



Best Practices for Interscholastic Contests

The IHSA Do What's Right! sportsmanship program encourages and promotes positive behaviors for interscholastic sports and activities. This checklist includes best practices and general expectations for schools before, during, and after an interscholastic contest. Please review this information and communicate expectations to coaches, students, parents, and community members to promote good sportsmanship and positive behaviors at your events.

Do What's Right! Expectations for players, coaches, and all spectators:

- Represent their school and community favorably through positive interaction with opposing fans and players before, during, and after the competition.
- Use positive yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Respect and acknowledge the integrity and judgment of officials.
- Exhibit positive behavior in both personal interaction and social media comments.

Host School Administrator Responsibilities

- Assign administrators and school personnel for security/supervision.
- Coordinate local law enforcement for events that necessitate them.
- Greet contest officials and identify staff they can contact when needed.
- Meet with the visiting team's athletic administrator and/or coach upon arrival and establish points of contact if needed during the contest.
- Ensure the visiting team has safe access to their locker room and can safely exit the host site after the contest.
- Ensure contest officials have safe access to their locker room and can safely exit from the host site after the contest.
- Designate reserved parking for officials for easy access upon arrival and departure from the host site.
- Have public address announcements about sportsmanship expectations read before and during the contest.
- Have supervision/security personnel be visible and noticeable to all spectators.
- Monitor and stop inappropriate chants and cheers and any antagonizing language directed towards players and coaches.
- Monitor and stop harassment and criticisms directed at officials.
- Provide supervision as all spectators leave after the game.

Coach Expectations

- Establish sportsmanship expectations with your team and hold coaches and players accountable for those expectations.
- Respect the judgment of contest officials and refrain from behavior that could incite fans.
- Respectfully communicate with officials at opportune times during a contest (i.e. timeouts, stoppage of play).
- Respectfully engage with opposing coaches, players, and spectators.
- Shake hands with opposing team members and coaches after the contest.

Player Expectations

- Refrain from “trash-talking” to opposing players and personnel.
- Respect the judgment of contest officials and refrain from behavior that could incite fans.
- Respectfully communicate with officials at opportune times during a contest (i.e. timeouts, stoppage of play).
- Respectfully engage with opposing coaches, players, and spectators.
- Shake hands with opposing team members and coaches after the contest.

Spectator Expectations

- Be respectful during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Support and encourage the teams with positive comments and cheers.
- Refrain from antagonizing chants and comments directed at opposing players and coaches.
- Respect the judgment of officials and understand that mistakes/misled calls can happen. Refrain from criticizing officials.

Student Section Expectations

- Be respectful during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Support and cheer for your team in a positive manner.
- Refrain from antagonizing chants and comments directed at opposing players, coaches, and student sections.
- Respect the judgment of officials and understand that mistakes/misled calls can happen. Refrain from criticizing officials.