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9163 SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS (M)

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)

Tier 1:
<u>Adult</u>
Immediate removal from the event and school premises
Completion of educational courses ("The Parent Seat," "Sportsmanship," "Positive Parenting")Any spectator found in violation of the Code of Conduct will be
banned from attending any events until they have successfully completed required courses.

<u>Student</u>
Immediate removal from the event and school premises
Completion of educational courses ("Sportsmanship," "Student Leadership," "Bullying, Hazing, Inappropriate Behaviors")
Any spectator found in violation of the Code of Conduct will be banned from attending any events until they have successfully completed required courses.

(3) Second offense occurring within 365-day calendar days of the first offense

Tier 2:
Adult
Immediate removal from the event and school premises
Complete Tier 1 courses
NFHSlearn.com - "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" ($20)
Anger Management Course
Any spectator in violation of the Code of Conduct will be banned for a 45-day period and must complete the required courses outlined in the Code of Conduct before returning to any events

Student
Immediate removal from the event and school premises
Complete Tier 1 courses
Subject to Student Code of Conduct
Any spectator in violation of the Code of Conduct will be banned for a 45-day period and must complete the required courses outlined in the Code of Conduct before returning to any events

(4) Third offense occurring within 365-day calendar days of the first offense or beyond

Tier 3:
Adult
Immediate removal from the event and school premises
Complete Tier 1 and Tier 2 Courses
Removal from all interscholastic events for 1 year
School administration meeting and Board of Education hearing

Student
Immediate removal from the event and school premises
Complete Tier 1 and Tier 2 Courses
Removal from all interscholastic events for 1 year
School administration meeting and Board of Education hearing

b. If it is determined by the Principal or designee that a person exhibited unsportsmanlike conduct at a home interscholastic athletic event, but was not immediately removed from the interscholastic event or from school grounds at the time of the prohibited conduct, the person shall be subject to the disciplinary actions outlined in this Policy.

c. In the event it is determined by the Principal or designee that a person exhibited unsportsmanlike conduct at an interscholastic event not held in a school district building or on school grounds (away event), the person shall be subject to the disciplinary actions outlined in this Policy.

d. A person who has been suspended for a home interscholastic event~~s~~ within 12 months of the initial conduct that resulted in the person's first suspension from attending home interscholastic events may be suspended by the Principal or designee from attending additional home interscholastic events in excess of the suspension provisions in this Policy and the Colonial Conference Tiered Code of Conduct.

d. A person suspended by the Principal or designee from attending more than a home interscholastic event~~s~~ for exhibiting conduct or actions that violate this Policy, regardless of the specific event or activity from which the person was suspended, shall be prohibited from attending any other home interscholastic events in the district's schools or on school grounds and shall be required to meet with the Principal or designee prior to being permitted to attend any additional home interscholastic events in the district's schools or on school grounds. The person shall be required to successfully complete an educational component (as outlined in the Colonial Conference Tiered Code of Conduct) as determined by the Principal or designee before the person is permitted to attend any future home 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 events.

e. A person who does not comply with the suspension requirements of this Policy or refuses to immediately leave the school building or school grounds for violating the provisions of this Policy may be reported to law enforcement to be removed from the school building or from school grounds.

4. Appeals

a. A person may appeal the decision of the Principal or designee to the Superintendent of Schools by submitting a written appeal to the

Superintendent within three calendar days after receiving notice of the suspension from the event by the Principal or designee. The Superintendent shall make a decision on the written appeal within three business days upon receiving the written appeal. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Board in accordance with the Board appeal provisions in Policy and Regulation 9130 – Public Complaints and Grievances.

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: April 16, 2025