



Guidelines for Coach and Parent/Guardian Communication

We believe athletic achievement requires a sincere commitment from all involved. For us to be successful effective communication must occur.

A coach expects to hear from a parent when:

1. There is a Safe Sport concern. IRC has a defined procedure to handle safe sport reporting which can be found on our website at [www.IndyRowing.org/programs/Safe Sport Policy](http://www.IndyRowing.org/programs/SafeSportPolicy)
2. Notification that the student-athlete is ill or injured
3. Advance notice if the athlete will miss practice or a regatta. Regular attendance should be reported on the availability tab in TeamSnap
4. Clarifying questions about team procedures and time commitments
5. Any unhealthy mental or physical strain you detect in your athlete at home
6. Questions about how you can contribute to your child's skill improvement and development

It is NOT appropriate to engage in a discussion about boat priority, boat lineups, captains, to discuss other athletes, and strategy. Coaching decisions are the responsibility of the coaches.

The Board, including the Executive Director, Head Coach, and Assistant Coaches will not discuss the boat priorities or lineups. Boat selections and priorities are solely left up to the coaching staff. Also, coaches will NEVER discuss athletes with anyone other than the parent/guardian of the athlete involved. Coaches are professionals; they make decisions based on what they believe to be in the best interest of IRC, the team, and your athlete.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, what should you do?

COMPLAINT PROTOCOL

1. The athlete discusses their concern directly with the coach(es) -> If Not Resolved
2. The parent contacts the coach to discuss the concern -> If Not Resolved
3. The parent contacts the head coach to discuss the concern -> If Not Resolved
3. The parent, head coach AND athlete are required to meet in person -> If Not Resolved
4. The parent AND athlete put the concern in writing, both sign it and contact the Executive Director -
 - The Executive Director will present the concern to the coach and recommend possible solutions -> If Not Resolved
5. The Executive Director will meet with the parent, athlete, AND coach -> If Not Resolved
6. The Executive Director will refer the matter to the Board.



INDIANAPOLIS ROWING CENTER PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

I UNDERSTAND:

- It is a privilege, not a right, for my child to row for IRC.
- Sportsmanship and fair play are essential to the sport of rowing and are important.
- Our children learn from our example, and we as parents need to exemplify the behavior that our children learn from by demonstrating good sportsmanship by supporting all Rowers, Coaches, IRC Staff, Board of Directors, Referees, and other Parents.
- Coaches are responsible for coaching our rowers and parents are asked to be supportive of our coaches' decisions.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONDUCT:

- I acknowledge that I will follow IRC safe sport guidelines
- I will never use abusive behavior (bullying, harassment, etc.) towards anyone involved in my child's club, or attending a rowing event, at any location.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all rowers, coaches, volunteers, parents, and board members at all rowing events.
- I will not create a public display of anger towards coaches, rowers, officials, and spectators at any event. This includes all communication: email, text, letters, and phone calls.
- I will not approach a coach immediately before, during, or after a practice or regatta.
- I agree to a 24-hour rule which states "No parent will contact a coach when feeling frustration or anger over any decisions." Parents won't contact a coach until 24 hours have passed and will follow the guidelines for appropriate topics outlined above for contacting a coach.
- I will express any concern through the complaint protocol defined above and do so in a respectful manner.

I understand that any parent/guardian who cannot abide by or violates these rules will be subject to disciplinary action/dismissal from IRC with no financial restitution.

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Athlete Name: _____