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 benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child’s program.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD’S COACH
1. Philosophy of the school district.
2. Philosophy of the coach.
3. Expectations for your child and all players on squad.
4. Locations and times of practices and contests.
5. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
6. Procedures should your child be injured during participation.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES
As your children become involved in the programs at Northern Burlington County Regional School District, 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 child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.
1. The treatment of your child both mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child’s behavior

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES
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 best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child’s coach. Other issues must be left to the discretion of the coach.
1. Amount of playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student/athletes.
5. Selection of special recognition and/or award recipients.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parents. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other’s position. When these conferences are necessary, the procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

WHY ATHLETICS?
Research indicates a student involved in extracurricular and co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood if we promote and encourage participation in interscholastic athletics. Many of the character traits required to be a contributing sports participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We trust that the information provided in this document make the experience of you and your child in the Northern Burlington County Regional School District athletic program rich, rewarding, and less stressful.
NJSIAA CODE OF CONDUCT

Preface
In August, 2002, P.L. 2002 c.74 was signed granting school districts permission to develop an Athletic Code of Conduct. The genesis of this law is a result of unruly behavior by players, coaches and fans attending interscholastic athletic events. The purpose of this policy is to define behavioral actions and address unethical behaviors that impact on all concerned parties. Policy No person is permitted to engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any student, student-athlete, coach, official, parent, or spectator at an athletic contest or practice. No person is permitted to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly create a risk thereof he/she 1) engages in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior; and 2) creates a hazardous or physically dangerous condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose (2C:33-2) at an athletic contest or practice.

The Director of Athletics or his/her designee has the right to have person(s) involved in the above mentioned behaviors be removed from school property using police if necessary. Violation will result in the following actions:
►Suspension from event site; duration determined by building principal
►Meeting with building principal and athletic director
►Written reprimand will be sent to the person(s) involved Repeated violations will result in the following actions:
  ►Further suspension
  ►Written verification of attendance at anger management counseling conference prior to re-evaluation of further action
  ►Police/Legal action by school district

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, PLEASE FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE
1. A first-hand message can be left for any coach who teaches at the school.
2. Go to the district website and email the coach.
3. If the coach does not work at the school, call the athletic office, 609-298-3900, extension 2093 and leave a message for the coach to contact you.
4. Please do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. At these times, emotions run high and resolution is not promoted.

Northern Burlington County Regional School District follows the chain of command listed below. We ask that you observe it if you elect to pursue any concern you may have regarding a specific athletic program. The athletic department is able to assist parents in scheduling an appropriate appointment with a coach.
1. Assistant Coach, if applicable -
2. Head Coach
3. Director of Athletics
4. Principal
5. Superintendent

WHAT STEPS CAN A PARENT TAKE IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DID NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION?
Call the athletic office and make an appointment to discuss the situation with the Director of Athletics. At this meeting, further appropriate steps can be determined. Please note that oftentimes, the Director of Athletics will not meet with a parent if a situation has not been discussed at length with the appropriate coaching staff.
An Athlete’s Poem to Parents

How badly you must want to win, Not for yourself but me,
So help me play this game, With dedication, goals and dignity.

It’s embarrassing for me, When you criticize my coach,
If you think you can be helpful, Then try a new approach.
Call and make arrangements, To meet coach face to face,
Far better than to yell at them, In such a public place.

I think that you will also find, Your friendship will be sealed,
In a more conducive atmosphere, Than on the playing field.
Please try to go along with coach, Not judging wrong or right.
You know they’ve got a job to do, That must be done tonight.

As coach stands alone down there, In front of all the fans,
Help him do the job he must, By staying silent in the stands.
Snap decisions he must make, Under pressure of the game,
And certainly where you must sit, ‘Tis not really quite the same.

Even when he calls it right, I often make a mistake,
That surely makes him look as though His coaching is at stake.
Sometimes he will chew me out, Then he’ll pat me on the back,
And I will get it next time, You can count on that.
He’ll take the blame for losses, And walk out on a limb,
But He’ll give his team credit, For each and every win.
So be there when I need you, Shout encouragement to me.