

Red Bank Regional High School

Parents/Guardians as Partners in Athletics



2009/2010

Parents/Athletes/Coaches Communication Guide

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Dear Parents / Guardians,

The role of the parent/guardian in the education of a youngster is important. The support shown in the home is often mirrored in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school, in the classroom and through extra curricular activities.

A student's involvement in the classroom and other activities contributes to the development of a value system. Integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics. These are the principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of the results.

A good student-athlete or parent/guardian is a true leader in the community. As a parent/guardian of a student at our school, these should be your sportsmanship goals:

- To realize that athletics are part of the educational experience and that the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game.
- To encourage our students to perform their best.
- To participate in positive cheers that encourage your child and to discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus – including those that taunt and intimidate opponents, their fans or officials
- To respect the task our coaches face as teachers and to support them as they strive to educate our youth.
- To respect teammates and opponents and acknowledge their efforts.
- To develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances.

These and other expectations are included in the attached guidelines, which I hope you will take a few moments to review. They provide a road map to follow on a journey toward a more educational atmosphere for interscholastic athletics.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. I look forward to seeing you at games, matches and meets this season.

Yours in Sports,

Louis "Del" Dal Pra
Athletic Director

**Red Bank Regional High School
ATHLETIC CONDUCT
FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE AND PARENTS**

I understand that representing Red Bank Regional High School in athletics is a privilege that carries certain responsibilities. I understand that being part of the athletic program requires following rules set forth by the coach, the athletic department and the school principal.

Student-Athlete:

I agree to:

- Conduct myself in a manner that reflects good sportsmanship **at all times**.
- Refrain from hazing, taunting, or physical confrontations with opponents and teammates.
- Attend all practices and games as scheduled by the coaching staff and Athletic Director.
- Practice hard and work to the best of my ability at all times.
- Refrain from drug, alcohol or tobacco use.
- Treat my coaches, teammates and opponents with respect.
- Follow all team rules and regulations.
- Refrain from actions which would bring discredit to me, my team, my family and my school.
- Maintain regular and consistent attendance and abide by all requirements of the school attendance policy.
- Maintain my academic eligibility.

I understand that failure to uphold this contract may result in failure of **my** varsity letter status or team status.

Parent/Guardian:

I agree to:

- Show respect and positive support for coaches and officials, prior, during and after the game.
- Demonstrate respect and support for all players prior, during and after the game.
- Be mindful of my role at all times, provide support, not openly instruct during the game or openly interpret the rules.
- Participate in cheers that support, encourage and uplift the teams involved.
- Understand that school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the student-athletes.
- Support the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected by our school, our conference and the NJSIAA.

You are responsible for all information presented at seasonal parent/student meetings regardless of attendance.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed 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

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the players on the squad
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements
- Procedure should your child be injured during practices or games
- Out of season expectations
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

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

As your children become involved in the programs in Red Bank Regional High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may 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

- Injury Issues
- College assistance for student-athlete
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. The coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe is best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the items listed below must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Playing time
- Team position
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the procedure listed below should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issues of concern.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

- **Student-athlete and coach should discuss the concern**
- Parent should call to set up an appointment with coach
- Parent, student-athlete and coach meet
- Parent, student-athlete, coach and Athletic Director meet
- Parent, student-athlete, coach, Athletic Director and Principal meet
- Parent contact the Superintendent for appointment

Expectations and Philosophy

Please take a few moments to read this. Hopefully, this will help you understand how a competitive program is conducted and what comprises our expectations and philosophy.

1. In each program, a coach and/or coaches who are qualified individuals are hired by the school district to be responsible for team selections. The head coach establishes criteria for selection possibly with input from the entire coaching staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Team selections, practices, and decisions regarding game situations are the responsibility of the coaching staff.

If you have questions regarding the process, please feel free to address these questions directly to the head coach. Please call the coach to make an appointment outside of school time, practice time or game time. If you have further questions the coach has not been able to answer, please contact the Athletic Director.

2. The Red Bank Regional High Schools athletic program has become highly competitive. Due to the size of our school and the limited opportunities, we are not able to place every student on a team who wishes to participate. While this is not our desire, it is reality. The hardest thing our coaches have to do is to tell young people they will not be on a team.

Please be sure when your child tries out for a team, both you and your child understands there is a very real possibility they may not be selected. If selected, both you and your child should be prepared to accept placement at any team level, i.e., 9th grade, junior varsity or varsity. It is disturbing to have students try out for a team and then quit because they were not placed where they think they should be. By doing this, they have taken away someone else's opportunity to be on a team.

Normally, coaches have a very short amount of time to make team selections. They try to do the very best they can in keeping the most talented athletes, filling positions for play and appropriately placing them on the proper team. They are under a good deal of pressure to assemble the most competitive team possible. Anyone of us might select different athletes for the team. I believe it is the coaches' responsibility and right to select the team with whom they will work for the entire season.

3. There are many "select teams" or "All Star teams" sponsored by many different organizations in which our student-athletes participate. Participation on one of these teams does not guarantee any player a spot on any high school team. While I believe students can gain valuable experience outside of the school athletic program, neither parents nor students should count on this type of participation to guarantee a spot on a high school team.
4. In order to make a varsity team as a senior, a player must be outstanding and also play a position the team needs. Underclass student-athletes possessing these qualities have the same opportunity to make a team as does a senior. Red Bank's team structure (9th, Junior Varsity, and Varsity) dictates there will always be more underclass players than upper class in the total program. At selection time, it will be the coaches' decision as to what team the student-athlete is placed.
5. A main goal of our competitive athletic program is to put the most talented member of the team in competition to win the contest. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to seniors making the team or anyone else for the matter. Each member of a team is very valuable to the team's overall progress. Some student-athletes may play a great deal of time in a contest, while others may not see any playing time or what a parent would consider "significant" playing time. Each student-athlete should have personal improvement as one of his or her goals.

By being a member of a team, regardless of time spent in actual competition, a person can learn many valuable lessons. Among them are the following: citizenship, sportsmanship, appreciating good play by an opponent, working together to meet team goals, responsibility and commitment to team and school, loyalty, placing team above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, self-control, and being responsible for one's actions.

I sincerely hope this helps you understand the goals and philosophy of our competitive athletic program at Red Bank Regional High School. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding any aspects of the athletic program.

Mission Statement

Sportsmanship

The ideal of sportsmanship permeates virtually every aspect of our culture. The ethic of fair play may be witnessed in all facets of life. However, its origin has been firmly established in sports as conceptually and pragmatically a training ground for good citizenship and high behavioral standards. The NJSIAA and the Jersey Shore Conference are committed to fair play, graciousness toward an opponent, and a genuine concern and respect for others.

(Taken from the NJSIAA Sportsmanship booklet.)

COMMUNICATION PROCESS FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

- Published seasonal schedule
- Published seasonal schedule sent to all local and area newspapers
- Published seasonal schedules distributed throughout the town
- School bulletin boards
- Highschoolsports.net

Values of Interscholastic Athletes

Athletes...

- Have better grades than those not involved and athletes in season have better grades than out of season
- Have better attendance than general student population
- Have a much lower drop out rate than their fellow students
- Have a better chance of succeeding in college
- Take more average to above average courses than non-participants
- Tend to focus more on long-term goals than on short-term goals
- Tend to be more self-assured
- Ninety five percent (95%) of Fortune 500 executives participated in school athletics.

PARENT CODE OF ETHICS

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other high school sports events.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all high school events.
- I will remember that the game is for the student-athletes not for adults.
- I will do my very best to make the high school athletic experience a positive one.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

Guidelines for Behavior of the Spectators

- Remember that you are at a contest to support and cheer for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- Interscholastic athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise students-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- Remember that a ticket is a privilege to observe the contest; it is not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your home.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of contest officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, etc.) before, during and after contests, on or near the site of the event (e.g., no tailgating).
- Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Recognize and compliment school and athletic administrators for their efforts in emphasizing the educational benefits of interscholastic athletics and the role of good sportsmanship.
- Be a positive role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Behavior Standards

As specified by the National Federation and State High School Association

Acceptable Behavior

- Applause during introductions of players, coaches and officials.
- Players shaking hands with opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in appropriate school cheers in positive manner.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance of coaching.
- Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for injured player regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free-throw attempt.
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells chants, songs or gestures.
- Booming or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Doing own yells/cheers instead of following lead of cheerleaders.

Guidelines for Behavior of the Student-Athlete

- Accept and understand the seriousness of the responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and your community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students and elementary students. This will assist you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the sport.
- Treat fellow teammates and opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better to understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Wishing opponents good luck before the contest. Congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will make a positive statement about you and your team.

Red Bank Regional High School
Athletics
“A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE”