

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the advisor/coach, the following procedure should be followed:

- Think about the expected outcome as a result of the meeting.
 - Schedule a time to visit with the coach/advisor face-to-face, in private. These conversations should never take place in public, at practice, at a contest, or performance.
 - If the advisor/coach cannot be reached, call the activities director and ask him or her to set up a meeting with the coach/advisor for you.
- Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the advisor/coach didn't provide satisfactory resolution?

Call the activities director to set up a meeting with the activities director, coach/advisor, and parent(s) present. At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

In Conclusion:

Students' involvement in co-curricular activities has been proven to increase their chances of success later in life. However, it is important for parents to realize that **less than 1% of students participating in co-curricular activities will make a living in that activity. Parents should NOT expect their son or daughter to receive a full ride college scholarship or make a living as a result of their participation in co-curricular activities because, for most, that is not reality. Parents should** encourage their children to participate in co-curricular activities because their children will have fun, enjoy being with their friends and because of the lifelong values they learn through participation.

CONDUCT COUNTS

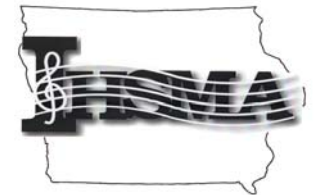
ACTIVITY PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT

As the parent of an activity participant, I will:

- Remember my daughter or son participates in educational activities for fun.
- Do my best to understand the purpose of educational activities which always puts education first.
- Remember it is a privilege, not a right, for my son or daughter to participate in interscholastic activities.
- Remember my attendance at an interscholastic activity is a privilege, not a right.
- Always conduct myself with character, and insist my daughter or son do the same, even when it is not the popular thing to do.
- Treat all people (coaches/advisors, contestants, contest officials, other spectators) with respect at all times and insist my son or daughter do the same.
- Support all students participating, not just my son or daughter.
- Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity.
- Honor the spirit and intent of the rules under which my daughter or son participates.
- Never demonstrate threatening or abusive behavior or use foul language.

Try my best to be a fan, not a fanatic!

**On the field,
on the stage,
and in the crowd ...
CONDUCT COUNTS!**



**A message from
the Unified Iowa
High School
Activities Federation**

THE PARENT & COACH/ADVISOR RELATIONSHIP

Parenting and coaching, or directing, young adults are rewarding and challenging. Parent and coach/advisor expectations each have a significant impact on the experience students will have as they participate in co-curricular activities. Participation in co-curricular activities may be different from other experiences parents and their children have had because co-curricular activities take place in an educational setting and are part of the child's total educational experience.

The purpose of co-curricular activities is the education of young people to help make them more productive citizens to society as adults. To be part of the educational program, co-curricular activities must teach students more than just the skills of the activity. They must teach life lessons that will help make students better people because they participated. When parents and coaches/advisors work together to teach these life lessons all students benefit and have a more positive experience.

Parents have the right to know and understand the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches and advisors have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the advisor/coach first and at the appropriate time and place.

CONDUCT



COUNTS

CONDUCT



COUNTS

Communication parents should expect from the coach/advisor:

- Advisor's/coach's **philosophy**.
- Expectations** the coach/advisor has for the parent's son or daughter, as well as other players on the team.
- Locations and times of practices and contests/performances**.
- Team/activity group requirements**, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team/activity group rules, off-season expectations.
- Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured or ill** during participation.

Communication advisors/coaches should expect from parents:

- That concerns regarding the parent's son or daughter will be expressed directly to the coach/advisor at the appropriate time and place. For example: at a scheduled meeting, not after a contest or performance.
- Specific concerns in regard to the advisor's/coach's philosophy and/or expectations**.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts** well in advance.

As children become involved in interscholastic activities, they, and their parents, will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way the child and parent wish. These are the times discussion with the coach/advisor are encouraged.

Appropriate concerns for a parents to discuss with a advisor/coach:

- The **mental and physical treatment of your child**.
- What your child needs to do to improve**.
- Concerns about your child's behavior**.

It is very difficult for parents to accept that their child may not be participating as much, or in the role, the parent had hoped they would. Coaches/advisors make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As one can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's advisor/coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach/advisor.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with the advisor/coach:

- How much each student is participating and the role they have**.
- Team strategy**.
- Play calling**.
- Any situation that deals with other students**.

There are situations that may require communication between the coach/advisor and parent. This communication is not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the others' position. When such communication is necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue.

CONDUCT



COUNTS