

Hopkins Boys Basketball Program

Parent Expectations

We want to be known as a first-class program both on and off the court. This includes the actions of our coaches, players, and parents. With this in mind, we ask that parents hold themselves to a high standard of conduct when inside and outside of basketball events.

General Expectations

- Embrace the athletic journey your son is on as his journey.
- Support the coach's philosophy and program with your words, actions, and attitude.
- Encourage your son to talk with his coaches if he is frustrated, has questions, or needs guidance.
- Follow the communication guidelines listed below when communicating with coaches.
- Respect the game officials. Referees are an integral part of the game. Especially with the officials shortage, we want Hopkins to be a place people want to come to.
- Be a fan. Support your son, his team, and the entire program in a positive way.
- Allow the coaching staff to coach your son on how to execute the offense, defense, and in proper skill development. Please do not coach from the sideline or on the car ride home.
- Provide tough love, in an appropriate manner, when your son's attitude is negative or sour and his effort is lacking enthusiasm and energy.
- Encourage your son to work hard in practice. This is largely where playing time is decided.
- Recognize we will set individual, team, and program goals. These may not align with individual and/or parent goals.

Parent Communication Expectations

Parents are an integral part of a player moving towards excellence as a part of the program. This makes having an open line of communication very important. Learning what motivates a player, what struggles and successes a player may be having, and what support both the parents and coaches can offer will help a player excel on and off the court.

Although coaches and parents both want the best for the players, it is important to recognize that they usually have two different goals.

- Coaches' goals are to provide a safe, competitive, and positive environment for the TEAM to pursue excellence and find success. They must first take into account program and team goals before recognizing individual player goals when making decisions.
- Parent goals are typically viewed through the lens of providing support and ensuring the success of their son. They generally take into account their goals and the player's goals before team and program goals when making decisions.

Both the coaches and parents want the players to pursue excellence and find success. The coach is focused on the team as a whole, and the parent is more focused on the player that is most important to them. This does not mean that communication cannot be productive or should not happen. It does make for specific guidelines to be followed so communication can be appropriate and beneficial for the coach, parent, and player.

Parent to Coach Communication Guidelines

First, encourage your son to talk to his coach in person. While coaches will be available before and after practice most days, please help your son understand what appropriate timing would be when they want to talk. If you feel this will not work or is not appropriate, then please follow the outline below.

- Conversations and interactions must be respectful, honest, and polite.
- No questions, comments, or requests to meet should be directed to the coach before or after any game (saying congrats, good job, or other positive comments are appropriate).
- Meetings must be with the head coach of your son's team. One other program coach will be present as well. Other staff may be requested.
- Conversations must only be about your child. Other players will not be discussed.
- Playing time will not be discussed. What a player must do to earn more playing time is appropriate.
- Meetings must be scheduled via email with specific concerns spelled out in the email.
- Coaches will reply within twenty-four hours with meeting times that work for them and any follow-up questions that may need to be answered before the meeting takes place.

Example Email:

To: Coach Jewett

From: John Doe

Subject: F. Doe Parent Meeting

Coach Jewett,

I have some concerns in regards to my son, Fred Doe. I have listed my concerns below.

- Fred has been very depressed lately.
- There is a conflict this week with Fred's schedule due to this grandmother being ill.
- I'm concerned about Fred's injury in last Friday's game.
- Fred is slipping in Algebra.
- Fred's shot is off, and I am wondering how I can help him fix it.
- I noticed Fred didn't play much last game. What can I encourage him to do so he can earn more playing time?

Sincerely,
John Doe