

## 7. EVERGREEN LOCAL SCHOOLS COMMUNICATION GUIDE

We are pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the interscholastic program of the Evergreen Local School District. The goal of the Athletic Department is to provide our athletes with the best possible sport environment. We believe that this goal can be realized with appropriate lines of communication among all parties involved. This guide has been developed to help coaches, parents, administrators, and athletes communicate most effectively.

### **Communication you should expect from the Coach:**

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach may have of your child and the Team.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team Requirements (fees, special equipment, eligibility, attendance, off-season conditioning, etc.)
- Procedure to follow should your child become injured during participation.
- Athletic Code of Conduct policy and any additional rules that may affect participation.
- Requirement to earn a letter.
- Responsibility for lost/outstanding equipment at the end of the season.

### **Appropriate Concerns to discuss with the Coach:**

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.
- As your child becomes involved in various athletic programs of the school, it is our hope that he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that things may not always go as you or your child wish. At these times a discussion with the coach may be desirable (in fact, it is encouraged) to clear up the issue to avoid any misunderstanding.

### **Areas not appropriate to discuss with the Coach:**

- Playing time/position assignment.
- Team strategy/play calling.
- Matters concerning other student athletes.
- Many aspects of the highly emotional and dynamic setting of interscholastic athletics are often questioned. These may include decisions made by coaches, administration, officials, athletes, parents, and fans. As you have seen from the previous list, certain concerns can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other issues must be left to the discretion of the coach. Our coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is in the best interest of the team under all circumstances.

### **Procedure to follow if you have a concern to discuss with the Coach:**

- There are situations that may require a conference between the coach, parent, and athlete. Such a meeting is encouraged when necessary. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other person's position. Each should be willing to listen. The following procedure should be used to help promote a resolution to the issue:
  - Contact the coach to set up an appointment.
  - If the coach cannot be reached after a reasonable period of time, contact the Athletic Director. An appointment with the coach will be arranged for you.
  - **IMPORTANT:** Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront the coach before or after a contest or practice session. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and often escalate the issue. A twenty-four hour no contact period will be in effect

after a contest or match. After this time, contact can be made with the coach and athletic director to set up a meeting to discuss the issue at hand. Violating the no contact period will result in consequences listed below.

### **The Next Step:**

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution? Although total agreement may not always be reached, most often such a meeting does afford the opportunity for productive and better understanding. If the parent desires further communication, please call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. The appropriate next step will be determined.

### **Chain of Command:**

The Evergreen Local School District in conjunction with its Department of Athletics follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe the line of communication if you elect to pursue any concern you may have with regard to the athletic program.

- 1. Jr. High, Freshman, Assistant or Junior Varsity Coach
- 2. Head Coach
- 3. Athletic Director or Jr. High Athletic Director
- 4. Building Principal
- 5. Superintendent
- 6. Board of Education

### **Consequences**

The first offense for violating the communication guide will result in a two (2) home game suspension. If there are not two home events available to serve the suspension, related athletic activities may be substituted for events (awards banquets for example).

The second offense for violating the communication guide will result in suspension for the remainder of the current sport season.

The third offense for violating the communication guide will result in permanent suspension from attending any and all Evergreen Athletic events and activities.

### **Important Phone Numbers:**

- Evergreen High School Athletic Director: 419-644-2951 ext. 1118
- Evergreen Middle School Athletic Director: 419-644-2331 ext. 1180