

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 and the gracious acceptance of victory or defeat. In exhibiting sportsmanship all participants shall:

1. Understand 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.

All participants, spectators, coaches and officials at a school sponsored event are expected to know and observe the following rules. An individual who violates any of these rules may be evicted from the event. Disregard of these rules may cause a spectator to be suspended or banned from future events.

Participants / spectators /coaches /officials should:

1. Conduct themselves with decorum and with respect for the rights and property of others at all times, at the school event and while traveling to and from the school event;
2. Respect and obey those in authority such as school officials, game officials, police, and the persons assigned by the school to act for those in authority;
3. Refrain from participating in or inciting others to abusive action, harassment and/or intimidating behavior towards officials, coaches, spectators, and participants. This includes telephone calls, emails, letters and confrontations on or off school grounds at any time before or after an event.



4. Respect the efforts of the pupils involved in the event, for whom the event may mark the culmination of many hours of preparation and hard work;
5. Respect the seating arrangements provided by the school and remain seated in the assigned sections during the event;
6. Refrain from engaging in activities of an intimidating nature. Signs and banners should be in good taste and promote positive encouragement. The NJISAA prohibits signs and banners at events they sponsor. Excessive noise intended to detract from the nature of the event or demean is not permitted or acceptable. Uses of items that distract and/or intimidate are prohibited. Such items include, but are not limited to: fog machines, blaring sirens, strobe lights, etc.;
7. Respond enthusiastically to the efforts and accomplishments by cheering and/or applauding;
8. Refrain from booing, heckling, taunting, disrespectful remarks or behavior, provocative or obnoxious language, obscene gestures and any conduct exhibiting bias based on race, ethnicity or gender;
9. Exhibit good sportsmanship at all times and refrain from publicly criticizing, striking or physically abusing an official, coach, player or spectator, or any other conduct judged by the Principal or designee to be unsportsmanlike in character;
10. Stay off of and do not throw objects onto the stage, arena, or athletic playing area on which the pupils are performing or competing;
11. Dress appropriately; bare chests are not allowed, clothing with inappropriate language or slogans are not permitted etc.;
12. Respect the property of the school by causing no litter and leaving the premises as clean as they were found; make proper use of lavatory facilities and food and drink concessions;



13. Not bring and/or consume alcoholic beverages or narcotics or drugs of any kind on school premises and must stay away from school premises if under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
14. Use no tobacco product in a school building or in any place on school premises in which smoking is prohibited;
15. Park as directed, obey traffic rules, and drive with extreme caution on school property; and out of concern for the comfort and safety of all spectators and respect for the efforts of performing or competing pupils, report any violation of these rules to a person in authority;
16. Censure those whose behavior is unbecoming.

Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship may result in the Board denying the opportunity for any individual to participate in the athletic program or attend athletic events.

A participant, spectator, coach or official who violates these expectations will be approached by a school representative. Depending on the severity of the violation they will either be warned or immediately removed from the event. If the individual does not cooperate by either correcting their behavior or by leaving when asked, the police will be notified.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq. any person who:

1. Engages in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any pupil, coach, official or parent; or
2. Any person who initiates a fight or scuffle with any pupil, coach, official, parent, or other person if the conduct occurs at or in connection with a school sponsored youth sports event, may be suspended or permanently banned from being present at subsequent events.



In accordance with N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq., the Board will require all pupils, coaches, officials, and/or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of pupils as a condition of participation in all high school Board sponsored athletic programs sign a Code of Conduct that would require those persons to refrain from verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any pupil, coach, official or other parent, or from initiating any fight or scuffle with any person.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the Board may suspend or permanently ban an individual's presence at any subsequent school sports events for violating the Code of Conduct. In the event an individual is banned from attendance in accordance with the Code of Conduct, that individual may petition the Board for permission to resume attendance. Prior to being permitted to resume attendance, the Board will require the individual to present proof of completion of anger management counseling through a public or private source.

The Board will comply with requirements of the New Jersey Attorney General and will develop the minimum requirements for anger management counseling as required in this Policy and N.J.S.A. 5:17-2 et seq.

Related policies: Athletic Code of Conduct 9162
Crowd Control 9161
NJSIAA Guidelines

Adopted: 27 November 2000

