

## Athletic Philosophy

The interscholastic athletic program at Grosse Ile Township Schools is a vital and integral part of the total educational program. Research indicates a student involved in extracurricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to make a positive contribution to the development for the participants, spectators, school and community.

As an integral part of the educational process, the athletic program should always conform and support the objectives and standards of the school. The total educational curriculum must take precedence to the athletic program. Athletes should strive for educational excellence, playing excellence, as well as staying within the boundaries of good sportsmanship.

We hope the information provided here makes both your child's and your experience with the Grosse Ile Township Schools athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

**Opportunities  
for  
Physical,  
Mental  
and  
Emotional  
Development**

## Objectives Of Participation

1. To provide students with opportunities for physical, mental and emotional development.
2. To experience team play along with loyalty, cooperation and fair play.
3. To create a desire to succeed and excel.
4. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity while learning to make decisions under pressure.
5. To develop an understanding of the value of extra-curricular activities in a balanced educational setting.
6. To demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
7. To develop leadership qualities and skills.
8. To provide a positive image of school activities at Grosse Ile Township Schools.

## Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are able to communicate the benefit of extra-curricular activities to children. As parents, when your children become involved in the athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications from the coach.

## Communication You Should Expect From Your Son/Daughter's Coach

As a parent, you should expect to receive the following information from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Behavior expectations.
7. Parent/athlete feedback forms will be available for your constructive input at the conclusion of the season.
8. The development of leadership qualities and skills.

## Communication Coaches Expect From Parents.

Coaches expect to receive the following communications from parents:

1. Concerns to be expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance if possible.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at Grosse Ile Township Schools, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his or her life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things

do not go your way or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

## Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

1. What are the expectations for your son/daughter during practices and games.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child.
4. Academic support and college opportunities.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be 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 must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

It is inappropriate to discuss the following topics with coaches:

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

**If You Have A Concern To Discuss  
With A Coach, This Is The Procedure  
You Should Follow**

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 following procedure should be used to help promote a resolution of the issue:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach. The Grosse Ile High School Athletic Office telephone number is 362-2404.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director at 362-2458. He will set up the meeting for you.
3. 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.
4. Use the 24-hour rule - wait to discuss a situation with a coach until 24 hours after the contest.

**What Can A Parent Do If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution?**

1. Call and set up an appointment to meet with the Athletic Director at 362-2458 to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined if the situation is still unresolved.

**Expectations For Grosse Ile  
Township Schools Student/Athletes**

The following ten expectations are what a Grosse Ile Township Schools student/athlete should adhere to:

1. Follow all training rules, school rules and academic regulations.
2. Exhibit good sportsmanship toward opponents, officials, teammates and fans.
3. Work to excel in academics.
4. Put team goals ahead of personal goals.
5. Be a role model for all students before, during and after school.
6. Have pride in yourself, your team, your school, and care for your facility.
7. Respect (but never fear) the opponent.
8. Work harder than the competition both in and out of seasons, and never quit.
9. Be on time and prepared for practice, meetings and games.
10. Accept the results, learn from mistakes, focus on the goal and never give up.

**Work Hard  
Play Safe  
Respect the Opponent  
Respect the Officials  
Accept the Results  
Learn from the Mistakes  
Focus on the Goal!**



**Athletic Department**

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**Athletic  
Department**

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**Guide for  
Parent/Coach  
Communication**

*Excellence In Action*