



# Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 4 | Issue 5  
November 2019



## Enough is Enough

Interscholastic athletics provides opportunities to students to learn and develop outside of the traditional classroom. It provides a unique setting to build character and develop interpersonal skills making it an extension of the classroom. The PIAA has firmly believed in the development of students through athletics for over 106 years. Competition is healthy, it allows student-athletes to learn the value of hard work while developing self-efficacy. Athletics also teaches lessons about adversity and the ability to overcome difficult situations. These may be the most important lessons of all.

Coaches, parents, officials and administrators are all an integral part of a student-athletes' experience. But recently the atmospheres at many interscholastic competitions has taken a disturbing turn. The unruly behavior of parents and spectators to students, officials, coaches and administrators, is affecting the athletic educational setting and getting out of control. These situations are detrimental to our student-athletes and it is time to say enough is enough. Do a quick online or social media search and you can view many situations where adult behavior has interfered with an athletic competition. According to the NFHS (National Federation of High Schools) over 80% of high school officials quit before the third year. One of the predominate reasons for officials quitting is the increasingly abusive and belligerent behavior of parents.

So parents and spectators, leave the boorish and disrespectful behavior toward coaches, student-athletes, officials and administrators at home. There is no place for it at interscholastic athletic events and it will not be tolerated. We welcome your attendance and ask that you assist us in creating an enthusiastic and positive atmosphere as we all work together to enrich the student-athletes' experiences.

## Behavior Change Needed to Keep Officials

In the latest edition of High School Today Magazine, Executive Director, Karissa Niehoff discusses the unruly behavior of parents and spectators and the effects it has on officials. She discusses how some schools have implemented penalty structures for fan behavior. If inappropriate behaviors continue after one warning the offensive person will then be removed from the venue. To read the entire article click [here](#) and proceed to page 19.



## THE PARENT SEAT

The NFHS Learning Center has added its first non-course offering. The video titled, "The Parent Seat", is an educational video that athletic directors or coaches can utilize during their pre-season parent meetings. It provides information on how to handle certain situations for those who have an emotional attachment to a student-athlete. Different from courses this educational video can be downloaded on many different platforms. For more information on the Parent Seat, please click [here](#).



## Upcoming Events:

### December 5th —7th

Football Championships  
*HERSHEYPARK Stadium*

### January 10th —11th

Competitive Spirit Championships  
*GIANT CENTER— Hershey*

### February 6th—8th

Team Wrestling Championships  
*GIANT CENTER— Hershey*

### March 5th—7th

Individual Wrestling Championships  
*GIANT CENTER— Hershey*

### March 11th—14th

Swimming and Diving Championships  
*Bucknell University — Lewisburg*

### March 19th—21st

Basketball Championships  
*GIANT CENTER— Hershey*

### May 15th—16th

Boys' Team Tennis Championships  
*Hershey Racquet Club — Hershey*

### May 22nd—23rd

Boys' Singles & Doubles Tennis Championships  
*Hershey Racquet Club — Hershey*  
Track & Field Championships  
*Shippensburg University — Shippensburg*

