
Coaches Corner:

From Kerr, Corey <CKerr@ccisd.net>

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Knight's Wrestling Family:

First, I want to wish you, and your family, a Happy Thanksgiving. It is, by far, my favorite holiday. I fondly remember gathering at my grandparents house for food, football, and most importantly time with my extended family. As an adult, I am always in awe of how we were able to fit everyone into that house. Anyone else remember having to be at the kid table - as a teenager? I hope this week you are able to spend some much needed time with your loved ones and continue making memories.

We are officially closing out the month of November with this third edition of the Coaches Corner newsletter. I have received some positive feedback regarding the content provided and I hope both veteran and parents new to wrestling find the information helpful. Over the holidays, I will try to archive these newsletters on our website so that you can access the information later.

In light of observations from our recent duals and this weekend's tournament, to ensure a positive and respectful environment for all, this "Coaches Corner" will review our parental code of conduct and behavior expectations for competitions including both duals and tournaments. Also included: a preview of the holiday week and a review of the procedures we use for departing to and returning from away events.



Parent Conduct and Behavior Expectations:

Clearly, there has been some misunderstanding regarding parent expectations at wrestling events. Fortunately, there are some clear guidelines provided by both the UIL and Clear Creek ISD regarding sportsmanship standards and parent expectations. The University Interscholastic League (UIL) is the organization that governs extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests for public schools in Texas. You can find their sportsmanship manual by [clicking on this link](#). In addition, Clear Creek ISD has provided their own standards for sportsmanship based upon the UIL manual. You can find this information by [clicking here](#). Before we continue through our competition season, I encourage you to read page 3 of the UIL sportsmanship manual, "An Open Letter to the Fan."

Allow me to address some specific how this applies at our wrestling events.

- (1) Parents should remain in the stands during all athletic events. You will never find a parent on the sidelines of a football game, on the field at a baseball game, or courtside at a basketball game. This expectation remains the same for wrestling events - both duals and tournaments. It has been observed at our home duals that parents are found behind the bench. This is not permissible and it has been made clear to athletes that their focus needs to be on supporting their teammates during competition.
- (2) At no time should a parent ever be at or near the scoring table for the purposes of viewing, filming, etc. The expectation is that parents remain in the stands until athletes are dismissed. If you are found to be in violation of this expectation, I will ask for injury time, which effectively pauses the match, so that I can address the situation. You will be asked to return to the stands by either a member of the coaching staff, the administrator on duty, or a uniformed police officer. Texas Senate Bill 2929, recently passed during the 89th Legislature, gives sports officials

immediate authority to remove spectators from high school athletic events for misconduct, eliminating the previous requirement for a verbal warning first. Please do not allow your decisions to get to this point. It is not a good look for our school, our team, and is often embarrassing to your child.

(3) You are encouraged to film your athlete in any match they are wrestling. However, it is not permissible to record another team's wrestler that they might oppose in the future for the purposes of scouting or gaining a competitive advantage. If an opposing coach finds you recording their athlete in a match your child is not competing, they can report the violation to the UIL.

(4) The 24-hour rule:

Do not attempt to approach or speak with any coach immediately following a competition. Any request for a meeting must be done via email or phone. You will receive a response within 24 hours to set a time and date for the meeting. As a reminder, you and your child will first meet with the head coach to address any concerns before a meeting with the campus coordinator will be considered.



Departing to Events

The first week of our season featured a lot of home events. As we proceed through the remainder of our competition schedule, allow me to revisit expectations for bus departure. All of our coaches have passed the state licensing requirement and hold the bus driver certification. This will allow us to take as many athletes as possible.

For Saturday events, we will depart from the concession stand located at the football field. Departure times are not randomly chosen, they are specific to each event with consideration given to weigh-in time, location, and traffic considerations. Events during the week often require an early departure during the school day due to traffic throughout the greater Houston area.

Before each event, we complete two steps: (1) confirm the weight class the athlete intends to compete and (2) confirm their availability for the competition. With that information we create the weigh-in sheet required by both NFHS and the UIL. We print multiple copies of the weigh-in sheet and we use it for the purpose of verifying attendance before departing the school.



It is imperative that athletes arrive prior to departure time. One of the mantra's of our program is "Early is on time, on time is late." This weekend, we set a departure time of 5:30am to allow for travel to Katy Paetow High School. We arrived at 6:50am for a 7:00a weigh-in. You cannot reside in the greater Houston and not be aware that traffic is unpredictable. Saturday we experience both weather and construction on our route to Katy.

We can and will leave athletes that do not arrive in time for departure. In addition, athletes have been told on multiple occasions that they should depart school the evening before the event prepared for the early departure. Our departure times often occur before the alarm system in the school disengages. The alarm system also controls our badge access to the school. Any athlete that shows up to the bus without their gear will be sent home.

Best practice is to arrive a minimum of 10 minutes prior to departure time. We will open the restrooms at the concession stand so athletes can use the bathroom before we leave. Often a scale is also available for one final weight check.



Returning to Clear Falls:

The sheet from the morning departure is used to verify attendance before we depart our away event for the return trip back to Clear Falls. When students are permitted to depart with parents, it is imperative that each family check out with one of our coaches. This helps ensure that we do not leave a student behind.

Prompt pick-up of your athlete is an expected upon return from away events. Failure to meet the expectation can result in your child not being permitted to participate in events that require travel. After dropping students off at the school, we still must return our bus to the transportation facility, refuel, and complete all the required paperwork before we can return to our families.

Due to the length of tournaments, students cell phones will often run out of battery. To that end, we have a procedure in place to assist with helping you to arrive in a timely manner to receive your athlete. It important that you are signed up for, and monitor, the SportsYou app.

(1) Before departing, we tell the team our ETA so that they can communicate

with you directly. (2) We also communicate that ETA via SportsYou. (3) Upon reaching NASA Rd. 1 (when I see the Whiskey Cake Restaurant), we inform all athletes that we are 15 minutes away from the school. (4) We make an announcement via SportsYou to state the same update. (5) In our travel, if we run into weather or traffic that will delay us we will make an announcement via SportsYou.



Preview of Week

- Monday, November 24th
 - o JV Practice: 8:00a - 10:30a
 - o V Practice: 9:30a - 11:30a
- Tuesday, November 25th
 - o Bus Departs at 6:30a
 - o Weigh-ins at 8:00a
 - o Wrestling at 9:00a
- Wednesday, November 26th
 - o OFF - No Practice
- Thursday, November 27th
 - o OFF - Happy Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 28th
 - o Possible Open Mat
 - Optional Attendance



From our Booster Club.....

This Sunday, November 30th, is the deadline for our Online Bread and Gift Card Fundraiser: Please scan the QR code or visit the post in SportsYou.



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Week One
by Kerr, Corey

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