

RespectSM THE GAME



*Doug Ute, Executive Director
Ohio High School Athletic Assn
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SPORTING EVENT BEHAVIOR

**RespectSM
THE
GAME**

**Efforts to enhance sporting
event environments**

“It’s OUR Game!”

**It is about the experience for
ALL STUDENTS**

Ohio Enhances Efforts to Create Better Contest Environments



Let's continue to work together to create better contest environments for our student-athletes, officials, coaches and fans. The OHSAA is working hard to develop tools that will assist in creating better contest environments. These tools include videos, resources and recommendations to assist administrators on various areas of concern”

Setting Expectations for Parents

Engaging Student Fans

Protecting Officials

Creating a Positive School Environment

Supporting Coaches & Student-Athletes

CONTEST ENVIRONMENTS



We are Creating TOOLS That will Help You!



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Crowd Engagement Tip: Check out this video from an athletic administrator at Logan (Ohio) High School, explaining how to teach positive and appropriate fan cheers to students before game days: [Coach Beyond: Promoting Positive Fan Engagement](#). See the Coach Beyond YouTube channel for more fan behavior videos and webinars.

Nominate Innovative Athletic Administrators: Reach out for innovative ideas from athletic administrators in your state and record videos to post on state website. Have a (Fall/Winter/Spring) Sport Officials Appreciation Week.

Officials Appreciation Week: Ask athletic administrators to read a provided [script](#) before all games during that week as well as use your social media accounts to show your appreciation. And ask them to tag “@OHSAASports” on X to show what their school is doing to show officials love.

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Supporting COACHES and Student-Athletes

Meet with all coaches prior to the season and remind them of the sportsmanship expectations and consequences and to set a good example for members of the team and fans to follow (this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement).

Remind coaches that winning is their goal, but the purpose of interscholastic athletics participation is the human growth and development of their athletes so that they can develop skills they can use throughout their lives.

Remind coaches to respect the judgement of contest officials and display no behavior that could incite fans.

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Supporting COACHES and Student-Athletes

Require coaches to instruct members of the team on their responsibilities to display proper sportsmanship and to develop consequences for those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

Remind coaches to instruct members of the team on their responsibilities to display proper sportsmanship and to develop consequences for those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

Remind coaches to treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect and to shake hands with officials and opposing coaches in public.

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Supporting COACHES and Student-Athletes

Consider having coaches sign a “contract” to confirm their obligation to promote and display good sportsmanship.

Consider requiring coaches to take the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online sportsmanship course.

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Supporting COACHES and Student-Athletes

Meet with the visiting team athletic administrator and/or coaches upon arrival to the contest/event to provide reminders, provide them with the communications plan and discuss any special needs.

Ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the respective team and/or coaches' locker rooms.

Hang posters in locker rooms and/or coaches' offices reviewing and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

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Supporting Coaches and STUDENT-ATHLETES

Conduct a preseason meeting with student-athletes (and include parents) and review sportsmanship expectations and consequences (this is an OHSA Bylaw requirement).

Remind student-athletes of their responsibilities to display proper sportsmanship.

Remind student-athletes that winning is their goal, but the purpose of interscholastic athletics participation is the human growth and development of the participants so that skills can be developed that they can use throughout their lives.

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Supporting Coaches and STUDENT-ATHLETES

Remind student-athletes to respect the judgement of contest officials and display no behavior that could incite fans.

Remind student-athletes to treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect.

Ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the respective participants' locker rooms.

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Supporting Coaches and STUDENT-ATHLETES

Hang posters in locker rooms reviewing and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

Consider having student-athletes sign a “contract” to confirm their obligation to promote and display good sportsmanship.

Consider requiring student-athletes to take the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online sportsmanship course.

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Engaging with Student Fans

Meet with leaders of your student spirit groups and remind them of sportsmanship expectations and consequences.

Develop plans for students to read behavior expectations live on the P.A. system before a contest. Consider using the theme “It’s OUR Game!” to emphasize that participants are playing for each other, not the adults in the stands.

Appoint leaders of the student fan section and emphasize that there shall be no profanity, no singling out anyone from the opposing team and cheers shall be for your school and not against the opponent.

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Engaging with Student Fans

Develop a rewards system for students and/or student groups that display exemplary behavior.

Provide written handouts reviewing and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

Hang posters reviewing and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

Consider requiring student to take the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online sportsmanship course.

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Setting Expectations for Parents

Conduct a preseason meeting with parents (and include student-athletes) and review sportsmanship expectations and consequences (*this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement*).

Ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the playing field/court (*this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement*).

Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

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Setting Expectations for Parents

Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

Hang posters reviewing and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.

Consider having parents sign a “contract” to confirm their obligation to promote and display good sportsmanship.

Consider requiring parents to take the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online sportsmanship course.

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Protecting Officials

Make plans to ensure that contest officials are safe and secure before, during and after your contests/events (this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement).

Make plans to ensure that officials are safe and secure in your parking areas (this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement).

Contact the contest officials prior to the contest/event to review policies and procedures and any special needs.

Hire personnel to meet contest officials upon their arrival, to serve as their hosts and provide security before, during and after each contest/event.

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Protecting Officials

Designate close, reserved parking for officials to help ensure they are safe upon arrival and departure.

Plan for the personal needs of contest officials assigned to your contests/events (towels, soap, beverages, food, etc.).

Meet with the assigned officials host and uniformed security personnel upon arrival to the contest/event to provide reminders, provide them with the communications plan and discuss any special needs.

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Protecting Officials

Meet with the contest officials upon arrival to the contest/event to provide reminders, provide them with the communications plan and discuss any special needs.

Ensure that the locker room for contest officials are safe and secure and that access is limited to only those who should be within said room.

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Creating a Positive School Environment

Encourage your board of education to adopt policies that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity; to attend and enjoy contests and events and serve as a positive role model, and support participants, coaches, school administrators and fans who display good sportsmanship.

Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school community.

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Creating a Positive School Environment

Appoint a site manager for every contest, review duties and expectations (provide training if needed) and ensure administrators, coach and site managers know your school's emergency action plan (this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement). Make any adjustments to the latter according to the contest's/event's specific needs.

Hire uniformed personnel to help ensure that the visiting team(s) and their fans and contest officials are safe and secure in your parking areas (this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement).

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Creating a Positive School Environment

Make plans to ensure that the visiting team(s) and their fans and contest officials are safe and secure in your parking areas (this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement).

Remove any individual(s) who disrupts the contest or event (this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement).

Ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the playing field/court (this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement).

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Creating a Positive School Environment

Meet with the assigned officials host and uniformed security personnel upon arrival to the contest/event to provide reminders, provide them with the communications plan and discuss any special needs.

Ensure that locker rooms for participants and contest officials are safe and secure and that access is limited to only those who should be within said rooms.

Develop administrative coverage assignments for your contests/events, both home and away.

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Creating a Positive School Environment

Utilize the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) *#Bench Bad Behavior* toolkit that includes several items to promote positive sporting behavior <https://benchbadbehavior.com/>.

Contact the visiting team athletic administrator and contest officials prior to the contest/event to review policies and procedures and any special needs.

Develop plans for students to read behavior expectations live on the P.A. system before a contest. Consider using the theme “It’s OUR Game!” to emphasize that participants are playing for each other, not the adults in the stands.

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Creating a Positive School Environment

Appoint leaders of student fan section, remind them of sportsmanship expectations and consequences and emphasize that there shall be no profanity, no singling out anyone from the opposing team and cheers shall be for your school and not against the opponent.

Meet with your cheerleaders and band leaders and remind them of sportsmanship expectations and consequences.

Stand in front of/beside your student fan section to serve as a deterrent for unsporting behavior.

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Creating a Positive School Environment

Meet with the visiting team athletic administrator and/or coaches upon arrival to the contest/event to provide reminders, provide them with the communications plan and discuss any special needs.

Meet with the contest officials upon arrival to the contest/event to provide reminders, provide them with the communications plan and discuss any special needs.

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Creating a Positive School Environment

Review guidelines and expectations with your public address announcer(s) to remind them of their important role in the administration of your contests/events, your sportsmanship expectations and emergency action plan and ensure that any music played at contests and events is appropriate and in good taste.

Print sporting behavior reminders and expectations on tickets, whether digital or paper.

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CONTEST ENVIRONMENTS

As an administrator, please ask yourself the following: **“What is my school doing to create a positive game day experience/positive environment at our contests and events?”** Then follow up with . . .

- What sporting behavior expectations and consequences does my school have in place for our student body?
- What is my school doing to ensure contest officials are safe and secure before, during and after our contests?
- What process does my school have in place for teaching and promoting sporting behavior with our parents and adult fans (preseason meetings)?
- What procedure does our school follow to remind our coaches and student-athletes of their sporting behavior expectations?
- What process does our school have in place to ensure only authorized personnel are on the sidelines, in bench/team areas or in team and officials' lockerrooms?
- What process does our school have in place to remove individuals who disrupt a contest due to unsporting behavior?





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