



## **SHS Indian Football Parents:**

Parents and coaches are important role models for students; they both provide necessary guidance to young adults in their development and in their understanding of the world in which they will live and work as adults. By understanding and respecting each other, parents and coaches, working together, can greatly benefit children. When your children become involved with the football program at Stafford High School, you, as parents, have a right to understand the expectations that will be placed upon them. Clear communication between parents and coaches facilitates this understanding.

The following information is intended to be used as guidelines to establish an environment in which open communication and mutual respect are fostered.

### **Communication You Should Expect From Us**

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests
3. Team requirements (i.e., special equipment, fees, off-season conditioning recommendations)
4. Procedures if your child is injured during participation
5. Explanation of excused and unexcused absences from practice/contests
6. Discipline that results in denying your child a participation opportunity

### **Communication Coaches Expect From Parents**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach rather than passed from parent to parent to child...
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in the football program at Stafford High School, they will experience some very rewarding moments. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way your children wish. Some are appropriate to communicate with coaches.

### **Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches**

1. The treatment of your child—mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept that your child may not play as much as you hoped. Coaches are professionals. We make judgment decisions based on what we believe is best for all athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can 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**

1. Playing time
2. Play calling
3. Other Athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is expected that you will call the coach first to set up an appointment. If the outcome of the meeting warrants a third party, call the Athletic Directors office to set up a meeting.