XVII. SPORTSMANSHIP RULES OF CONDUCT

A. GOAL STATEMENT

Realizing the necessity of teaching good sportsmanship and good citizenship through interscholastic athletics, and understanding the importance of good sportsmanship and good citizenship not only to the athletes/coaches who participate in the program, but to all students, adult fans **and participants** in general, do hereby declare the emphasizing good sportsmanship and good citizenship as an ongoing goal of the Columbia Basin Big Nine Athletic Conference. In support of this, the emphasis has at its core the focus of supporting your own team. (9/98)

B. CROWD CONTROL

Article 17.20.0 of the WIAA Handbook places the responsibility for crowd control at interscholastic activities clearly in the hands of the member schools. Student and adult fans are expected to support Big Nine activities in a positive manner. Incidents of negative or disruptive behavior on the part of student and adult fans shall be considered a violation of the Columbia Basin Big Nine rules for good sportsmanship and shall be dealt with according to the nature of the specific violation and in accordance with the appropriate state statutes. (WAC's and RCW's)(9/98)

C. SPECTATOR RULES OF CONDUCT

1. WIAA Rules and Policies for conduct will be enforced.

2. BANNERS/HAND HELD SIGNS

   a. Only one official school banner/sign, approved by the school administration is permitted at each schools athletic contest, both at home and away.

   b. All other signs, of any kind, are PROHIBITED at all contests.

   c. Pom-poms are the only legal hand held spirit promoting instruments that can be used by spectators.

   d. The use of any **clothing** or body paint involving multiple people to spell anything is illegal. (9/98)

3. NOISE MAKERS

   a. All noise makers (big or small), including band instruments used for such purposes are PROHIBITED at all contests.

   b. Megaphones may be used only by the rally/cheer squad and are not to be used in the stands by the spectators. Rally/Cheer squad members shall refrain from inappropriate use of megaphones. (9/97)

4. CARD SECTIONS

   a. Card sections are PROHIBITED at all contests.

5. DESIGNATED ROOTING SECTIONS

a. Home school will have the visiting spectator seating area clearly marked.

b. Students and adult fans must remain on the side of the field or gymnasium designated for their school.

c. Visiting supervisors shall be at the contest early enough to help hold seating areas reserved for their fans.

6. CONTINUAL STANDING

a. Each Big Nine school will designate separate rooting sections which the home town students and fans and visiting students and fans will be allowed to continually stand during the contest. Continual standing will not be allowed in other seating areas and will be considered a violation of the Big Nine sportsmanship rules. It will be the responsibility of the supervisors from each school to admit students and fans to these sections and to supervise their conduct. Each school shall provide signs indicating visitor-seating areas in each of their facilities. (9/97)

7. NEGATIVE YELLS, CHANTS, AND GESTURES

a. Negative yells or gestures will be considered a violation of the sportsmanship rules. (9/98)

b. Harassment, including those of racial or sexual nature of players, opposing fans, or officials by students or adult fans will be considered a violation of the sportsmanship rules. Violators may be removed from the contest and/or subject to penalties from the league as well as from local law enforcement agencies.

8. THROWING ARTICLES ON FIELD OR FLOOR

a. Throwing articles on the playing field or floor can cause serious injury to players and officials and will be cause for stopping the contest and/or removing the violators from the facility. (9/98)

9. TUNNELS

a. Tunnels may be formed only prior to the beginning of a contest.

b. Tunnels may be formed only by the participants in uniform and only in the pre-game performance. (9/98)

10. APPROPRIATE DRESS

a. Any unusual dress, body paint, or make-up must be approved by the school administration and must be in good taste and not be used for the purpose of demeaning the opposing school or the participants.

b. Spectators will be required to wear shirts at all indoor athletic events. (See item 2 of this section) (9/98)

11. MALICIOUS MISHCHIEF AND VANDALISM. (BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE CONTEST)

Any intentional damage to facilities or equipment is against the law and will absolutely not be tolerated. Violators may be subject to penalties from the league as well as from local law enforcement agencies. **It will be the financial responsibility of the violating school to pay for the damage (4/04).**

12. STUDENTS AND FANS ON THE PLAYING COURT/FIELD

a. All unauthorized students and adult fans are to remain off the playing court/field at all times, before the contest, during intermission, and after the contest.

b. After contest players and coaches will be allowed to exchange handshakes and return to their locker area prior to allowing fans onto the playing court/field.

13. STUDENT/ATHLETES OF VISITING TEAMS

a. Student/athletes of visiting teams not participating must sit in the designated section and be supervised by designated school personnel. (9/98)

D. PLAYER AND COACH RULES OF CONDUCT

1. The WIAA Ejection Rule 18.24.0 will be strictly enforced for players and coaches. Ejection and suspension may be appealed. This rule applies to all contests, regular season and post season. (9/97)

2. Negative comments by coaches or players to the media directed at officials, the opposing coach, players, or school will be considered a violation of the Big Nine sportsmanship policy.

3. Team personnel who leave the bench to take part in an altercation on the playing field or floor are in violation of the Big Nine's rules of conduct. (9/97)

4. Improper conduct by a player or coach, prior to, during, or after any contest, may be considered and dealt with by the schools involved and/or the league in the same manner as an ejection from the contest. (9/97)

5. The suspension of a player or coach ejected during the last game of the season shall carry over into their next succeeding season of participation. (9/97)

6. All violations of the sportsmanship guidelines in the Article must be reported to the Big Nine and YVIAA/NCWAA. (9/97)