

SPORTSMANSHIP / ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Northern Highlands takes great pride in demonstrating leadership and sportsmanship on and off the playing fields. Establishing an appropriate and positive playing environment is a top priority for our athletic department. The New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) awards an annual "Sportsmanship Banner." Earning this significant recognition remains our number one athletic goal.

In response to poor spectator behavior at many high school and youth athletic events around the state, Governor McGreevy signed (Oct. 2002) an "Athletic Code of Conduct" into law (N.J.S.A. 5:17-2). **Northern Highlands adopted this "Athletic Code of Conduct" policy, which states that any spectator who engages in unsportsmanlike behavior at a high school event may be ejected and banned from attending further sporting events.**

In an effort to encourage good sportsmanship and to avoid the consequences of the legislation described above, we ask you to review the following and also discuss the importance of proper behavior at sporting events with your children. Please continue to model appropriate behavior so that you can enjoy attending our sporting events. While winning is an important goal for all of our competitive programs, how we play and conduct ourselves at our various school events is equally, if not more important.

BIG NORTH CONFERENCE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

- Enthusiastically encourage your team.
- Refrain from negative or irritating remarks, booing and taunting. Be Positive!
- Accept all decisions made by officials.
- Remain in the stands while play is in progress.
- Do not throw objects on the playing surface.
- Follow state regulations that prohibit noisemakers, signs and banners.
- Applaud outstanding play by either team.
- Be a positive role model.

Remember that it is a privilege to attend and participate in high school athletic contests. Negative behavior will not be tolerated and may lead to ejection from the event and loss of privilege to attend and participate in future athletic contests.

SPECTATORS

Spectators have an important role in the success of an athletic program. If the program is going to be successful, spectators must encourage good sportsmanship, courteous treatment of visitors and absolute respect under all conditions. It is important that spectators remember this important rule:

**The Players Play the Game
The Coaches Coach the Game
The Officials Officiate the Game
And – the Fans Enjoy the Game**

PLEASE CONCENTRATE ON YOUR AREA OF THE GAME!!