Dealing with Fans

This memo provides guidelines for handling unruly spectator behavior. There have been situations where the officials have made a bad situation worse by engaging in conversation with these unruly spectators.

Officials assigned to officiate a contest are responsible for the conduct of the contest. Controlling crowds and crowd reactions are not within the officials' province. That responsibility falls to game administrators. If spectators begin to interfere with the conduct of a contest; cause an official to become distracted through continual and unrelenting verbal abuse; or berate players, coaches, or officials in an unacceptable or vulgar manner, officials should stop the action, report the spectator(s) to the home school administration or the nearest uniformed security officer and ask that they be restrained or removed from the facility. If the home school administration or uniformed security is unwilling or unable to comply and the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point. If no game administrator is present, as is often the case at sub-varsity contests, officials may have to call on coaches or other school personnel to remove an unruly spectator.

Officials should never engage directly with spectators. Under no circumstance should an official ever confront, challenge, rebuke, or threaten a spectator, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during, or after a contest.

Officials should respond to threats and vulgarity from spectators by using the same good judgment they utilize when ruling on a key play. Locate the game administrator, uniformed security personnel, coach, or other school personnel and request that the unruly spectator be removed. Addressing the spectator directly is a no-win situation and often serves to make a bad situation worse.

In summary, officials should not deal directly with spectators, but may ask game management to deal with disruptive spectators. The game may be temporarily halted until the situation is resolved, but terminating a game because of problems with spectators must be an absolute last resort. Following the ejection of a spectator, please file an incident report with CHSAA.

REPORTING PLAYER/COACH EJECTIONS

The CHSAA assesses penalties and maintains a five-year file on each school related to all aspects of conduct penalties and sportsmanship related incidents. This is done with a goal of supporting officials and maintaining the educational atmosphere of our activities.

Because of penalties involved, 100 percent reporting by officials is crucial. The following must be reported in writing:

- Player ejections
- Coach ejections
- Coach conduct penalties that do not lead to ejections; e.g., technical fouls, etc.

- Game management and facility problems that detract from the proper administration of the game.
- A noteworthy instance of outstanding positive sportsmanship by players, coaches, crowds.
- **Because of the severe penalties involved, be sure that the offense warrants the penalty. NEVER contact a coach or the CHSAA following the game to reverse your decision.**

PROCEDURES

In an effort to provide proper accountability with the administration of CHSAA member schools and their support for exemplary sportsmanship, officials are to follow these procedures when it becomes necessary to eject a participant or member of the coaching staff from a meet. Needless to say, we urge preventative measures in advance that these will be kept at a minimum.

PLAYER: (Please include ALL requested information)

If it becomes necessary for an official to eject a player from a high school meet, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. Indicate to the player he/she is being ejected from the meet.
2. Notify the official scorekeeper of the game of the ejection and have a notation placed in the record (scorebook) book.
3. Notify the coach of the ejection and the reason for the ejection.
4. Notify the school administrator at the site.
5. Notify the CHSAA immediately, in writing (include the following):
   a. The name of the schools competing and level of competition
   b. The site and date of the meet
   c. The name of the player ejected
   d. The school he/she represents
   e. The reason for the ejection
   f. Notify CHSAA office at 8 am the next business day: **303-344-5050 or e-mail Lane at lververs@chsaa.org.**
6. Call the school Athletic Director on the next school day.

Do not attempt to interpret the CHSAA regulations to the coach or coaches involved.

COACH: (Please include ALL requested information)

If it becomes necessary for an official to eject a coach from a high school contest, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. Notify the coach of his/her ejection and ask that he/she remove themselves from the gym area immediately.
2. Notify the CHSAA immediately, in writing (include the following information):
   a. The name of the schools competing and level of competition
   b. The site and date of the game
   c. The name of the coach ejected
   d. The school he/she represents
   e. The reason for the ejection
   f. Notify CHSAA office at 8 am the next business day: **303-344-5050 or e-mail Lane at lververs@chsaa.org.**
3. If the head coach is ejected, ask the administrator in charge to identify the coach who is now in charge. **A game shall be forfeited if there is not a certified person available to serve as coach.**

Do not attempt to interpret the CHSAA policy pertaining to the ejection of coaches.

Once your immediate information is received by the CHSAA, the office will work with school administration on the prescribed corrective action with player(s) and/or member(s) of the coaching staff. 7/12/21