

Taunton High School
Boys' Soccer Program
Program Information and Parent Guide
2016-17





Taunton High School Boys' Soccer Program Contact Information



Varsity Head Coach: Taylor Whitters
Email: thscoachwhitters@gmail.com
Contact: 508-821-1150

JV Head Coach & Varsity Assistant Coach: Danny DeMello
Email: ddemello2@tauntonschools.org
Contact: 508-821-1150

Freshmen Head Coach & Varsity Assistant Coach: Jesue Lopes
Email: jlopes@tauntonschools.org
Contact: 508-821-1150

8th Grade Head Coach & Varsity Assistant Coach: Tyler Diniz
Email: tdiniz@student.bridgew.edu
Contact: 508-821-1150

Certified Athletic Trainer: Kris Coute
Email: kcoute@tauntonschools.org
Contact: 508-821-1150

Athletic Director: Mark Ottovianelli
Email: mottovianelli@tauntonschools.org
Contact: 508-821-1150

Boys Varsity Website: <http://tauntonsoccer.wix.com/tigers>

Twitter Handle Reminders: @THSTigerSoccer

ALL program Remind 101 for **PARENTS:** enter this #: 81010 text this message: THSSoccerparent



Program Philosophy

Core Values

- Academics come before athletics
- Positive Communication
- To instill character qualities because character drives talent towards greatness; humble, hungry, hardworking, honest, dedicated, selfless, loyal, passionate, accountable
- Reinforce the importance everyone as a member of the team not merely as an individual

Mission

We will build everything about Taunton High School Soccer from the ground up with a new way of thinking. A tree without a root cannot grow and bear fruit. Our foundation is to **RISEUP**.

- **Respect:** Respect oneself, the team, the coaches, the referees, our opponents, the game, our fans.
- **Integrity:** Do what is right even if it is hard for ourselves, for our team, for all of those who have come before us to make this the program that it has been, is, and will be.
- **Support:** Support the philosophy of the program, the team, the coaches, always bringing positive energy to every moment and not being an “energy vampire” (negative person who will sabotage our vision and what we expect to become) You are for US, even if you may feel differently sometimes.
- **Encouragement:** We are going to use words and behaviors that helps give confidence to each other
- **Unity:** ONE team, ONE purpose, ONE vision. Together we are stronger than we will ever be alone.
- **Pride:** When we look in the mirror at the end of a day we want to see a vision of someone who inspires others, who has made someone else better today, who has impacted the team in a positive way. That is TIGER PRIDE.

Vision

Aspire to be an educational-athletic program that provides a positive high quality experience for every student-athlete. Continue to help players develop the skills, tactics and strategies of the game that will help improve the player and therefore improve the team. To instill “life lessons” that have value beyond the playing field that will someday inspire, lead and impact others. To continue a sense of “family” that every player will always be part of.



Communication

Between Coach and Parent/Parent Communication Plan

The purpose of the interscholastic athletic program at Taunton High School is to provide an area in which students can learn and grow in meaningful ways that are not always possible in the classroom setting. Everyone involved in the program, including our coaches, athletes, parents, and administrators are committed to doing all he or she can to provide a positive athletic experience for each participant. Our ultimate success in achieving this goal will be measured by our ability to establish lines of communication. Through positive and effective communication, people feel valued and understood, even if complete agreement is not always reached.

Parenting and coaching are both challenging endeavors. Clearly, coaches and parents have at least one strong, common bond. They share concern for the wellbeing of each student-athlete. By establishing mutual understanding, parents and coaches are better able to accept the actions of the other in order to provide a greater benefit to each athlete.

We are all about the complete education of our students. Part of the process of growing up is learning to handle your own difficult situations. If a conflict of misunderstanding between an athlete and coach occurs, learning to resolve it is an important educational experience for the athlete. How the parents react greatly impacts the magnitude of the crisis and significantly determines the perspective of the athlete. If mom and dad rant and rave and further compound the problem by criticizing the coach, the athlete may receive the wrong message and develop inadequate strategies for personal conflict resolution.

Parents should react slowly. In reality, how many athletes go home to present even-handed descriptions of the day's events? All children tend to exaggerate at times, leave out part of the story, or present a skewed version of an incident. Taking responsibility for your part in a conflict is a learned skill. It requires maturity and hones self-reflection. Athletes vent frustration at the dinner table expecting mom and dad to take their side of the issue. Thoughtful parents, however, realize that they were not present at practice to see how their child behaved, interacted with the coach, or to evaluate his or her skill and effort. Concerned thoughtful parents always seek more information before drawing conclusions.

The most productive long-term help a parent can give a child in an awkward situation with a coach is to teach and model the skills of conflict resolution. Help your child resolve his own differences. When a student-athlete successfully deals with difficult interpersonal conflicts, he learns and grows. A supportive parent helps their student-athlete learn the valuable lesson that athletics can teach, even the "tough lessons" that may be difficult for everyone involved.

Of course, a parent always retains the right to intervene on behalf of their child. We have established a few ground rules to help make parental intervention less contentious and more productive. Adhering to these communication principles has proven so effective that we encourage each parent to carefully read the following guidelines. Coaches and parents all want the athletic experience to be positive and educational for each athlete to the greatest extent possible. That does not imply that roadblocks along the way in the form of interpersonal conflicts are necessarily always negative. They are growth opportunities when parents and coaches work together.

Communication with Coaches

The Parent/Coach Relationship:

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

Communication you should EXPECT from a Coach:

1. The coach's philosophy.
2. The expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. The locations/times of all practices and games. (alert to changes in the schedule)
4. Any team requirements (i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning).
5. The procedures followed in the event that child is injured during athletic participation.
6. Any discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication Coaches should EXPECT From Parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and or expectations. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Concerns That Are Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches:

1. The physical and mental treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. However, coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for the TEAM and all involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach.

Other things in the following paragraph must be left to the discretion of the coach.

AREAS OF CONTROL THAT BELONG TO THE COACH, ALONE!

Issues NOT appropriate to discuss with coaches.

1. Playing Time
2. Position (S) played, lineups, team strategy ETC.
3. Play calling, offensive and defensive strategies and style of play.
4. Other student-athletes: Matter regarding other students.

Taunton Boys' Soccer Program Communication Procedural Guide:

Whenever a question, concern, or complaint arises regarding an athletic situation, we have found the following line of communication very effective in resolving issues.

Chain of command:

COACH: Coach Whitters- Head Boys' Soccer Coach

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Mark Ottovianelli

PRINCIPAL: Matthew Mattos

1) Player coach communication first (see player expectations and guidelines)

IF NOT RESOLVED



- 2) **Player/Parent/Coach communication-** talk directly to the coach, in private, face to face, away from practice site or game area. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment. A parent may send an e-mail (to make an appointment **only**), or voice mail to make an appointment. **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT A COACH BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER A PRACTICE OR CONTEST. (USE THE 24 HR. RULE)** These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach.

Please note: We will not accept complaint emails.

Let's work together to teach these young men skills of appropriate and mature conflict resolution.

IF NOT RESOLVED



3) Head Coach or Athletic Director/ with parent and player.

Getting together in the same room to communicate openly resolves most issues.

IF NOT RESOLVED



4) Principal, as initiated by the Athletic Director.

Parent Guidelines

- 1) Support the coach. While in the team setting, it is the coach's responsibility to focus on specifics of teaching skills and running the games. It's the parents' responsibility to praise their child's effort.
- 2) Recognize what your child and the team is trying to do, not the result. Your child is learning the game and valuable life lessons and mistakes are an important part of learning.
- 3) It's very easy to get emotional on the sidelines (**WE LOVE THE PASSION ☺**), but please remember that it is confusing for player to have many adults yelling different things to them. Please avoid yelling directions (shoot!, get open!, pass!, run!) and focus on encouragement and positive reinforcement (great effort!, great idea! Good try!). Obviously avoid pacing the sidelines and yelling negative comments like, "what are you doing?" and "wake up out there!") Lastly, you have all given them great names and they know them by now, please do not yell their name out. Yelling on the sidelines is a distraction to our team, our purpose, our game and it hurts our teams' performance. Please keep our mission in mind RISEUP and help us model it for them.
- 4) Foster the educational benefits of your child's participation in youth sports. Leadership, commitment, goal orientation and preparation are life lessons taught through interscholastic athletics, and are even more important than the athletic benefits.
- 5) Please RISEUP and respect the officials. Mistakes are often made, however they have the whistle, they are right, and they are not going to change their call because we have yelled at them. We encourage our players to RESPECT the game in its entirety.

Information gathered from Bruce Brown's Video "The role of parents in athletics" and his book "Teaching Character Through Sports"

AFTER THE GAME:

- When it comes to recalling their least-enjoyable memory, many athletes will name "after the game" and often specifically "after the game in the car with my parents." This situation is when the most confidence cutting, confrontation, and confusion occurs for the athlete. Unfortunately, some high school athletes do not want to go home after the game because they do not want to face the questioning or criticism. What they need most at these times is not another coach, but a parent (ie. Just be my mom, or dad, or supporter)
- Many athletes often indicated that conversations with their parents after a game have somehow made them feel as if their value as a person was somehow tied to playing time or winning or losing athletic contests.
- Most athletes desperately want their parents to give them time and space at the end of the game. The more competitive the athlete and the more competitive the sport, the more time and space the players need.

When parents stop and analyze the athletic experience for their children, the reasons, they want their kids to play sports (involve providing an opportunity to develop physically and emotionally and to enjoy themselves). The side benefit of playing sports is that kids are given a good opportunity to learn how to work and get along with others, to take risks in a public arena and survive, to learn to set and achieve goals by developing positive work habits, to learn how to succeed and fail with dignity, and to develop friendships that can last a lifetime.

College Scholarship Facts:

- 2% of high school athletes receive a scholarship to an NCAA school
- the average dollar amount of the scholarship is less than \$11,000
- 6 sports can offer full ride scholarships
 1. Football
 2. Men's basketball
 3. Women's basketball
 4. Women's gymnastics

We would love to see our student-athletes play collegiate soccer! I will do whatever I can to make that happen for anyone that is interested. I will be meeting with each student-athlete in the next couple of weeks to see where their head and heart is for their future.

Taunton High School Student-Athlete Liaison: Ms. Jen Andrews Jandrews@tauntonschools.org

NCAA clearinghouse: information on eligibility and to register: ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/how-register