

# SPORTSMANSHIP

*"It is the mission of the North Coast Section to provide wholesome, educational athletic activities that foster the ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. All competition and practices shall be conducted in a safe manner that assures dignity, respect and courtesy for players, coaches, officials and spectators." (Board of Managers - April 26, 1996)*

## 300H Sportsmanship

### Sportsmanship Preamble

The member schools of the North Coast Section, CIF are committed to providing a sportsmanlike environment for students, coaches, and spectators. To that end, the NCS Board of Managers has adopted sportsmanship and crowd control recommendations. Each member school is encouraged to implement these recommendations and commit to the enforcement of proper spectator behavior at all contests conducted at their home location and while visiting other contest locations.

Repeated violations of sportsmanship standards may result in loss of hosting NCS and CIF Championship events. All concerns regarding violations of sportsmanship standards should be reported to the NCS Office.

### Definition of Sportsmanship

A person who can take a loss or defeat without complaint, or victory without gloating, and who treats his/her opponents with fairness, courtesy and respect.

- a) The following are expected to be role models demonstrating sportsmanship at all times:
  - 1) Principal/administrative staff
  - 2) Athletic directors
  - 3) Coaches, players and cheerleaders
  - 4) Faculty members
  - 5) Booster club members
  - 6) Band director
- b) Coaches, players, cheerleaders, parents and spectators will respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- c) The conduct of coaches, players and cheerleaders generally sets the tone of NCS/CIF contests. They will be expected to maintain the highest level of decorum at all NCS/CIF contests.
- d) The following behavior is unacceptable at **all** NCS/CIF high school contest:
  - 1) Berating your opponent's school or mascot
  - 2) Berating, yelling, booing or chanting at opposing players or coaches before, during and after the game. Personal attacks will not be tolerated.
  - 3) Obscene cheers or gestures
  - 4) Negative signs. All signs must show only positive support. Those which direct negative comments towards opponents or are unsportsmanlike or vulgar are not permitted.
  - 5) Noisemakers (Artificial noisemakers shall not be used at any event. Artificial noisemakers are items such as, but not limited to, megaphones, air horns, bells, whistles, clickers, thunder sticks, explosive devices, tape/CD players, jars with pennies, drums, large water bottles, conch shells, plastic horns and radios.
  - 6) Laser pointers
  - 7) Complaining about officials' calls (verbal or gestures)
  - 8) Throwing objects onto the playing area before, during, or after a contest.
  - 9) Entering the playing area before and during a contest, including the awards ceremony, if applicable.
- e) The following behavior is questionable behavior which schools may want to discourage and must be closely monitored by site administration.
  - 1) Demeaning acts such as actions, or gestures (ex: turning backward during introductions, holding up newspapers)
  - 2) Doing crowd initiated yells instead of following the lead of cheerleaders
  - 3) Yells such as "Air Ball" or "You, You, You".
  - 3) Spectators attire, including shirtless with messages painted on their bare skin, should be closely monitored.
  - 4) Bringing objects, such as brooms, newspapers, etc., used to demean your opponent.
  - 5) Entering the playing area after a contest prior to team handshakes or the opponents' safe return to their team area.

- f) Student attendance is not a right, but a privilege. Site management/supervision has the right to remove any individual for not adhering to NCS and school rules/policies. (Penal Code 626.6)
- e) The following action plans are recommended:
  - 1) Meet with student leaders prior to games where student attendance is expected to exceed regular attendance to review proper behavior at all games
  - 2) A script should be provided to the announcer including:
    - \* Welcome
    - \* Sportsmanlike expectations
    - \* Acknowledgment and introduction of the game officials
 NOTE: There should be a short statement endorsing the officials as neutral persons who have been accredited by the CIF.
  - 3) Include the CIF Code of Ethics in the game programs.
  - 4) Each participating school's administration is expected to emphasize sportsmanlike behavior at all CIF contests.
    - \* This shall be directed to coaches, players, cheerleaders and spectators in the day(s) prior to the contest.
    - \* Rallies, team meetings, faculty meetings, spirit club meetings, school bulletins and P.A. announcements are all appropriate venues.
    - \* Contact the principal or administrator-in-charge of the opponent's school at least one day prior to basketball and football games and other contests as appropriate to promote practical applications of the sportsmanship and to ensure the proper environment for the contest.
  - 5) It is the responsibility of the administration of each participating school to designate an administrative representative who will:
    - \* Check in with the site manager 30 minutes prior to the game time and establish where he/she will be throughout the contest, and
    - \* Enforce the highest standards of sportsmanship with his/her own student body, and
    - \* Contact the administrative representative of the opponent's school to report any violations of sportsmanship by either school's supporters.

### **Code of Ethics**

It is the duty of all concerned with high school athletics:

- 1) To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- 2) To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
- 3) To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
- 4) To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials
- 5) To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts
- 6) To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- 7) To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- 8) To encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good-judgment by the players on a team.
- 9) To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well being of the individual players.
- 10) To remember that an athletic contest is only a game--not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, officials, fan, community, state or nation

### **Board of Managers - Policy Statement**

The Board of Managers recognizes that individual school administrators retain primary responsibility for the conduct of all interscholastic athletic activities in which NCS member schools participate. Such responsibility includes the behavior of all participants: players, coaches, representative student groups, and spectators.

The Board of Managers recognizes that each league within the Section, through the several league Boards of Managers, should provide leadership in the matter of upgrading the atmosphere in which all interscholastic athletic contests are conducted. The Board of Managers is appreciative and supportive of such leadership and the programs initiated at the league level.

As the coordinating body for all interscholastic athletic activity conducted within the Section, the Board of Managers establishes the following policy concerning sportsmanship at all athletic events among member schools.

- a) Players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that shall bring credit to themselves, their schools, communities, coaches and families. They shall refrain from all conduct that tends to degrade, bait, intimidate, or otherwise discredit their opponent, officials, or interscholastic athletics.

- b) Coaches are expected to maintain decorum consistent with the educational values of interscholastic athletics. By personal example, coaches are expected to demonstrate their awareness of these values by showing restraint and composure in the emotional climate of an athletic contest and to insist that players in their charge conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
- c) Responsible member school personnel are expected to instruct and supervise the conduct of student spirit leaders, rooting sections, bands, other student groups and coaching personnel in order to achieve an atmosphere consistent with good sportsmanship. School administrators are expected to control or cause to be controlled spectators in such a manner that all athletic contests are conducted in an atmosphere that is consistent with the educational value of interscholastic athletics. (*Board of Managers 5/1/00*)
- d) NCS leagues and schools should take necessary actions to insure that conduct, which is not in conformance with the above policy, is reviewed by schools and leagues and appropriate actions taken to insure that the ideals of good sportsmanship are fostered by NCS schools and leagues.
- e) In the case of NCS/Les Schwab Tires Championship competitions, flagrant instances of unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of players, coaches, and/or fans should be reported by the school principal (s) to the Board of Managers through the Section Commissioner, together with a description of action taken by member schools. The Section Commissioner will contact offending schools regarding the school's deportment at NCS events.
- f) The Commissioner will establish a standing committee to review sportsmanship violations at championship events.

#### **301H Code of Ethics for Athletes**

- a) Athletes are expected to show the highest standards of sportsmanship during competition.
- b) Athletes are to share in the responsibility for the conduct of their teammates and supporters of their team by controlling their behavior.
- c) An athlete must accept the decision of an official. Any questions regarding a call or calls are to be directed to the official by the coach or team captain.
- d) An athlete must maintain his/her academic performance, so that he/she may continue to participate on a team.
- e) Any complaints that the athletes have should go to the coach, athletic director and then to the principal.
- f) An athlete shall be responsible for all equipment issued to him/her and will replace or pay for it if any of it is not returned.

#### **302H Code of Ethics for Spectators**

- a) Spectators are required to maintain a high degree of sportsmanship during athletic contests.
- b) Spectators must, at all times, remain in the designated seating areas while a contest is in progress.
- c) No spectator is allowed to confront an official, coach, or player before, during or after an athletic contest.
- d) The actions of a spectator, detrimental to the playing of the game, may cause forfeiture of that contest.

#### **303H Code of Ethics for Cheering Sections**

- a) All yells must emanate from the cheerleaders. (Cheerleaders should discourage impromptu yells, cheers, and comments from individuals or minor groups).
- b) Cheerleaders should especially discourage unsportsmanlike yells.
- c) Pompon debris must be kept off the gymnasium floor it is a hazard to the player.
  - 1) The pompon girls are responsible for removing the debris from the floor.
- d) There shall be no antagonistic or deprecating yells directed at the opposing school.

#### **304H Code of Ethics for Coaches**

- a) A coach will be expected to maintain high levels of sportsmanship, thus serving as an example to be emulated by players and spectators.
- b) A coach may be held responsible for the behavior of his/her personnel. Repeated misbehavior by team personnel may be considered a reflection of the coach's inability to control them.
- c) Coaches shall acknowledge officials' primary responsibility for conduct of contests, authority to make final decisions regarding rule interpretations during a contest, and authority to discontinue a contest and award a default for harassment or other unprofessional conduct by a coach.
- d) Questions and complaints regarding the conditions and procedures of a contest shall be directed to the hosting coach prior to the contest. Questions and complaints regarding conditions or procedures that arise or change during the course of a contest shall be directed to the officials.
- e) Proper behavior for a coach would preclude:
  - 1) Disrespectfully addressing an official,
  - 2) Disrespectfully addressing or baiting an opponent,

- 3) Indicating his/her objection to an official's decision using gestures, or charging onto the playing field/court,
- 4) Doing anything that might incite undesirable crowd reactions,
- 5) Violating rules (particularly with regard to coaching decorum) listed in the official rule book of the sport in which he/she coaches.

### **305H Code of Ethics for Bands and Other Support Groups**

- a) A faculty member should supervise each performing group at every contest.
- b) Bands should play only before a game, during the time-outs, at half-time and after the game. The instruments should be used as musical instruments, not noisemakers.
- c) The band of one school should not play while the band of the other school is playing or performing.
- d) Bands should take turns performing their numbers. The host band director should contact the visiting director before the game to determine the playing order.
- e) Bands must terminate a number when a team breaks a huddle or the official indicates that play is to be resumed. This is extremely important.
- f) Bands, song girls, entertainment, etc., should never interfere with the officials, the practicing teams, or the playing of the game.

### **306H Recommended School Responsibilities Relating to Game Officials**

It is recommended that:

- a. 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 assignment, and parking.
- b. The officials dressing facilities be open at halftime and immediately after the contest.
- c. At the completion of the contest, the officials' dressing facilities remain secured for at least 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.
- d. Coaches publicly display respect and sportsmanship before, during, and after a contest.
- e. Coaches and school personnel not make public statements to the news media criticizing officials.
- f. 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.
- g. 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 forms according to section guidelines.
- h. School staff will assure that officials are able to proceed to dressing facilities after the contest without confrontation.

### **307H Ejection Policy**

- a. Coaches Review Content  
League commissioners shall have coaches review the content of the Ejection Policy for the coaches' respective sport at the end of the season meeting and make recommendations for change. The league commissioner will direct such recommendations to the NCS Sports Advisory Committee ("SAC"). The SAC will determine whether to forward recommendations to the Board of Managers for consideration.
- b. School Administration and Coaches' Responsibility  
School Administration and coaches are responsible for determining the cause of ejection for any of their coaches and players and are responsible for enforcement of the Ejection Policy. Confusion over the cause for a coaches' or player's ejection shall not be the basis for allowing a coach or student who has been ejected under an applicable rule to avoid the sanctions required by the Ejection Policy (either prohibition from participation or forfeiture should a coach or student who is in violation of the Ejection Policy coach or play in a subsequent contest).
- c. Notice  
Every player and coach must read and sign a copy of the NCS Ejection Policy rule. The copies will be maintained by each school's administration. Each school's principal must send a statement to the league office prior to the first contest of the season verifying that all players and coaches for the respective season (fall, winter, and spring) have read and signed the NCS Ejection Policy rule. Additionally, each school's principal must verify to the league that any future additions to the roster of either players or coaches will also read and sign the NCS Ejection Policy rule prior to participating in an interscholastic contest.
- d. Penalties
  1. These rules and minimum penalties are applicable to players and coaches during the time that contest officials have jurisdiction for the contest in accordance with National Federation or sport governing body rules for the respective sport.
    - a. Players

Ejection of player from a contest for unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct as defined in sport specific NCS Ejection Policy rules summaries. Penalty: The player shall be ineligible for the next contest the school actually participates (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff, etc.). A student who was ejected from his/her team's previous contest for dangerous or unsportsmanlike actions, shall not be allowed to dress in his/her team's uniform, but will remain the responsibility of school personnel.

Interpretation: The student will be held out of the school's next contest of the respective sport from which he/she was ejected even if it is the first contest of the next season.

b. Coaches

Ejection of coaches, assistant coaches and/or coaching representatives for unsportsmanlike conduct as defined in sport specific NCS Ejection Policy rules summaries.

Penalty: The coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative will immediately remove themselves from their coaching responsibilities in accordance with National Federation or sport governing rules for the respective sport. The coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative must leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from any contact, direct or indirect, with the team players and other team personnel during the remainder of the game. If there is no other coaching representative who is certified by the school in accordance to CIF bylaw 506, the game shall be terminated and declared a forfeit. The offending coach's school will be credited with a loss and the opposing school shall be credited with a win. The ejected coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative will be prohibited from coaching or attending the next interscholastic contest for that team or any other team in the same sport prior to serving the penalty.

c. Illegal participation in the next contest (the next contest the school actually participates) by a player or coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative ejected for unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct, as defined in sport specific NCS Ejection Policy rules summaries, in a previous contest.

Penalty: The contest shall be forfeited and the ineligible player, coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative shall be ineligible for the next contest. During the contest for which the player is ineligible, the player shall not be allowed to dress in his/her team's uniform, but will remain the responsibility of school personnel. Ejected coaches, assistant coaches and/or coaching representatives are not allowed to attend the school's next contest. If, in the next contest, there is no other coaching representative who is certified by the school in accordance to CIF bylaw 506, the game shall be declared a forfeit. The offending school will be credited with a loss and the opposing school shall be credited with a win.

d. Second ejection of a player or coach for unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct or of a coach for unsportsmanlike conduct as defined in sport specific NCS Ejection Policy rules summaries from a contest during one season.

Penalty: The player shall be ineligible for the remainder of the season (includes pre-season, league season and post-season play). The coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative are employees of the school. The NCS does not have the authority to terminate employment of school employees, which would be the effect of a balance of the season suspension. Therefore, the penalty for a second ejection for a coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative shall be that the coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative shall be prohibited from coaching or attending the next two interscholastic contests for that team and shall also be prohibited from coaching or attending any NCS/CIF post-season contests for which the team qualifies.

e. When one or more players leave the bench to begin or participate in an altercation.

Penalty: The player(s) shall be ejected from the contest-in-question and become ineligible for the next contest the school actually participates (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff, etc.). A student who was ejected from his/her team's previous contest for dangerous or unsportsmanlike actions, shall not be allowed to dress in his/her team's uniform, but will remain the responsibility of school personnel. NOTE: When a student and/or team must forfeit a contest due to violation of the Ejection Policy (NCS 2481A1b), the student and/or team shall be charged with participation in the contest for purposes of the respective sport's maximum number of contests rule.

e. Procedures

1. Each league shall establish a procedure for reporting ejections. Examples would include:

a. The officials shall report (orally or in writing) to specified school personnel and/or league commissioner,

- b. The coach of the ejected player's team shall notify (orally or in writing) the principal of the ejected player's team and/or the league commissioner, or
  - c. The coaches of both teams involved shall notify (orally or in writing) the principal of the ejected player's team and/or league commissioner.
- f. Appeals
- 1. Only appeals related to the factual situation of the player's or coach's ejection will be heard. Such appeals will only be made to penalties related to subsequent penalties after the ejection, they will not have jurisdiction to change the status of the player's or coach's ejection from the game in question. No appeal will be heard related to the official's judgment (other than an incorrect identification). When additional forfeitures are applied because a coach, student-athlete, school, etc. do not apply the rule and an ineligible student or coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative participates, no appeal based on NCS Student Eligibility Bylaw 2705 will be allowed.
  - 2. Appeals shall be heard initially through the ejected student's or coach's league, subsequent appeals may be made through the applicable North Coast Section, CIF and State CIF appeals procedure.  
Note: The Ejection is applied by sport from year to year. Under this policy, a student or coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative who is ejected for unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct, as defined in sport specific NCS Ejection Policy rules summaries, from the school's last contest of the year will be held out of the school's next contest of the respective (same) sport from which he/she was ejected even if it is the first contest of the next season. Schools and/or leagues may have policies that are more restrictive.
- g. Awards Ceremony
- Any student or coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative that have been ejected for unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct from a championship contest will be prohibited from participating in the awards ceremony.
- h. Definition of Participation Under the Ejection Policy's Penalty
- A student who was ejected from his/her team/s previous contest for dangerous or unsportsmanlike actions, as defined in sport specific NCS Ejection Policy rules summaries, shall not be allowed to dress in his/her team's uniform, but will remain the responsibility of school personnel.

*Note: The Ejection is applied by sport from year to year. Under this policy, a student who is ejected from the school's last contest of the year will be held out of the school's next contest of the respective (same) sport from which he/she was ejected even if it is the first contest (a scrimmage is not a contest) of the next season. Schools and/or leagues may have policies that are more restrictive.*