a practice or a game**

**Communication coaches can expect from parents:**

- **Concerns expressed directly to the coach**
- **Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance**
- **Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations**

As your children become involved in the programs at BCA, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments that come from athletic competition and the personal growth that can result. It is important, however, to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child desire. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

**Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**

- **The treatment of your child, mentally, spiritually, and physically**
- **Ways to help your child improve**
- **Concerns about your child's behavior**

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## Parent-Coach Communication Continued.....

It is very difficult to accept your child's playing time if he/she is not playing as much as you had hoped. Coaches make judgment decisions based upon what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Others, however, are simply at the discretion of the coach.

### **Issues NOT appropriate to discuss with coaches:**

- **Playing time (exception: "what can my child do to earn more playing time?)**
- **Team strategy**
- **Play calling**
- **Other student athletes**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These conferences, the framework of which is outlined under the Matthew 18 principle found in the student athlete handbook, are strongly encouraged. Good communication done with maturity and self-control are vital to a healthy athletic program as well as to the combined effort of both school and parents to raise our children by modeling a Christ-like example. When these conferences are necessary, be sure to:

- **Call the coach to set up an appointment**
- **If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Coordinator to establish a meeting.**

**It is inappropriate to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. Those moments are the most emotional for both the coach and the parent and it is our experience that little resolution is reached during these times. Remember, we are striving to set a Christ-like example. Our program strives for dignity, respect, discipline, and CLASS. Our program consists of you, the parents and the athletes, as well as the coaches and the administration. Failure on any party to reach for the same objectives within the program brings shame, embarrassment, and a poor testimony to ourselves as parents, as athletes, and as school staff. Most of all, it brings shame to the name of Jesus Christ.**

Did you know? Research indicates that a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance of success during adulthood. Many character attributes required to be a successful participant in extracurricular activities are the same attributes that promote a successful and rewarding life beyond high school. We hope the information provided here will make your child's experience with BCA Athletics more enjoyable, less stressful, and most rewarding as one aspect to our overall goal of developing young men and women who emulate Christ in their lives.