ATHLETICS

Marni Henry, Athletic Director

SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAN CODE OF CONDUCT

District Policy 5570 - SPORTSMANSHIP

The Board of Education requires that all individuals involved in or attending the athletic and intramural programs sponsored by the Board exhibit sportsmanship when representing the school at any athletic event. Sportsmanship is defined as abiding by the rules of the contest as defined or accepted by the participating teams. In exhibiting sportsmanship all participants shall:

1. Respect and follow the rules of the contest;
2. Recognize skilled performance of others regardless of affiliation;
3. Display respect for all individuals participating in the athletic event;
4. Treat opponents in an empathetic manner; and
5. Congratulate opponents in victory or defeat.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with the school district) who strikes or physically abuses an official, coach, player, or spectator;
2. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with the school district) who intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action;
3. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with the school district) who uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, coaches, opponents, or spectators;
4. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with the school district) who engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct which exhibits bias based on any of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a);
5. Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of a game official, opponents, and/or opposing coaches/players;
6. Other conduct judged by the Principal or designee to be unsportsmanlike in character; and
7. Any violation of the rules of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Schools are not permitted to conduct pre-meet/game activities of an intimidating nature, e.g., the use of fog machines, the blaring of sirens or loud music/unusual sound effects, strobe/unusual lighting effects, or similar type activities.

Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship may subject the individual to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Board.

District Regulation 5570 - SPORTSMANSHIP

Individuals who violate Policy No. 5570, Sportsmanship shall be subject to the following disciplinary actions to be imposed by the Principal or designee.

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) The Superintendent or designee upon consultation with the Principal or designee may increase the disciplinary actions outlined in this Policy, depending on the severity of the offense.

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.

(2) First Offense (365-day calendar starts)

(a) Immediate removal from the interscholastic event and school grounds.

(3) All future offenses occurring within 365-day calendar days of the first offense

(a) Immediate removal from the event and suspension from attending future home events. The number of events will be at the discretion of the Principal or designee for the activity from which the person was immediately removed from school grounds.

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 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 ten 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.

E. A determination by the Superintendent resulting in a long term suspension or expulsion from the athletic or intramural program may be appealed to the Board which may hold a hearing on the matter and render a determination of the matter within thirty calendar days.

NJSIAA Sportsmanship Rule/Policy

"The NJSIAA requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. There will be no tolerance for any negative behavior, such as taunting, trash-talking and verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion. Such behavior will result in being ejected from this event. All participants must respect the game, respect the officials, and respect their opponents."

It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals employed by or directly associated with the athletic program, including its Student-Athletes, comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when representing their school, especially at interscholastic events.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the individual to disciplinary action. The member school with which the individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that the member school's policies, actions, or failure to act, substantially contributed to the individual's conduct.

Under the NJSIAA Sportsmanship Rule/Policy, unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, actions of a fan, spectator, school staff, school security, officials, opposing coach or players who:

- 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
- Engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event.
- Use of profanity, threatening comments, or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Verbally harasses an official or 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.

Shore Conference Rules and Regulations

The rules of conduct apply to all Shore Conference events, including regular and postseason competitions.

- Artificial noisemakers are prohibited by NJSIAA rules and are not permitted at any event. This includes bells, whistles, thunder sticks, clappers, balloons, megaphones (excluding cheerleaders), and horns.
- Body painting is not permitted, nor are bare chests.
- All signs must be hung on walls and shall show only positive support. Those that direct negative comments toward opponents or are unsportsmanlike are not permitted. Visiting teams may not bring banners/signs to hang at host school's venue. Flags are not permitted at indoor facilities or bleachers.
- Teams may run through banners that are positive and show good sportsmanship.
- Supervised pep bands are allowed at all events.
- Face painting is allowed, provided it was done prior to entering the venue.
- Rally towels are allowed. Foam fingers are also allowed, provided they are not blocking the view of spectators.
- A protest may not be filed that calls into question the judgment of an official.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the violator to disciplinary action. Disciplinary Actions may include but are not limited to:

- Immediate removal from the event and school premises.
- Suspension from the next home interscholastic event for a first offense.
- Longer suspensions from interscholastic and school events for multiple violations in a defined period of time (season, school year, calendar year, etc.).
- Completion of the following https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sportsmanship-2 NFHS Sportsmanship course
- Reinstatement meeting with the Athletic Director, Marni Henry mhenry@wallpublicschools.org before attendance at future WHS events.

I have read the above policy as issued by the NJSIAA and agree to the terms as listed. Furthermore, I agree to abide by the Shore Conference and Wall High School Sportsmanship Rules and Policies. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the individual to disciplinary action. The member school with which the individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that the member school's policies, actions, or failure to act, substantially contributed to the individual's conduct.

Student-Athlete Name: _____
(print)

Student-Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
(print)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____