

## THE NEXT STEP

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- ◆ Call and set up a meeting with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
- ◆ At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates that a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a great chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope that the information provided within this pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with the Bridgman athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.

**T**OGETHER  
**E**VERYONE  
**A**CHIEVES  
**M**ORE



**Sportsmanship**

**Ethics**

**Integrity**

**BRIDGMAN  
HIGH SCHOOL  
"BEES"**



**PARENT/COACH  
COMMUNICATION  
BROCHURE**

## **PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are put on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### **COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S COACH**

- ◆ Philosophy of the coach.
- ◆ Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
- ◆ Locations and times of all practices and contests.
- ◆ Team requirements (fees, equipment, conditioning, etc)
- ◆ Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
- ◆ Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

### **COMMUNICATION COACHES SHOULD EXPECT FROM PARENTS**

- ◆ Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- ◆ Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

- ◆ Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Bridgman High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things may not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coaches is encouraged. The procedure to follow for discussing an issue with the coach is outlined later in this brochure.

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

- ◆ **The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.**
- ◆ **Ways to help your child improve.**
- ◆ **Concerns about your child's behavior.**

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those on the following page, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

- ◆ Playing time.
- ◆ Team strategy.
- ◆ Play calling.
- ◆ Other student-athletes.

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 others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

### **IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW....**

- ◆ Call to set up an appointment.
- ◆ The BHS athletic office telephone number is (269) 466-0227.
- ◆ If the coach cannot be reached, the athletic director will set up the meeting for you.
- ◆ Please do not attempt to confront the 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. We encourage the "24-Hour Rule." Wait until the day after a contest to set up a meeting with the coach. It eliminates the "heat of the moment" confrontation.