

Athlete/Parent/Coach Communication

The LFHS Athletic Department encourages open communication among athletes, parents and coaches. Both athletes and parents are urged to discuss their concerns with the coach in the appropriate setting and at the appropriate time.

Note to parents: Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach include mental or physical treatment of your child, strategies for improving your child's performance and behavior issues affecting your child.

Issues not appropriate for a parent to discuss with coaches include playing time, starting positions, team strategy, play calling and other student athletes.

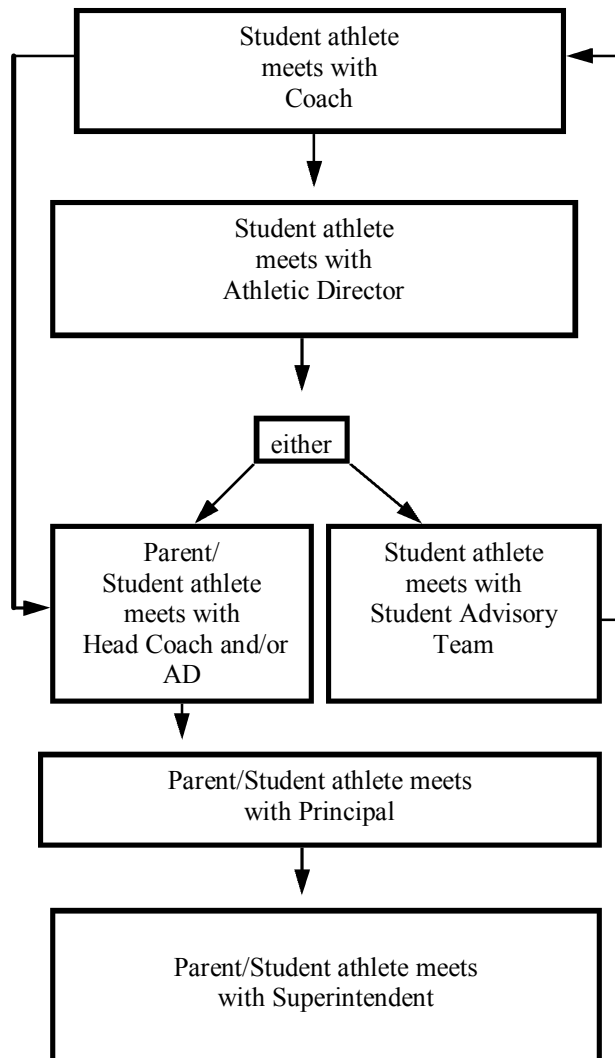
Conflict Resolution Process

Although it is desirable for concerns to be addressed initially between athletes and coaches, occasionally, situations arise where conflicts are not resolved by this interaction. The District has established a conflict resolution process for these types of athletic concerns.

Athletes or their parents should first seek to resolve disagreements with the coach. If issues remain unresolved, the matter should move to the Athletic Director for mediation and further discussion. If resolution is still unreachable, the athlete may enlist the aid of the Student Advisory Team who will meet with the athlete and the Coach. Issues still unresolved will go to the AD and the head coach. The Principal and Superintendent will become involved only after the parent and athlete have followed the prescribed procedure. The athlete may invite an advocate to attend these meetings at any step of the process. A list of possible invitees is included on the conflict resolution chart. A copy of this chart follows.

Conflict Resolution Process Chart For Athletic Concerns

Ideally, issues should be resolved between the athlete and the coach. If a situation remains unresolved it should proceed through the following sequence and reach resolution at the earliest level



Possible invitees to any of the above meetings may include: Guidance Counselor, IEP Case Manager, Dean, Social Worker, Other Coaches, School Psychologist, 504 Coordinator, Nurse, Student Resource Officer, Other Administrator or Teacher

Lake Forest Community
High School
District 115



Sportsmanship

**A Guide to
Athlete/Parent/Coach
Communications
&
Expectations**

2009-2010

Goals and Expectations

Participation in athletic activities is a privilege.

As representatives of Lake Forest High School, student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that meets the highest standards at all times.

It is the goal of Lake Forest High School to provide all students with opportunities to engage in athletic activities that enrich their education and further develop the core values of respect, responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness, caring and good citizenship.

The skills of good sportsmanship and proper behavior are learned by engaging with others, modeling good behavior and by careful instruction. It is the responsibility of the administration, staff, coaches, parents and the community at large to create a climate that fosters the development of these skills by encouraging and modeling positive and appropriate behavior within the sporting environment while striving for excellence.

Expectations for the behavior of athletes, coaches, and parents at athletic contests, practices and events are outlined below.

The Athlete

Student athletes who choose to participate in any sport must agree to read, sign and abide by the athletic code of conduct as a condition of participation.

The code of conduct establishes high expectations and standards for all participating student athletes. These expectations embody a total lifestyle approach with emphasis on respect for self, others and property, loyalty to self, teammates, coaches and school, support for the ideals of true sportsmanship, and maturity to fully accept all choices made and the consequences they carry.

The effectiveness of this code depends on a collective commitment from students, parents and school personnel, and a proactive, positive approach to prevention and assistance. Athletes will be governed, at the minimum, by the Athletic Department training rules. Each head coach may establish additional rules for his/her team regarding curfew, attendance, personal conduct and personal appearance.

The full text of the athletic code of conduct, including consequences for violations is available on the website at www.lfhs.org/athletics.

The Coach

Coaches are required to abide by the following code of expectations:

- ♦ I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating support for all athletes, coaches and officials at all games, practices and other events.
- ♦ I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- ♦ I will treat each player as an individual and do my best to provide a safe environment for all players.
- ♦ I will teach my athletes to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts with civility and without resorting to hostility or violence.
- ♦ I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach and I will teach these rules to my players.
- ♦ I will do my best to ensure that the sport is enjoyable for my players and remember that the game is for the athletes and not the adults.
- ♦ I will be a positive role model for my players and not engage in any unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent. I will treat everyone with respect and civility.
- ♦ I will demand a drug, tobacco and alcohol-free sports environment from my players and refrain from their use at all events.
- ♦ I will establish open lines of communication with players and their parents so everyone understands expectations and can express concerns.

Coaches are also expected to communicate to athletes and parents their coaching philosophy, expectations for all team members, locations and times of practices/contests, team rules and requirements, emergency procedures in case of injury and consequences for violations of rules.

Failure to meet these expectations will result in disciplinary action or dismissal.

The Parent

Parents of student athletes are required to abide by the following code of expectations:

- ♦ I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating support for all athletes, coaches and officials at every game, practice, or other athletic event.
- ♦ I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child and other student athletes ahead of any 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 to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- ♦ I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of athletes.
- ♦ I will treat other players, parents, coaches, fans and officials with respect and refrain from verbal indignities.
- ♦ I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts with civility and without resorting to hostility or violence.
- ♦ I will respect the coaches and officials and their authority during games and will not question, discuss or confront coaches at the game site.
- ♦ If I have issues or concerns to discuss, I will take time to speak with the coach at an agreed upon time and place.
- ♦ I will do my best to ensure that the sport is enjoyable for my child and remember that the game is for the athletes and not the adults.
- ♦ I will demand a drug, tobacco and alcohol-free sports environment for my child and refrain from their use at all events.

Failure to meet these expectations will result in disciplinary action. Consequences may include: removal from the practice/contest/event, written reprimand, one game suspension, season suspension or one year suspension.