

MANAGING SPECTATOR CONDUCT

2019 CHSAA/CHSBUA PARTNERSHIP



SPECTATOR CONDUCT IMPACT

THE REPERCUSSIONS OF POOR SPORTSMANSHIP — WHETHER IT'S ON THE PART OF COACHES, ATHLETES OR SPECTATORS — ARE TAKING THEIR TOLL ON HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS. HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY STARTED THE ACADEMIC YEAR WITH OFFICIALS SHORTAGES DUE TO — AMONG OTHER FACTORS — PERSONAL SAFETY CONCERNS.

SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

(EXCERPT FROM CHSAA GUIDE)

- REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE AT A CONTEST TO SUPPORT AND CHEER FOR YOUR TEAM; NOT TO INTIMIDATE OR RIDICULE OTHERS.
- REMEMBER THAT SCHOOL ATHLETICS ARE LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS AND THEY MAY MAKE MISTAKES.
- A TICKET IS A PRIVILEGE TO OBSERVE THE CONTEST, NOT A LICENSE TO VERBALLY ASSAULT OTHERS AND BE GENERALLY OBNOXIOUS.
- SHOW RESPECT FOR THE OPPOSING PLAYERS, COACHES, SPECTATORS AND SUPPORT GROUPS.
- RESPECT THE INTEGRITY AND JUDGMENT OF GAME OFFICIALS. UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO HELP PROMOTE THE STUDENT/ATHLETE, AND ADMIRE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN FULL VIEW OF THE PUBLIC.
- USE ONLY THOSE CHEERS THAT SUPPORT AND UPLIFT THE PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED.
- RECOGNIZE AND COMPLIMENT THE EFFORTS OF SCHOOL AND LEAGUE ADMINISTRATORS FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN EMPHASIZING THE BENEFITS OF EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS AND THE RULE OF GOOD SPORTING BEHAVIOR TO THAT END.
- BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL THROUGH YOUR OWN ACTIONS AND BY CENSURING THOSE AROUND YOU AT EVENTS WHOSE BEHAVIOR IS UNBECOMING.

UMPIRE PREGAME PREPARATIONS

- **NORMAL PREGAME PREPARATIONS**
- **DISCUSS GAME POSSIBILITIES**
- **RE-ENFORCE THAT NOT SEARCHING FOR POOR SPECTATOR SPORTSMANSHIP**
- **REMINDER TO HAVE THICK SKIN AND FOCUS ON THE GAME**
- **IF WARNINGS ARE NECESSARY**
 - **DON'T MAKE A SCENE**
 - **ALLOW THE GAME ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR COACH TO ADDRESS SPECTATORS**
- **EJECTIONS REQUIRE THE STANDARD FORM TO BE COMPLETED**

GAME ADMINISTRATOR SUPPORT

- **UMPIRES WILL BE ON THE FIELD 15 MINUTES BEFORE GAME TIME**
- **IDENTIFY/MEET THE GAME ADMINISTRATOR**
- **IF GAME ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**
 - **THE HEAD COACH WILL ASSUME THE DUTIES**

PLATE MEETING REMINDER

- **DURING THE PLATE MEETING:**
 - **REMIND COACHES ABOUT SPECTATOR CONDUCT**
 - **IF THERE ARE ISSUES, UMPIRES WILL DISCUSS WITH COACH**
 - **WILL ALLOW COACH AND/OR GAME ADMINISTRATOR TO ADDRESS SPECTATORS**
 - **PENALTIES MAY LEAD TO COACH BEING RESTRICTED OR EJECTED**

COMMUNICATION STEPS

- **IGNORE: SMALL COMMENTS ARE NOT PERSONAL. NO ONE SAID THIS JOB WOULD BE EASY.**
- **ACKNOWLEDGE: THIS CAN BE DONE DURING THE 1/2 INNING**
 - **NOTIFY THE COACH THAT THE SPECTATORS OR A SPECTATOR NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED**
 - **"I HEAR YOUR SPECTATOR'S PERSONAL COMMENTS, PLEASE SPEAK WITH THEM."**
 - **THIS CONVERSATION WOULD HAPPEN BEFORE A WARNING IS GIVEN**
- **WARN: IF COMMENTS CONTINUE, NOTIFY THE COACH**
 - **" THIS IS YOUR WARNING, PLEASE ASK YOUR FANS TO STOP WITH THE PERSONAL COMMENTS OR YOU WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE BENCH."**
- **EJECT: IF THE PERSONAL COMMENTS CONTINUE**