

PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVIVAL GUIDE 2009

Our guidelines are simple and straight forward:

1. Academics ALWAYS come first.
2. First Class or No Class
3. Be on time, try your best and play with your heart
4. Respect yourself and the people around you.
5. Trust EACH OTHER and TRUST us with your sons.

Excused Absences/tardies

- All academic concerns ARE PRIORITY:
- Athletes SHOULD NOT take advantage of our concern for academic success by PLAYING THE SYSTEM.
- Consequently, the athlete must inform the coach PRIOR TO PRACTICE that he has an academic commitment (i.e. tutoring session with teacher).
- Additionally, the athlete must have a signed note from the teacher (with date and time).
- If your son is failing a class, he will NOT play.
- NO CALL, NO EXCUSE 480-882-3549
- Procrastination (putting off assignments to last minute) is not an excuse

Family

- Family emergencies (phone call from parent), death in the family, wedding or funeral.
- Sickness: Please make sure that YOUR SON calls and leaves a message;
- NO CALL, NO EXCUSE 480-882-3549
- Athletes with an excused absence from school still have the responsibility of calling me. If your son does not attend school he will NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO PRACTICE or PLAY (Arizona Interscholastic Association Policy).

What is considered an unexcused absence or tardy?

Academic concerns THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTED:

- **If your son is having difficulty in class due to disruptive behavior** and this behavior causes him to be tardy or miss practice.
- **School Projects/Tests** – Rarely (IF EVER), will a teacher schedule a major project and make it due the next day. If your son is procrastinating and misses practice (to make up for lost time) it will be considered UNEXCUSED.
- **Non-Emergency Doctor Appointments**: Please complete these appointments before August 3rd (i.e. teeth cleaning, general check-ups, etc.). Most of these appointments should be completed before football season begins. There are exceptions.

- **“My son was late because of me”**. – Your son will be accountable for showing up on time. I will provide your son with a roster of all football players for carpooling/communication purposes.
- **Disciplinary problems** – Your son is responsible for his actions. Therefore, if he misses practice (for school disciplinary reasons) it will be considered UNEXCUSED. Consequently, if Combs High School disciplines your son, WE will discipline your son.
- VACATIONS DURING FALL BREAK ARE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.

Parent/Coach Communication Policy

1. The process begins by having your son talk to his position coach.
2. I will then speak with both the position coach and your son.
3. Finally, I will meet privately with your son and discuss the issue further.
4. If the issue is not resolved, call me at the school and we will set up a meeting.

We are all passionate when it comes to our children. I understand this passion because I have two daughters of my own. However, there are appropriate and inappropriate times for us to talk. I would prefer to avoid “heat of the moment” situations (during or after games/practices).

Playing Time Philosophy and Coaching Rubric

- We will do our best to get every player into the game (provided they follow team rules).
- WE will always start the best player at each position (provided they follow team rules).
- Players of equal ability will share playing time.
- Every young man in our program will have a purpose.
- Ideally WE would like 22 starters. However, with 40-45 players this is not a reality. The first team has a responsibility to play hard for their teammates.
- WE will film most practices and all games. Our coaching staff will evaluate each player based on the following criteria:
 1. **How he follows team guidelines.**
 2. **His effort in all phases of our program.**
 3. **Technique and skill level.**

There are 4 types of players

1. **2-way players**
2. **1-way players**
3. **Spell players/role players**
4. **“The 12th Man” (support on the sideline and in practice)**

Injury Procedure

- WE are fortunate to have Lauren Small as our trainer. She will be my liaison for all injury-related issues. PLEASE COMMUNICATE with her when you are concerned about your son's injury.

- **DOCTOR VISITS**: When you take your son to the doctor (for injury) it is necessary to obtain a RELEASE from THAT doctor. The release will need to be delivered/faxed to the school before your son can play or practice.

- WE will never play an injured player. Additionally, we will only play/practice a player that has been cleared by a doctor. Injury/Sickness does not cost a player his starting spot.

WE are honored to be coaching your sons. Thank you for all of your support.