

BLAKE BEARS

Parent & Student Communication Guide

The Blake School Athletic Department

Our Mission & Values

At The Blake School, athletics are a non-negotiable part of our **integrated program** of academic, artistic, and athletic activities. Our goal is to develop **whole people** by grounding every competition in our core values:

- **Resilience:** We persist through setbacks on and off the field.
- **Inclusivity:** We foster team cultures where everyone belongs.
- **Kindness & Integrity:** We prioritize empathy and ethical decision-making in our communications.

The "24-Hour Rule"

To maintain a safe and supportive environment, we require a **24-hour waiting period** before parents or students contact a coach regarding an issue that arose during a game or practice. This "cooling-off" period allows all parties to reflect with curiosity rather than reacting with emotion, ensuring that the ensuing conversation is productive and respectful.

The Step-by-Step Process

If a concern remains after the 24-hour period, please follow this professional chain of command:

1. **Issue Arises:** Identify the specific concern (e.g., playing time, team dynamics, or safety).
2. **24-Hour Wait:** Allow for reflection to uphold the dignity of all involved.
3. **Meeting with Head Coach:** The student-athlete should first attempt to resolve the issue directly with the coach to build **resilience** and leadership. If no resolution is formed then a meeting with the parent, athlete, and coach shall take place.
4. **Associate Athletic Administrator:** If unresolved, a meeting is held with an Associate AD, who maintains balanced and fair responsibilities in managing team needs.
5. **Head Athletic Administrator:** Serious or recurring issues are escalated to the Head AD, who oversees the vision of the "integrated program".
6. **Head of School:** This final step is reserved for the most significant institutional matters.