

RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR GAME MANAGEMENT
(Updated 7/1/06)

Believing that working toward prevention is better than seeking a cure, the CIF offers the following guidelines to aid in planning crowd control strategy which will help ensure the safety of contestants and fans. Good sportsmanship must become a common goal.

1. Schools should understand the true purposes of athletic contests and educate their parents to that purpose. Athletic contests are not to become rivalries to the point of losing the primary objective of the game.
 - a. Provide worthwhile educational experiences for all students, players, and spectators.
 - b. Provide enjoyable recreation regardless of whether the game is won or lost.
2. A full knowledge of each game's rules applying to sportsmanship which have their purpose to enhance the educational values of interscholastic athletics should be taught. How these are taught will depend upon the innovation of the school personnel. Schools might be wise to insert in their eligibility rules some concern over the misconduct of players.
3. Copies of game rules pertaining to sportsmanship should be made available to fans. These rules could be printed in the game programs along with the sport's recent rule changes. In the buildings where contests are being held, bulletin boards and other means of conveying the information can be used to inform the public.
4. Leadership must be provided by the high school faculty with the superintendent or principal leading the way and delegating authority.
5. Supervisory/security personnel including appropriate use of law enforcement stationed at strategic points and alerted to potential problems will help prevent conflicts.
6. All schools should inform their personnel involved in any contest that there is a specific role for the visiting participants to play as well as the host school. Amenities and courtesies should be displayed and extended to the visiting organizations without flaunting of rivalries.
7. Spectators should not be allowed to enter or remain in the area where a contest is being held if they are observed in the possession of alcohol or other mood altering substances or are believed to be under the influence of these substances.
8. In the event a spectator assaults an official or any individual at an interscholastic association contest, the host school shall take all appropriate action to maintain order, and in the event a disruption of order occurs, immediately restore peace. Schools should work together and be alert to potential dangers in their own communities and when they are visiting other communities.

COACHING STAFF

Coaches bear the greatest burden of responsibility for sportsmanship. Their influence upon the attitudes and behavior of the players, the student body, and the community is unequalled. In order for good sportsmanship to become a reality, it is essential that coaches subscribe to the values of sportsmanship and teach its principles through word and deed. Specifically, it is recommended coaches:

1. Always set a good example for others to follow.
2. Instruct the players about their sportsmanship responsibilities.
3. Must control their players. There will be consequences for those players displaying unsportsmanlike conduct.
4. Be a good host to opponents; treat them as guests.
5. Respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules.
6. Publicly display respect and sportsmanship to officials before, during, and after the contest.
7. Take all appropriate steps to be knowledgeable of rules and interpretations.

PLAYERS

The responsibility of the players for sportsmanship is extremely important. Because players are admired and respected, they exert a significant influence over the actions and behavior of the spectators. Desirable behavior for players would be as follows:

1. Treat opponents with respect that is due them as guests and fellow human beings.
2. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them.
3. Respect the officials' judgment and interpretations of the rules. Never argue or make gestures indicting dislike for a decision.
4. CIF Constitution Bylaw 522 addresses consequences for inappropriate behavior.

CHEERLEADERS AND OTHER SPIRIT GROUPS

Cheerleaders must play a vital role in promoting a positive attitude.

1. Stimulate and control crowd response.
2. Choose the right cheers at the right time.
3. Be certain that words used in a cheer do not inflame the audience.
4. Use gestures that are synchronized, pleasing to watch, and easy to follow.
5. Divert the crowd's attention by starting a popular yell if booing develops.
6. Cheer for your team.

STUDENTS

Students' habits and reactions as spectators determine the quality of sportsmanship which reflects upon the reputation of the school. Profane and abusive language and obnoxious behavior have no place at an athletic contest.

1. Know and demonstrate good sportsmanship.
2. Respect and cooperate with the cheerleaders.
3. Respect the property of the school and the authority of the school officials.
4. Show respect for an injured player.
5. Show positive support at all times.
6. Cheer for your team.

SPECTATORS

Fan behavior whether at home or away at athletic contests reflects on the entire community. Home fans should treat visitors with respect. Similarly, visiting fans should treat their hosts—both individuals and property—with the proper appreciation.

1. Know and demonstrate good sportsmanship.
2. Be positive. Cheer for your team rather than against the opposition.
3. Refrain from booing and name calling.
4. Respect the official's judgment and interpretation of rules.
5. Exhibit respect for visiting and home coaches.

POLICE, SECURITY, AND/OR STAFF SUPERVISORS

1. Check with the game site administrator/manager prior to the contest time for assignments.
2. Arrive on time.
3. Discourage small groups from gathering near entrances and exits.
4. Keep playing area clear of spectators before, during, and after contest.
5. Survey the area after the contest.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

1. Arrange for a supervision and crowd control meeting before each season of sport with inclusion of appropriate personnel to ensure a safe, orderly, enjoyable event. Distribute game management plan and assignments to appropriate personnel and participants before the contest.
2. Maintain awareness of events which might require additional supervision.
3. Check the physical facility to see that it is in the best possible condition to accommodate crowds.
4. Provide first-aid capability, certified trainers, and/or medical doctor availability as needed.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/GAME ADMINISTRATOR

1. Review game management responsibilities.
2. Explore crowd control ideas with other schools.
3. Discuss crowd control with civic and/or booster organizations.
4. Schedule pre-season school meetings/assemblies with students to review contest rules, good sportsmanship, and spectator behavior.
5. Review with security personnel their assignments prior to each contest.
6. Review assignments with staff prior to each contest.
7. Assure that officials and their dressing area are taken care of in the proper manner.
8. Meet with officials and identify administrative contact.
9. Announce that no spectator is allowed on area of competition during a contest.
10. Assure that security personnel are properly supervised.
11. Provide supervision after the contest to ensure a safe environment.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO GAME OFFICIALS

Providing for the game official—it is recommended that:

1. The host school have available someone who will handle the needs of the officials assigned to the contest. This should include, but not be limited to, facility orientation, dressing facility, and parking. School game management representative meet with the officials prior to the contest for introductions and discussion of potential situations.
2. The officials dressing facilities be open at half-time and immediately after the contest.
3. At the completion of the contest, the officials' dressing facilities remain secured for 30 minutes in football and 20 minutes in all other sports. Coaches and other school personnel should not enter an officials' dressing area for the purpose of complaints.
4. Coaches publicly display respect and sportsmanship before, during, and after a contest.
5. Coaches and school personnel not make public statements to the news media criticizing officials.
6. School personnel be alert to potential problem situations and, when necessary, provide security for officials to and from their dressing facilities and to the parking area after the contest
7. Athletic administrators convey to their coaching staff that if there is a problem regarding the officiating, it should be referred first to the principal or designee who will be responsible for filing the proper complaint according to section guidelines.
8. School staff will assure that officials are able to proceed to dressing facilities after the contests without confrontation.