

1316/Public Conduct at School-Sponsored Activities

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY MANUAL

SECTION: **1000**
CATEGORY: **Community Relations**
POLICY CODE: **1316/Public Conduct at
School-Sponsored Activities**

PUBLIC CONDUCT AT SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Policy Statement

Spectators are permitted and encouraged to attend school-sponsored activities, including sporting events, as guests of the District, and accordingly, as a condition of such permission, they must comply with the District's policies. Spectators, just like the student participants, are expected to display mature behavior and sportsmanship. Failure of spectators to do so is disruptive and embarrassing to students, the school district, and the entire community. At school-sponsored activities, it is the policy of the Trumbull Board of Education that spectators not be allowed to interfere with the participation of students, the enjoyment of other spectators, and/or the performance of employees and/or supervising officials.

Good sportsmanship is viewed as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities that are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship are critical and apply equally to all. All individuals, regardless of their role, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and to model good sportsmanship. Any spectator using or shouting inappropriate or abusive language will be removed from the activity and may be charged with disorderly conduct. The school will cooperate with law enforcement personnel to ensure spectator, participant, and employee safety and enjoyment.

Adopted: 9/3/2002
Revised: 8/1/2006, 7/16/2013,
6/16/2020

References

- Connecticut General Statutes § 19a-342
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 4118.231: Staff Use and Possession of Smoking Products, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131: Student Standard of Conduct
- Trumbull Board of Education Policy Code 5131.6: Student Use and Possession of Smoking Products, Tobacco Products, Drugs, and Alcohol

Regulations

I. Standards of Appropriate Conduct

To protect the rights of students to participate in school-sponsored activities without fear of interference and to allow sponsors and officials of such activities to perform without interference, the following provisions shall be in effect:

1. Abusive verbal or physical conduct of spectators directed at participants, officials, or staff involved in such activities will not be tolerated.
2. Verbal or physical conduct of spectators that interferes with the performance of students, officials, or staff involved in such activities will not be tolerated.
3. The use of all smoking products, tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol is prohibited at all times in all school facilities, in all school buildings, on all school property, both inside and outside, and on all buses or other transportation vehicles under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. The use and/or possession of all firearms is prohibited at all times in all school facilities, in all school buildings, on all school property, both inside and outside, and on all buses or other transportation vehicles under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education.

II. Notification of Standards of Appropriate Conduct

The following guidelines may be used to notify the public of the level of conduct expected of them:

1. Staff may make an announcement at the beginning of an activity letting those present know the conduct expectations and that a violation could warrant removal from the activity.
2. Staff may post signs at the entrance to the facility where the activity is taking place stating that individuals whose conduct violates Board policy may be removed from the activity.
3. Lack of an announcement or signage shall not constitute a waiver of Board regulations.

III. Guidelines for Removal for Inappropriate Conduct

1. If a spectator at a school-sponsored activity engages in inappropriate conduct, including, but not limited to, becoming physically abusive or verbally abusive, using vulgar, obscene, or demeaning language, in any way impeding the performance of an activity, and/or using smoking products, tobacco products, drugs, alcohol, and/or firearms, the spectator will be asked to leave the event by a school official and/or by the police.

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2. For all other conduct, the offending individual will typically first be given a warning to allow him/her to correct the misconduct. Upon continued misconduct, either at the same or at a future event, a school official will ask the individual to leave the event.
3. Following any removal, a school official will follow up with a letter to the individual, if known, or to an official at the school the individual attends, if known. A number of issues should be addressed in the letter, including: conduct expectations of spectators; the individual's current banishment from future activities; and a timeframe as to if/when/how the individual will be allowed to return as a spectator.