



Homework Here We Come!

Homework Watch lists and Teaching Our Players to Succeed Academically

The BASE Play RBI program encourages education through athletics. Players' grades are monitored throughout a season of play and academic support strategies are implemented to assist students with the greatest challenges. In the 2016-2017 school year, 82 percent of students failing one class or more at the start of a season were able to transition to passing grades by the season's end.

Because BASE Play targets struggling students, and because the program is designed to eliminate barriers to participation, we DO NOT adhere to No Pass – No Play requirements.

Instead, the program utilizes a No Homework – No Practice Rule.

At the start of each season coaches receive a Homework Watchlist. The list contains the names of players who are failing one or more classes and it is updated at 3-week intervals until the season ends. On receiving the list, coaches are asked when taking attendance at the start of practice to:

- Check with players on the list, confirming they have done their homework assignments for the day;
- Ask players who have not completed homework to finish assignments before being released to practice;
- Ask players if they are attending tutoring and if not, encourage them to do so;
- Ask if they have help with homework at home;
- Encourage players to help teammates who are having difficulty with school work.

Tips for Talking to Struggling Students

Motivation and responsibility. Most children want to do well in school, yet many fail to complete the level of work necessary to succeed due to lack of motivation. Use practice as your motivating factor, take a moment to explain the importance of taking responsibility for completing work before practice or play.

Communication. Encourage students to talk to their teachers. In order to succeed they must be able to articulate challenges and ask for assistance.

Control and choices. Personal responsibility for academic success is an important concept to convey to students. Students must be accountable for turning in homework in a timely fashion, making up overdue homework and giving it to their teachers. They also can ask teachers for additional work or extra credit assignments to offset low test scores or homework grades.

Attendance. Attendance carries with it the power to raise academic achievement. Absences can translate directly to weaker reading skills and lower performance overall, making good attendance critical to academic success. Lastly, attendance rates are better in schools where parents feel welcome and engaged, so please, talk to your parents as well!

Sample Questions

1. I have your name on my homework watch list, are you having a hard time in reading (or whatever subject(s) listed)?
2. Have you finished your assignments for today?
3. Is there someone on the team who can help you with your homework (great teachable moment for teamwork)?
4. Do you have homework you haven't turned in?
5. A late homework assignment will mean a maximum grade of 70 but a 70 is better than a 0, no?
6. Have you had low test scores?
7. Have you talked to your teacher about what is hard for you in the class?
8. Have you asked your teacher for additional work or extra credit?