

Appendix 4

NSCIF SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

The Northern Section CIF Sportsmanship Guidelines have been developed to maintain the highest possible standards in our athletic programs and to promote a positive attitude toward high school athletics by all involved.

Note: Schools are expected to adhere to the Northern Section Sportsmanship Guidelines. Conferences, Leagues, and/or individual schools may enact guidelines that are more stringent than those adopted by the Section.

- A. Signs, banners, and/or school flags.
 - 1. Signs with positive and supportive messages are allowed.
 - 2. Derogatory signs are prohibited and will not be allowed and will be removed by school/game officials. Derogatory signs include, but are not limited to, any sign making reference to an opponent, the players, coaches, any participants, the school, and/or the school mascot.
 - 3. Signs are to remain in the schools' designated area.
 - 4. School flags/banners or ceremonial objects may only be displayed on the respective school's side of the field or court.
 - 5. Individuals or groups carrying signs, school banners, and/or school ceremonial objects are not to run in front of or near an opponents "rooting section" as it often incites and offends that section of fans.
- B. Seating Policy
 - 1. In order that all spectators may experience maximum enjoyment at NSCIF athletic events, spectators (particularly students) wishing to audibly cheer or support a particular team as a group, be assigned to an area designated as their "rooting section" and remain there for the duration of the contest.
 - 2. Assigning an area of an opposing "rooting section" with or near an opponent's "rooting section" is to be avoided wherever possible and such persons shall be directed by staff and/or game management to the appropriate location/area provided for them.
 - 3. Designated "rooting sections" should be communicated to schools involved so as to avoid moving groups of people from one location to another.
- C. Warm-up Procedures
 - 1. Protocol will allow visiting teams to take the court/field followed by the home team. Other arrangements may be made by Game Administration.
 - 2. Teams are not to run through or disrupt an opponent's pre-game warm-up procedure.
 - 3. Where applicable (football, basketball, soccer, field hockey) mid-field/mid-court should be kept as clear as possible. The court/field should be visually divided into thirds. The middle third should be void of any warm-up activity or team ritual. Any team huddles or rituals should occur in the team's third of the field/court.
 - 4. Volleyball warm up procedure is to follow the NFHS rulebook.
 - 5. For baseball/softball the (home) team will take infield first. The opponent shall remain in the dugout or bench area while infield is being conducted. Exception: Bull pen personnel.
- D. Announcers
 - 1. The announcer is an important component of any athletic contest. He/she must remain neutral and considered an official of the contest. Public address announcers **are not radio commentators**.
 - 2. The announcer should welcome opponents and notify participants of emergency exits, restrooms, concessions, sportsmanship expectations, and other pertinent information.
 - 3. The announcer acknowledges and introduces the game officials.
 - 4. The announcer makes every effort to pronounce the names of the participants correctly in their introductions remembering that this contest is not a professional arena or venue.
 - 5. The announcer may recognize sponsorship information as appropriate.
- E. Spectator Expectations
 - 1. No artificial noisemakers are allowed for basketball or volleyball. These include, but are not limited to, megaphones (manufactured or created from other material), cowbells, sirens, 'clackers,' cans with marbles or rocks inside, or other creative noisemakers.
 - 2. Any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
 - 3. Spectators may never refer to any participants/competitors by name. Chanting a competitors' name is considered taunting.
 - 4. Shirts must be worn at all times. **Body painting is not acceptable**. Face painting is allowed providing it does not make reference to an opponent.
- F. Bands
 - 1. Bands may only play during dead ball situations in volleyball and basketball (between games, between quarters, and/or time-outs).
 - 2. Bands may play at any time during a football game providing they do not hinder the play of the opponent as determined by the official.