

**NASSAU COUNTY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
SECTION VIII of NYSPHSAA, INC.**

SECTION VIII SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

Recognition

The High School Association of Section VIII established a Sportsmanship Committee to function under the auspices of the Athletic Council, in order to monitor, to report to school districts and to take action related to incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct and/or flagrant misconduct.

Purpose

The purpose of this action is to take a positive step in an effort to control disruptive behavior at all Section VIII events.

A. What is to be reported (from arrival to departure):

1. A Player - who is ejected from a contest for flagrant misconduct and/or a derogatory gesture
2. A Spectator - who acts in a disruptive and/or abusive manner.
3. A Coach - who conducts himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner.
4. An Official - who demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct.
5. A School - that permits spectators to conduct themselves in an abusive, disruptive or harassing manner. This also includes schools that do not provide adequate supervision at home or as a visitor to control their spectators.

B. Responsibility for reporting:

1. Coaches - must report all incidents to their respective athletic directors, even if only one team/player was cited for misconduct.
2. Athletic Directors - must file reports with the Executive Director within 24 hours of any incident of unsportsmanlike behavior.
3. Officials - must file reports with the Executive Director within 24 hours of any incident of unsportsmanlike behavior.

C. Reporting Procedure

1. All disruptive incidents are to be reported by the coaches to their respective athletic directors immediately following the contest.
2. The Athletic Directors of both teams involved (even if only one had received a penalty for the misconduct) are to file reports with the Office of the Executive Director as soon as possible, but no later than the morning following the contest/incident.
3. The Officials assigned to the contest are to file a report with the Office of the Executive Director as soon as possible, but no later than the morning following the contest/incident.
4. The Executive Director will forward copies of all reports to the Sportsmanship Committee Chairperson and Sports Coordinators.

D. Committee Actions:

1. All member schools, and all individuals representing these member schools who are involved in unsportsmanlike conduct are subject to actions deemed appropriate by the Sportsmanship Committee.
2. The Sportsmanship Committee may recommend action in instances of unsportsmanlike conduct and is authorized to recommend penalties which may include, but are not limited to: Censure, Reprimand, Suspension, Loss of Eligibility, or any other actions that are deemed appropriate by the Sportsmanship Committee.
3. All recommendations of the Sportsmanship Committee will be filed with the Office of the Executive Director and forwarded to the Athletic Director(s) of the school(s) involved.
4. All actions of the Sportsmanship Committee are subject to review by the respective

Athletic Director(s) for the possible imposition of further disciplinary action.

5. Copies of all reports of the Sportsmanship Committee shall be kept on file with the Sportsmanship Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Sports Coordinator.

E. Penalties:

1. Player Expulsion: Any player who commits a serious violation of game rules or takes part in flagrant misconduct during play shall be subject to ejection from the contest and disciplinary action. Ejection from a contest for violation of sportsmanship rules carries with it a mandatory additional one game suspension from the next regularly scheduled contest, including post-season play. Disqualifications from one season will carry over to the player's next season of participation where necessary. Any player suspended from participation may not be on site or involved in any capacity (spectator, time keeper, score keeper, etc.) on the day of the suspension. Failure to comply with this aspect of the suspension could result in additional sanctions being levied against the coach and/or team.
2. Second Occurrence of Misconduct: Any person (coach, player, spectator, school official, etc.) who is ejected from a second contest for an unsportsmanlike infraction shall prompt the Sportsmanship Committee to review the matter which may lead to severe disciplinary action including suspension of participation privileges for the remainder of the season. Such disciplinary action could carry over into subsequent sports seasons as part of the penalty. Additional terms and conditions may also be recommended by the Sportsmanship Committee before a review or a bid for reinstatement is reviewed by the committee.
3. Intentional Physical Contact by a Player: Any player who strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact, with the intent to do so and/or results in intentionally inflicted physical harm to another person, (an official, another player, a spectator, coach, school district employee or supervisor, etc.) shall be ejected from the contest immediately. The incident must be reported to the Sportsmanship Committee which is empowered to review any such case of unsportsmanlike behavior and which can levy penalties which may include but are not limited to: Censure, Reprimand, Suspension, Loss of Eligibility, or another action that is deemed appropriate by the committee.
4. Team Member/Non-Participant - Pre- or Post-Game Misconduct: Any player, coach, or spectator who commits a serious violation of sportsmanship rules or takes part in flagrant misconduct as a non-participant prior to the start of the contest will be excluded from play in and/or subject to removal from the site of the contest. Any player, coach, or spectator who commits a serious violation of the sportsmanship rules or takes part in flagrant misconduct as a non-participant after the contest has been concluded (post-game) will be suspended from participation in or attendance at the next regularly scheduled contest including post-season.
5. Spectators: Any spectator who acts in a disruptive or abusive manner may cause the game to be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator removed. A letter from the Sportsmanship Committee may be sent to the appropriate Athletic Director(s), Building Principal(s), and Superintendent(s). Continued incidents of disruptive behavior may result in additional disciplinary action by the Sportsmanship Committee.
6. Coaches: A coach who conducts herself/himself in an unsportsmanlike manner will be reported to the Sportsmanship Committee and subject to local disciplinary action. A coach who is ejected from a contest will be suspended from the next regularly scheduled contest. Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will be excluded from the next regularly scheduled contest (including post-season contests). Such disqualification and subsequent suspension penalty will carry over from one season to the next season in which the involved coach is serving as a coach, regardless of the sport or level. During any such suspension, the suspended coach may not be present in any capacity (supervisor, spectator, faculty member, etc.) on the day of the suspension. Failure to comply with this aspect of the suspension could result in additional sanctions being levied

- against the coach and/or team.
7. Intentional Physical Contact: Any coach who strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact, with the intent to do so, to another person (e.g., an official, another coach, player, fan) shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further coaching in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the Athletic Council.
 8. Officials: An official who demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct will be reported to the Sportsmanship Committee. The Sportsmanship Committee may request disciplinary action to be taken against the official via communication with the official's governing body.
 9. Taunting: Taunting includes, but is not limited to, any actions or comments by coaches, players, or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean other players, coaches, or game officials. Included in this is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on gender, ethnic origin or background and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech family, special needs, or personal matters. Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to, physical and verbal intimidation outside the spirit of the game ("trash talking"), reference to sexual orientation, "in-the-face confrontation" by the one player to another, standing over, straddling a tackled or fallen player, etc. See NYSPHSAA Handbook #27 (page 72) Section on Sportsmanship.
 10. Bench Clearing: If an altercation occurs during a contest and members of either team leave their bench or sideline area or playing positions, and go onto the field/court/participation area, they will be immediately ejected from the contest for unsportsmanlike behavior.
- F. Due Process
1. Students, coaches, and schools have the right to be heard by the Sportsmanship Committee. This right must be claimed within 24 hours of the incident occurring and must be made to the Office of the Executive Director of Section VIII. All actions of the Sportsmanship Committee are subject to review and appeal. Any such appeal may eventually be made to the Section VIII Athletic Council.

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