

9163 SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS

The Board of Education promotes a physically and emotionally safe and healthy playing environment at interscholastic events and insists good sportsmanship be exhibited at all times by student athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators at such events.

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) requires the Board to establish policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and to identify responsibilities of administrators, coaches, and students to ensure their observance. The NJSIAA requires the Board to adopt a Spectator Code of Conduct Policy for all spectators attending an interscholastic event.

The district's high school(s) is a member school of the NJSIAA. The NJSIAA and the Board require high standards of courtesy, fair play, and sportsmanship be featured at school district and NJSIAA interscholastic events. Unsportsmanlike conduct by a person at an event shall subject the individual to disciplinary action.

For the purpose of this Policy, a "home event" shall mean any event occurring in the school district's buildings or on school grounds.

For the purpose of this Policy, "school grounds" also includes other recreational places owned by local municipalities, private entities, or other individuals during those times when the school district has exclusive use of a portion of the land.

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, actions of a fan or spectator who:
 - a. Strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, spectator, school staff member, or school security;
 - b. Intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action;
 - c. Uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action toward officials, opponents, spectators, school staff members, or school security; or
 - d. Engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion at an interscholastic event.



2. The Board prohibits unsportsmanlike conduct or actions by a spectator, which include, but are not limited to:
 - a. The use of profanity, threatening comments, or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event;
 - b. Verbal harassment of an official or participant (i.e., coaches or players from any participating school) by using names or uniform numbers;
 - c. Entering the field of play before, during, or after an interscholastic event;
 - d. Having a physical altercation with an official, coach, player, school staff, school security, or spectator before, during, or after an interscholastic event;
 - e. The use of artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the interscholastic event or distract the participants during an interscholastic event; or
 - f. Any additional unsportsmanlike conduct or actions determined by the Principal or designee to be unsportsmanlike conduct or action.
 - g. If the unsportsmanlike conduct involves a potential criminal act, the Principal or designee shall immediately contact law enforcement.
3. Disciplinary Framework
 - a. If the Principal or designee determines a person's conduct or actions are prohibited by this Policy, the person will be subjected to the following disciplinary actions:
 - (1) Immediate removal from the interscholastic event and school grounds;
 - (2) First Offense (365-day calendar starts)



- (a) Suspension from attending the next two (2) home event(s) from which the Principal or designee determines the person's conduct or actions prohibited by this Policy occurred. Suspension from any home or away athletic event(s) that occur during the suspension period.
- (3) Second offense occurring within 365-day calendar days of the first offense
 - (a) Suspension from attending the next four (4) home event(s) from which the Principal or designee determines the person's conduct or actions prohibited by this Policy occurred. Suspension from any home or away athletic event(s) that occur during the suspension period.
- (4) Third offense occurring within 365-day calendar days of the first offense or beyond
 - (a) Suspension from attending the remainder of the current athletic season and for one (1) calendar year from which the Principal or designee determines the person's conduct or actions prohibited by this Policy occurred. Suspension from any home or away athletic event(s) that occur during the suspension period.
 - (b) The suspended person shall be required to meet with the Principal or designee and successfully complete an educational component as determined by the Principal or designee before the person is permitted to attend any future home or away athletic events in school buildings or on school grounds. The educational component will include a program that addresses the unsportsmanlike conduct or actions that caused the person to be suspended from the interscholastic event(s).



POLICY

SAYREVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Interscholastic Events

This Policy shall be provided to the parent(s) of student-athletes participating in interscholastic programs in the district. The parent(s) shall be required to sign a document acknowledging receipt of this Policy and acknowledging their understanding of the provisions of this Policy. This document shall be provided to the parent(s) during the high school's sports registration process before each season.

This Policy shall be made available to NJSIAA staff upon request. NJSIAA staff may share a copy of this Policy with another member school when appropriate.

A list of unsportsmanlike conduct or actions will be posted at all venues hosting school district events to the extent reasonably possible.

Failure of a member school to enforce the provisions of this Policy may result in discipline by the NJSIAA. In addition to the penalties set forth by NJSIAA, a school that does not enforce its Policy may be prohibited by NJSIAA from hosting an NJSIAA State tournament event.

NJSIAA Spectator Code of Conduct Policy – Revised, May 8, 2024

Adopted: 2025-03-18

