

# THE NEXT STEP

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

1. Call and set up an appointment with the appropriate person following the chain of communication as listed in the Athletic Student and Parent Handbook.
2. At each meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Research indicates that students involved in co-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood. We believe that the Eaton Rapids' Athletic Program helps develop the character traits that promote a successful life after high school.

We hope the information provided within this pamphlet enhances your experience with the Eaton Rapids' athletic program.

## AN ATHLETE'S POEM TO PARENTS.

*How badly you must want to win,  
Not for yourself but me,  
So help me play this game, dear Dad,  
With dedication, goals and dignity.  
It's embarrassing for me, Dad,  
When you criticize my coach.  
If you thin you can be helpful,  
Then try a new approach.  
Call and make arrangements,  
To meet him face to face.  
For better than to yell at him  
In such a public place.  
I think that you will also find,  
Your friendship will be sealed,  
In a more conducive atmosphere,  
Than on the playing field.  
Please try to go along with him,  
Not judging wrong or right.  
You know he's got a job to do,  
That must be done tonight.  
As he stands alone down there,  
In front of all the fans,  
Help him do the job he must,  
By staying silent in the stands.  
Snap decisions he must make,  
Under pressure of the game,  
And certainly where you must sit,  
Tis' not really quite the same.  
Even when he calls it right,  
I often make a mistake,  
That surely makes him look as though  
His coaching is at stake.  
Sometimes he'll pat me on the back,  
And I will get in next time,  
You can count on that.  
He'll take the blame for losses  
And walk out on a limb,  
But he'll give his team credit  
For each and every win.  
So be there when I need you, Dad.  
Shout encouragement to me.*

*EATON RAPIDS*

*PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

*ATHLETICS*



*Parent/Coach  
Communication*

Together building better programs  
for the students of Eaton Rapids

*WE ARE E.R.*

## **PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of each other and provide greater benefit to the student/athletes. As parents, when your child becomes 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 sport.

## **COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR SON/ DAUGHTER'S COACH**

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child and the other student/athlete on the squad
3. Location and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

## **COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS**

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

As your child becomes involved in the Eaton Rapids Athletic program, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

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 others position.

## **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. The 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 your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student/athletes involved.

Everyone must remember that participation in athletics is a privilege not a right. While there are certain things which can and should be discussed with your child's coach, there are other things which must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. Playing time
2. Strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student/athletes

When parent-coach conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

## **IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW:**

1. Call the high school to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. The Eaton Rapids High School Athletic Department telephone number is 663-2217.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, the Athletic Director will set up the meeting for you.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.