

Communication Ladder

The Communication Ladder is expected to be followed at all times, starting with the athlete-coach meeting, a mandatory step in the communication process.

1. Athlete – Coach Meeting

If a student-athlete or their parent has any issue or problem with their athletic experience, the student-participant is expected to address the coach in a scheduled meeting. Participants are also encouraged to talk with the coach about any issue in their personal or academic lives. The district's expectations of coaches include open communication and positive relations.

2. Athlete – Parent – Coach Meeting

The parent should schedule an appointment at the coach's discretion. The appointment should be scheduled and will not be permitted at the conclusion of a practice or competition. Please define the purpose of the meeting when the appointment is set. If there is a meeting between coaches and parents, the student-participant must be in attendance, unless the coach agrees to meet without the student-participant. The Athletic Director may be present at this meeting to act as a mediator, and all rules of Parent Meetings must be followed.

To schedule a meeting please call
Alton High School at 618-474-2700

** Parents who try to discuss important issues with a coach as they are walking off the game or practice field would be an example of circumvention of this process.*

Communication Ladder (cont.)

3. Athlete/Parent/Coach/Athletic Director Meeting.

The parent or athlete must make an appointment with the Athletic Director and set a defined purpose in advanced. The student-participant should be in attendance, but there may be cases where it is appropriate an athlete not be present. The meeting will include the student-athlete, parent(s) and/or legal guardian, coaching staff, and Athletic Director. The Rules of Parent Meetings will be distributed and followed.

4. Administrator Meeting.

A meeting with a parent and an administrator will be scheduled if there is not a positive resolution after the first three steps of the communication ladder. Step four will only be scheduled at the completion of the first three steps, or if legal or safety considerations are the subject of the meeting.

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**Remember that the purpose of any meeting is to
find a positive outcome.**

**If you have difficulty scheduling a meeting or
finding contact information for the coaching
staff please contact the Athletic Director.**

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Alton High School
4200 Humbert Road
Alton, IL 62002
618-474-2700

Athletic Director:
Chris Kusnerick
Office: 618-474-1800
Email: ckusnerick@altonschools.org



**Alton
High School**

**Athletic
Department**

**Parent/Coach
Communication
Guidelines**

The Parent/Coach Relationship

We are excited your son/daughter has decided to participate in Redbird Athletics. We will do all we can to provide a positive and rewarding experience. One of the most critical components is the communication process between coaches and parents.

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult, but rewarding roles. By establishing an understanding of each position and specific role in the athletic program, everyone is better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students.

Parents have the right to understand what expectations are placed on their student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student's program.

Coaches and parents are expected to encourage and praise students in their attempt to improve themselves as students, athletes, and citizens. Parents can facilitate this by gaining an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the sport and the expectations placed on your student.

Playing time will never be equal, but it always will be fair. There will be starters, subs, and role players.

Communication to Expect from the Coaching Staff

1. Philosophy of the coach and program.
2. Expectations the coach has for your student as well as for all the students involved in the activity.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.)
5. Procedure should your student should follow if injured during participation.
6. Policies for the school and program.
7. Code of Conduct Requirements.
8. Letter Award Policy
9. Information related to injuries, health, safety, and rehabilitation.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaching Staff

1. The treatment of your student mentally and/or physically.
2. Ways to help your student improve, to possibly see more playing time.
3. Concern's about your student's behavior.
4. Concerns about academics.

Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes/participants.

Communication Coaching Staff Expects from Parents

1. Concerns should be expressed directly to the head coach FIRST.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts should be shared well in advance.
3. Any injuries, illness, medications, or medical related information.
4. An appointment should be scheduled to discuss any specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations if there is ever a question.
5. Positive Reinforcement.

Be Positive

Parents and coaches should help their students learn that success is achieved in the development of a skill and should make student-participants feel good about themselves regardless of the outcome of any contest.

As students become involved in programs at Alton High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student wish.

If you have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, being sure to follow the designated communication ladder. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.