

SIMSBURY HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Involvement in interscholastic athletics can be a highly emotional and time consuming activity. Because of the competitive and selective nature of a sports program, there are times when conflicts and issues between a student athlete and his/her coach may arise. It is imperative that any conflict and/or issue be addressed immediately and as directly as possible so that it can be resolved promptly. **Every effort should be made to resolve all issues at the lowest possible level.** Issues and concerns are best resolved through person to person discussions.

Steps for Conflict Resolution

- 1) Student Athlete contacts coach to discuss and resolve the issue
- 2) Parent of Athlete contacts coach to discuss and resolve the issue

In order for the discussion between the parent and coach to be productive, the following times to approach a coach should be **avoided:**

- either prior to or immediately following a game
- during a practice session
- during a time when other teammates are present
- a time when it is apparent there will not be sufficient time to allow for a complete discussion

- 3) Student Athlete and/or Parent contacts the Athletic Director

- coach will be informed that this meeting will take place
- if the discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion then a meeting with all parties involved will be scheduled in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution

- 4) Student Athlete and/or Parent contacts the Principal

- Athletic Director should be informed that this contact will be made