

**The Athletic Manual of the Carolina State Athletic Association provides the framework for sanctioned interscholastic athletic competition between participating CSAA member schools. It is vitally important that the purpose, philosophy, rules, and procedures be respected and followed at all times. The CSAA believes that schools participating in the various activities sponsored by this organization should meet standards of dress and grooming for participating students. CSAA makes no attempt to govern the standards of the local school, but we feel it necessary to have a common standard for sanctioned competition between participating member schools in order to avoid conflict and create a comfort level for everyone involved. Your cooperation and support is appreciated.**

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# **Carolina State Athletic Association Constitution and By-Laws**

## **ARTICLE 1.0 – NAME AND LOCATION**

### **1.1 Carolina State Athletic Association**

## **ARTICLE 2.0 – PURPOSE and PHILOSOPHY**

**2.1** The purpose of the CSAA is to provide a framework for athletic competition between member schools of the CSAA govern such events shall be a necessary function of the CSAA. Setting standards that contribute to the spiritual, academic, and physical needs of the students will be carried out as a necessary purpose of the CSAA.

**2.2** The philosophy of athletics for CSAA is Bible-based. We believe that sanctioned competition can be a useful tool in the physical and spiritual development of the participants. Life lessons of hard work, fair play, team work, and respecting authority can be taught and learned. As Christians we believe in a system of absolutes in how we live. Situation ethics too often is the practice for Christians when it comes to athletics. Our motive to win is often vindictive and personal. We forget that Jesus taught us to “do unto others as you would have them to do unto you” (Matthew 12:7). Paul wrote to Timothy saying that if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. We are again taught by Paul in I Corinthians 10:31 that “Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

## **ARTICLE 3.0 – MEMBERSHIP**

Every school which seeks membership in the CSAA must also be a member in good standing of the CSAA. All dues must be current and any activities assessments must be paid in full before any school is eligible for competition.

**3.1** By signing the membership application, each administrator binds himself and the members of his faculty to familiarize themselves with these rules and standards as enumerated herein. To keep on file detailing **academic**, athletic, medical, and attendance records of all students who participate in any sanctioned activity; to forward promptly to the CSAA Director all eligibility lists, reports, and records required; and to enforce the rules and standards herein mentioned within his school.

**3.2** Schools and administrators who wish to maintain membership in this Association shall sign membership renewal applications each year and send their membership fee with the application to the Association office. Upon receipt of the school's membership in the CSAA, said school's membership in the CSAA is automatic.

## **ARTICLE 4.0 – STANDARD OF DRESS AND APPEARANCE**

**4.1** The CSAA believes that schools participating in the various activities sponsored by this organization should meet standards of dress and grooming for participating students. CSAA makes no attempt to govern the standards of the local school, but we feel it necessary to have a common standard for sanctioned competition between participating member schools in order to avoid conflict and create a comfort level for everyone involved.

**4.2 GIRLS' ATHLETICS:** Female athletes may wear shorts that are loosely fitted with the hem. The top of the uniform should be long enough that when the arms are raised above the head the abdomen does not show. This type uniform will be acceptable for the following competitions: volleyball, basketball, and softball, soccer, cross county or any new sport added to the league.

**4.2.1** For softball, girls may wear loose fitting softball pants as a part of the uniform.

**4.3 GIRLS – CHEERLEADER:** Cheerleader uniforms must be modestly fitted. Athletic bras are required for cheerleaders. In addition, matching thigh length spandex must be worn. The top of the uniform should be long enough that when the arms are raised above the head the abdomen does not show. Refer to the National Federation *Spirit Rules Book* for rules regarding hair, nails, and jewelry, etc.

Cheer squads may choose to wear cheer pants that are purchased from the same company that made the uniform top and skirt. Cheer pants must be made from the same material as the top and skirt and be designed to coordinate as a uniform. Cheer pants should be modestly fitted, and care should be given to make sure the pants are not too tight.

**4.4 BOYS' ATHLETICS:** Hair should be modest and neatly trimmed. Mustaches and beards should not be worn. No item extraneous to the normal uniform may be worn in athletic competitions except as defined in the *National Federation of State High School Associations Rules Book*.

**4.5** The appearance of participants in CSAA Athletic events should be inoffensive, appropriate, and should represent the goals and objectives of CSAA member schools.

**4.6** CSAA considers tattoos unacceptable particularly on high school aged students. National Federation of State High School Associations Rules that govern uniforms. Waivers may be considered for benign or non-offensive tattoos by a committee of three appointed by the Executive Director. It would be the responsibility of the requesting school to provide pictures to the aforementioned committee at least ten days preceding the first game. The request must be made in writing and will require a \$50 non-refundable fee before the request will be considered; otherwise the tattoo should be covered.

## **ARTICLE 5.0 – COMMITTEE AND ITS DUTIES**

**5.1** The Athletic Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, and Five members appointed by the Executive Director. Terms shall be served indefinitely. The Committee will work with the Executive Director to develop programs, coordinate events, attend to details of CSAA sponsored events, and resolve disputes pertaining to athletics.

Additionally, the Committee will act on business as brought before it by the Executive Director.

**5.2** In the event that a school of which a member of the Committee is the administrator makes an appeal or becomes a party to a controversy, that member shall excuse himself from participating in the hearing and in rendering a decision on the matter. In the event two or more Committee members become involved in an appeal or controversy, the Executive Director shall appoint two temporary members to hear the matter along with the remaining members of the Committee.

**5.3** The Athletic Committee shall act as a final court of appeal in all matters unless the CSAA Executive Committee or Board is consulted.

**5.4** Selection Committee shall consist of Executive Director, Two Board Members, and 4 Athletic Directors voted upon by the their fellow Athletic Directors. Athletic Directors will serve on the Selection Committee for a 3 year period. Must remain from the committee for 1 year before being eligible for reelection. The purpose of the Selection Committee is to Seeds Teams for each State Tournaments for CSAA.

Each school is free to play an open schedule. Seeding will be based upon a scoring system and strength of schedule by each school. CSAA recommends that each school plays as many CSAA schools as possible.

Scoring System:

1. Each CSAA school win counts as 4 points, tie is 2 points, and a loss is 1 point.
2. Schools outside the CSAA will count as strength of schedule and tie breakers.
3. Selection Committee will take all of these factors when seeding CSAA schools for State Tournament Play.

## **ARTICLE 6.0 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND HIS DUTIES**

**6.1** The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Board of the NCSAA. The Executive Director has the following duties:

1. To manage and direct the affairs of this Association.
2. To prepare an activities calendar for the school year on or before July 1 of each year.
3. To receive all funds of this Association; to disburse all funds within the budget fixed by the Executive Committee; to keep an accurate record of all funds received and disbursed; and to make such reports as may be required by the Executive Committee and/or the

Board of Directors of the CSAA.

4. To issue an updated membership list of this Association annually.
5. To prepare and issue to members necessary forms and other supplies.
6. To receive and check all reports from members.
7. To pass upon eligibility of all students whose activities fall within the scope of the authority of this Association.
8. To form a committee to investigate all alleged violations of the rules of this Association which come to his attention and recommend penalties for violations.
9. To review all controversies between member schools and render decisions subject to the approval of the Athletic Committee in case of appeal.
10. To approve all tournament schedules and to have general supervision over such tournaments under the rules and regulations of this Association.
11. To work with the Athletic Committee in developing and implementing a plan leading to league realignment and reorganization every two years with a championship format for each sanctioned sport.

#### **ARTICLE 7.0 – MEETINGS**

**7.1** The CSAA shall meet as needed to conduct business in the fall, winter, and spring. The Athletic Committee in conjunction with the Executive Director shall prepare the agenda. Representation at the meeting shall be the administrator, athletic director, or their appointed representative. Each school shall have one vote. There shall be no voting by proxy at this meeting. Agenda items receiving a majority of votes taken by the CSAA members shall not determine policy or actions but will direct the matter to the NCSAA Athletic Committee that will make the final decision on any matter brought by all members.

**7.2** The Athletic Committee shall meet as necessary to consider undue hardship appeals and other business as may be necessary. The Executive Director may call meetings as needed. Unless otherwise directed by the CSAA Board of Directors the Athletic Committee working with the Executive Director shall make all decisions pertinent to Association sponsored athletics.

#### **ARTICLE 8.0 – DUES**

**8.1** The amount of annual dues and related fees shall be determined by the CSAA Board of Directors. Annual dues for continuing membership are due by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Fees will be set on or before July 1, of each year.

**8.2** Any member administrator who fails to pay his annual dues before September 30, may be dropped from membership and cannot participate in CSAA sponsored athletic events until the dues are paid and the published late fee paid. Renewal of membership shall not be without additional penalty if the school of which he is the administrator has violated any of the provisions of these by-laws during the lapse of his membership. For purpose of this Association, the membership of the administrator and the school are synonymous.

## **ARTICLE 9.0 – AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

**9.1** The term administrator as used in these by-laws refers to the chief executive officer of the school, the one who signs the membership renewal application, regardless of the title. He is held responsible by this Association for the enforcement of its rules and regulations in his school.

**9.2** All funds received from the sale of tickets to any regular season athletic event shall go to the host school.

CSAA Daily Gate fees for all State Tournaments shall be: \$10.00 Family, \$5.00 Adult, and \$3.00 Student.

**9.3** Disbursements of funds derived from hosting Association sponsored championship events shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director or his designee. Trophies, awards, and game officials constitute legitimate expense. Funds that remain after all expenses shall be placed in the CSAA account. CSAA will keep monies derived from the sale of tournament paraphernalia (shirts, programs, etc.) Host school will keep concession. The host school shall be responsible for submitting a Financial Summary Form and proceeds to the CSAA office within 14 days of the event.

**9.4** The administrator shall sign all eligibility lists and correspondence concerning eligibility and be responsible for their accuracy, regardless of who compiles the information. The assistant administrator or other designee of the administrator may sign eligibility lists or correspondence; however it will be interpreted by the Executive Director or his assistant that the administrator is aware and responsible for such representation by others who sign in his behalf.

**9.5** It shall be the goal of CSAA, the Executive Director, and the Athletic Committee to pursue strategies that solve and prevent problems. Member schools are expected to be proactive in educating their coaches, fans, parents, students, players, and faculty in good sportsmanship behaviors. Removing a team from a contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating will be considered gross unsportsmanlike conduct.

**9.6** Unchristian, adverse, untruthful, or inappropriate remarks made through standard media sources including social media by any person(s) representing an CSAA member school that is known by any member school must be reported to the CSAA office. It shall be the responsibility of the school administrator of the offending school to address and correct the problem to the satisfaction of the Executive Director.

**9.7** All phases of interscholastic competition shall be under the administrator's careful supervision as he is responsible to see that the testimony of his school and CSAA is prioritized at all times.

**9.8** Recruiting and scholarship of student athletes shall be considered a violation of the spirit and philosophy of the rules and regulations of the CSAA. Each member administrator shall be held accountable for recruiting infractions by any member of his faculty or athletic support group. **Excepting transfer students (see rule 14.21 for definition)** this does not hinder any

athlete from having financial assistance which is a normal policy of the school and offered in like manner to all other needy or qualifying students.

## **ARTICLE 10.0 – ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOLS**

**10.1** A high school may be a four-year high school, or a six-year junior-senior high school. A junior high school may be a two-year junior high school (seventh and eighth grades), a three-year junior high school (seventh, eighth, and ninth grades). However, for CSAA competition purposes junior high (frequently called “junior varsity”) consist of grades seven, eight, and nine; senior high (varsity) consist of grades ten, eleven, and twelve. Students in grades seven, eight, and nine, may compete in varsity play; however, students in grades ten, eleven, and twelve may not compete on junior high teams. Sixth graders may compete on the junior high level only, regardless of the sport. Junior high teams may not compete in varsity league or varsity post-season play. Teams having at the least one varsity level player (tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade) must compete on the varsity level only.

## **ARTICLE 11.0 – CONTRACTS**

**11.1** Contracts are recommended, but not required, for all interscholastic athletic contests between schools whose administrators are members of this Association. Mutual consent of both parties is required to cancel a contract. If there is no agreement, the school canceling the game will forfeit the event and pay the other school \$100 plus expenses, and will not be eligible for any post-season play or any other CSAA sanctioned competitions until the fine is paid. An appeal can be brought to the Executive Director and Athletic Committee within three days following the scheduled game. The decision of the Executive Director and Athletic Committee is final. (Schools choosing not to use contracts limit the appeals process by not having documentation available to settle disputes).

**11.2** When a member school is suspended from athletic play all contracts which he has signed shall be null and void. However, other schools who are parties to contracts with him may hold the dates for games contracted open and renew the contracts when the suspended school has been re-instated. No game played with a suspended school shall count in a school's win-loss record and may result in sanctions against the member school.

**11.3** Details of contracts must be specific. Definite dates, sites, financial arrangements, arrangements regarding the selection of officials and other items of interest to both parties should be specified. Indefinite terms, such as "corresponding dates" are not binding on either party.

**11.4** Playing schedules shall act as an agreement between schools.

## ARTICLE 12.0 – OFFICIALS

**12.1** Officials used in games sanctioned by the CSAA must be a member of NCHSAA officials' organization and may not have any personal connections with either team. No parent, near relative, or near friends may be engaged by the home team as officials. The arranging for approved officials for each contest is the responsibility of the home team. Officials shall be contracted using the following guideline:

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Preferred</b>	<b>Minimum</b>
*Volleyball (Jr. High/Varsity)	2	1
Junior High Basketball (Boys and Girls)	2 or 3	2
Varsity Basketball (Boys and Girls)	3	2
Baseball and/or Softball	3	2

\* Schools must request two volleyball officials and **three basketball officials for varsity play.**

**12.2** The arranging of officials for CSAA sponsored championships and all-star contests shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director in consultation with the Athletic Committee. Participating schools will be assessed a fee to cover the costs in the event that gate receipts do not cover costs incurred.

**12.3** NFHS rules shall be the rulebook of the CSAA. CSAA will also honor NCHSAA guidelines. Unless spelled out in the CSAA manual.

## ARTICLE 13.0 – TEAM ELIGIBILITY LISTS AND REPORTS

**13.1** It shall be the duty of each member administrator to file annually with the Executive Director information concerning the status of each prospective athlete. The information shall be furnished on a form prepared by this Association. Each prospective athlete must be in good standing with their school. No school may use an athlete that is not enrolled in their school.

**13.2** All requirements as to forms and eligibility apply to girls as well as boys.

**13.3** A student/athlete is considered a participant if his/her name appear on a game roster, score book, or other documentation indicating that he/she is a member of the team.

**13.4** Additions to the original eligibility list submitted to the Executive Director must be approved by the Executive Director or his designee before eligibility is declared. Failure shall result in more stringent penalties not to exceed suspension of the school and administrator from the Association. Names may not be added after the published date for each sport.

## **ARTICLE 14.0 – ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES**

**14.1** A bona-fide student is one who is regularly enrolled, taking a minimum class load that includes the core four subjects (Mathematics, Social Studies, English, and Science), and is in regular attendance - who meets, in addition, the requirements as set forth in other sections of this article. In order to represent a school in any branch of athletics or academic activities, a student must be a bona-fide student of that school.

**14.2** All students that participate for member schools must be an undergraduate.

**14.3** Students enrolled in the home school member CSAA School are eligible for CSAA sanctioned athletic competition.

**14.4** Any student that becomes nineteen years of age on or after September 1 may participate in interscholastic activities during the school year so far as age is concerned. Any student who becomes nineteen years of age on or before August 1 shall be ineligible for further participation. For junior high school age limit, substitute 16 for 19 years of age.

**14.5** When no birth certificate is available, as evidenced by a statement from the authorities of the state in which he/she was born that there is no record of the date of his/her birth on file, age shall be established by:

1. Attending physician's affidavit properly notarized.
2. Submission to the Executive Director of original school records, which records shall be of long standing and accompanied by such affidavits as, may be required.
3. Other old records sufficient for the purpose of establishing date of birth.
4. And, if applicable a valid driver's license.

**14.6** The Executive Director may extend the time for filing complete information for establishing date of birth, when in his judgment such extension is justified; and provided, the administrator submitting the information shall be held strictly accountable for the accuracy of the date of birth given as it may affect his/her eligibility because of age.

**14.7 Sixth graders may compete as junior high students only. Under no circumstance may they compete on the varsity level for any sport.**

**14.8** A student must pass three full unit subjects per semester. Subjects passed must include three of the core-four subjects (Mathematics, Social Studies, English, and Science)

**14.9** To be eligible during any subsequent grading period, he must have a passing grade in each of three full unit subjects (Three of the subjects must be a part of the core-four requirement) for the grading period just closed. Two (F's) in core course makes student ineligible until reaching passing grade.

**14.10** It shall be the duty of the administrator to have each athletic participant's record checked at the end of each semester and declare him eligible or ineligible for the following semester upon the basis of the record as originally reported by the student's teachers.

**14.11** A student participant must maintain a conduct record satisfactory to his/her administrator and in accordance with the standards of the CSAA at all times. A student who is ineligible at the time of transfer, because of disciplinary problems or an unsatisfactory conduct record shall not be considered for eligibility at the school to which he transfers until he has been in that school one full marking period not less than six weeks or more than nine weeks.

**14.12** However, if the school administrator believes an undue hardship exists that requires further consideration the CSAA Executive Director will hear an appeal and render a decision within seven days.

**14.13** No student who is fifteen years of age, and entering the seventh grade for the first time, may represent his school in junior high sports.

**14.14** A student must reside with his parents, or with the same one parent or other designated guardian with whom he has continuously resided for a full calendar year in his school community. However, circumstances may exist that would allow the Executive Director to waive this requirement. Divorce, separation, or death of one or more parents or other reasons ruled to not be for the purpose of gaining an athletic advantage would be acceptable reasons. However, this residence requirement is in effect until an appropriate appeal is filed and decision rendered by the Executive Director.

**14.15** The fact that guardianship papers have been issued, placing a student under the control of a person or persons other than his parents, does not establish eligibility. Residence with and support by any individual or individuals for a period of one calendar year does establish the residence of the individual or individuals as the residence of the student. However, this stipulation can be waived under the same circumstances as stated in Article 14.16.

**14.16** A student who moves into a school community with his parents, or with the same one parent or individual with whom he has been living continuously for one year, shall be eligible the following week so far as residence is concerned.

**14.17** Exception to the Residence Rule: A SENIOR may continue to represent the school which he attended a full year as a junior under the following conditions:

1. His parents move their residence during the senior year.
2. His parents move their residence during the summer preceding his senior year, provided they were residents of the school community at the end of the previous year and he was living with them.
3. He is receiving no compensation to play for his school, such as free room and board, etc.

**14.18** A transfer student may represent the school to which he transfers 14 school days following the date of his entry into that school, provided his transfer has been recorded by the Executive Director and the administrator so informed.

**14.19** A student who transfers his attendance from one school to another school who has been reported to this Association on a team eligibility list during the current or previous school year shall be ineligible to represent the new school he is attending until he has been in attendance 30 days. This rule shall not apply if the change of attendance from one school to another is accompanied by corresponding change in residence as outlined in Article 14.16 and 14.17. However, it must be determined that a bona-fide change of residence occurred without intent of gaining athletic privileges. Families may not maintain the previous residence as a means of utilizing a loophole. A bona fide change of residence requires at the minimum the movement of furniture and completely vacating the previous residence by all family members.

**14.20** A student who changes residence from the home of one parent to that of another parent but within the same community shall be eligible to continue to represent the school which he previously represented, but shall not be eligible to represent a different school because of the change of residence.

**14.21** A student, eligible at the beginning of the school year, who is ineligible at the time of transfer according to the records of the school from which he transfers shall be ineligible in the school to which he transfers until he has been in that school grading period. He must not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletic competition until the record has been filed and approved by the Executive Director and the administrator so informed.

**14.22** Any junior high school student who becomes sixteen years of age on or after September 1<sup>st</sup> may participate in junior high school interscholastic athletics during the entire school year, but any student who becomes sixteen years of age on or before August 31, shall be ineligible for further participation in junior high school.

**14.23** Once a student has graduated, completed subjects for graduation, or ceased to be a full time student – taking a minimum of four credits – he/she has no more athletic eligibility.

**14.24** Parental Consent: Each player shall have a statement of parental consent on file in the school office each year before participation in any interscholastic athletic event.

**14.25** Health and Physical Form: Each player must secure each school year and file in the school office a health and physical form prior to the beginning of practice to the effect that he is physically fit for interscholastic athletic competition.

**14.34.1** While only one certificate is required each school year, additional examinations should be required by the administrator and/or coach for their own protection, as well as that of the student, immediately upon detection of the slightest indication of undue fatigue or other ill effects during competition.

**14.35** Ineligible Participant: A student who participates in interscholastic athletic competition after being ruled ineligible to participate shall be subject to the following penalty:

1) If he is a senior he shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year;

2) If he is not a senior he shall be ineligible for the remainder of that sport's season and its corresponding season for the following school year.

**14.36 Willful Violations:** A school that knowingly and willfully violates the eligibility provisions of these by-laws shall be subject to sanctions deemed appropriate by the CSAA Athletic Committee, not to exceed permanent loss of athletic privileges.

**14.37 National Federation rules governing unsportsmanlike conduct as well as rules adopted by the CSAA are in force.** CSAA requires self-reporting of misconduct by coaches and players that require certain penalties. These rules are reviewed and published annually.

**14.38 Ineligible Student at Game:** An ineligible student shall not be allowed on the player's bench, or on the field of play, in athletic uniform during an athletic contest.

**14.39 Any school which is determined to have played an ineligible player as set forth in these rules shall:**

1. Forfeit all games played against CSAA member teams in which the ineligible student played.
2. Return any awards received in the event the violation is discovered after tournament play is concluded, so long as such violation(s) is/are reported prior to conclusion of that sport in the next year.

## **Coaches ~ Code of Ethics**

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student-athlete should be treated as though he or she was the coaches' own and his or her welfare shall be uppermost at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the CSAA Board of Directors, *and the Carolina State Athletic Association*.

**The coach** shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**The coach** must constantly uphold and honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with student-athlete, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**The coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize their use.

**The coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

**The coach** shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**The coach** shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

**The coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

## **CSAA Rules of Conduct for Athletic Events**

1. Each school shall respect the posted and stated rules of his opponent when visiting.
2. The rules governing each event shall be followed and respected at all times. With little exception, the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations shall be followed.
3. CSAA regulations regarding game officials shall be followed to insure compliance with Federation and CSAA rules. This includes the clock operator.
4. Coaches must comply with the "Code of Ethics" as adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
5. Administrators, faculty, staff, parents, or other fans must take great care not to indulge in conduct that can conceivably incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical and cannot be tolerated by CSAA. Such problems will be solved between member schools in conjunction with the CSAA office and the Athletic Committee.
6. All playing facilities shall meet NFSHS minimum requirements.

## **The Case for Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity in High School Athletics**

*“Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities that are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all athletic disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in athletics, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.”*

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### **Who Is Responsible?**

Ten target groups have been identified within the high school communities that are responsible for conducting themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Following are expectations of these groups:

### **Expectations of COACHES, DIRECTORS, AND SPONSORS**

- Always set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship and ethics No. 1 priority.
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the event and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Treat opposing coaches, directors, participants and fans with respect. Shake hands with officials, opposing coach in public.
- Develop and enforce penalties for participants who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

### **Expectations of STUDENT PARTICIPANTS**

- Treat teammates with respect.
- Treat opponents with respect: shake hands prior to and after contests.
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the contest and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Cooperate with officials, coaches, directors and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing school and community; display positive public action at all times.
- Live up to a high standard of sportsmanship established by coach or director.

### **Expectations of PARENTS, STUDENTS AND OTHER FANS**

- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school athletics, not a license to verbally assault others or to be generally obnoxious.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- Respect fans, coaches, directors and participants
- BE A FAN ... NOT A FANATIC

### **Expectations of SPIRIT GROUPS**

- Stimulate desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents.
- Treat opposing spirit groups and fans with respect.
- Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing field or court.
- Know rules and strategies of the contest in order to cheer at proper times.
- Maintain enthusiasm and composure, serving as a role model.

### **Expectations of MEDIA**

- Promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- Report acts of sportsmanlike behavior without giving undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Refrain from making negative comments toward participants, coaches, officials or judges.
- Recognize efforts of all who participate in the contest.
- Report facts without demonstrating partiality to any team or school.

### **Expectations of CONTEST OFFICIALS**

- Accept role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over-officiating are not acceptable.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling contest from start to finish.
- Know rules thoroughly and abide by established Code of Ethics.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before a contest.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.

### **Expectations of SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school, the league, conference and state.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Support participants, coaches and directors, and fans and spectators who teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible.

### **Expectations of STATE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE**

- Provide leadership and information to member schools.
- Act as a liaison to other educational associations within the state.
- Use statewide visibility to actively promote good sportsmanship.
- Interact with leaders of non-school activity programs to enhance good sportsmanship.
- Acknowledge commendable displays of good sportsmanship.

### **Expectations of BOARDS**

- Adopt policies that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.
- Serve as a positive role model and expect the same for parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel.
- Support participants, coaches, directors, school administrators and fans who display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize the value of school athletics as a vital part of education.
- Attend and enjoy school athletic events.

### **Expectations of PUBLIC-ADDRESS ANNOUNCERS**

- Treat visiting and home teams comparably.
- Consistently display neutrality during contest.
- Offer no personal comments or criticism of players, officials or coaches.

### **Suggestions for TICKET WINDOW-ADMISSION GATEDISPLAY**

- In the game or in the stands, BE A GOOD SPORT.
- At today's contest, BE A FAN, NOT A FANATIC.
- Be a good audience member.

### **ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Players shaking hands with opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in positive school yells in positive manner.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches, players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.
- During the National Anthem, students, participants and fans should remove any hats, face the flag, not talk, place right hand on the heart, and remain still until the end of the anthem.

- During the National Anthem, when singing, follow the music and lyrics precisely.

### **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**

- Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free throw attempt.
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booming or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming losses on contest officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game or activity.
- Doing own yells instead of following lead of cheerleaders.

### **WAYS TO PROMOTE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

- Develop code of conduct and enforce it.
- Develop sportsmanship awards program and honor those individuals who exhibit outstanding sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.
- Hold preseason meeting and assemblies before contest to encourage students to exhibit proper conduct.
- Work with local radio and television stations to air public-service announcements on sportsmanship.
- Display message on good sportsmanship throughout school hallways and in gymnasium or on playing field.
- Have coaches, players and administrators speak to local clubs and organizations to stress need for good sportsmanship in the community.
- Conduct clinics for parents and others to discuss playing and contest rules, ethics and good sportsmanship.
- Formulate a committee to work toward improvement of conduct at contest.