



Pascack Hills Spectator Code of Conduct Policy

The NJSIAA & member schools are unified in enforcing a safe and positive environment for our student-athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. Athletics are intended to be a rewarding experience, designed to teach sportsmanship to all participants. There is no place in interscholastic athletics for negative, inappropriate, or derogatory comments or behaviors. Any such spectator behavior will be addressed by officials, school supervisors, administrators or site staff.

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, actions of a fan or spectator who:

- Use of profanity, threatening comments, or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Verbally harasses an official or opponent participant (i.e., coaches or players from any participating school) by using names or uniform numbers.
- Entering the field of play – before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Physical altercation with an official, coach, player, school staff, school security, or spectator – before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Use of artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the interscholastic event or distract the participants during an interscholastic event.
- Strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator.
- Intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- Uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators; or
- Engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event.

Unsportsmanlike conduct is prohibited against:

- All officials.
- All clock operators.
- Home coach, player, or spectator.
- Opposing coach, player, or spectator.
- School staff (including but not limited to Athletic Director, Site Supervisor, Administration);
- School Security.

First Offense: (365 Day calendar starts)

- Two game suspension from the sport ejected and all other (Home) events. One game suspension in the sport of Football. This also includes removal from the contest at which the incident occurred. If spectator/spectators refuse to leave the venue, play will be stopped until they vacate the premises.
- Parent/Guardian/Spectator will be required to take the NFHS Sportsmanship Course and submit certificate to the Athletic Director
- If the offense occurs during the last game of the season, suspension will carry over into subsequent regular season/sport.
- If offense occurs during last game of the Spring season, suspension will carry over into the following regular fall, winter, or spring season for all school sport events.
- If offense occurs to a Senior parent, spectator in which no other games are left on the calendar – they will be subject to school administrative discipline.

Second Offense: (occurs within the 365-day calendar of first occurrence)

- Four game suspension from the sport ejected and all other (Home) events. Two game suspension for the sport of Football. This also includes removal from the contest at which the incident occurred. If spectator/spectators refuse to leave the venue, play will be stopped until they vacate the premises.
- Follow-up meeting with school administration (Athletic Director and/or School Principal)
- Letter will be on file documenting the situation.
- If the offense occurs during the last game of the season, suspension will carry over into subsequent regular season sport events.
- If offense occurs during last game of the Spring season, suspension will carry over into the following regular fall, winter, or spring season for all school sport events.
- If offense occurs to a Senior parent, spectator in which no other games are left on the calendar – they will be subject to school administrative discipline.

Third Offense: (occurs within the 365-day calendar of first occurrence)

- Person or persons will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and for one (1) year from date of the third occurrence.
- Follow-up meeting with school administration (Athletic Director and/or School Principal)
- Required completion of a National Federation of High School Sport “NFHS Learn” (www.nfhslearn.com) course:
 - Positive Parenting within School Programs
 - Sportsmanship
 - Teaching and Modeling Behavior
 - The Parent Seat