

Southeast Conference

Maintaining Good School Relationships

I. Sportsmanship

The conference is not a device organized to permit a team to win a championship or to promote an intense rivalry, but an association formed for the purpose of making possible individual development through interscholastic competition. There are greater values at stake than winning games and championships.

To achieve the goals of the Conference, school administrators, and other school personnel must assume the responsibility for:

- A. Supervising athletic events in such a manner that the visiting teams and spectators are made to feel welcome, at ease, and comfortable.
- B. Discussing with the athletic director, coaches, assistant coaches, and others their privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities in developing character, good sportsmanship, creating good will, harmony, and understanding others.
- C. Attempting to stimulate student leaders and groups to organize a program of activities at games that will promote the creation of good will and comradeship with visitors.
- D. Discussing with the student body the Conference sportsmanship and crowd behavior guidelines which all of the Conference schools have endorsed which are as follows:
 - 1. Welcome the opposing team and treat them as guests.
 - 2. Respect the property of the school at which the event is being held.
 - 3. Conference Sportsmanship and Crowd Behavior Guidelines:
 - a. Going on to the area of play or throwing objects into the court or field are considered dangerous acts and require immediate attention.
 - b. Use of vulgar, profane, discriminatory or intimidating language toward officials, coaches, players or fans is considered unacceptable.
 - c. Other behavior that shows disrespect for officials, coaches, or players such as booing, jeering during free throws, needs to be actively discouraged.

II. Recommended Crowd Control Procedures

The conference has no intention of developing a plan for each school, but rather offers the following specific suggestions for considerations in the development of the local crowd control plan:

A. Supervision at the Contest:

- 1. Each school should prepare a local crowd control plan. Some games need more supervision than others and the local plan should reflect that condition.
- 2. Competent staff persons should be assigned to vital positions.
- 3. A police officer in uniform, visible to the crowd, can act as a deterrent to rowdy behavior.
- 4. If the visiting school sends spectator buses it will be expected that chaperones will be in attendance from the visiting school.
- 5. The host game manager should be in charge of the actual game site and crowd control. Administrators should be encouraged to attend the contests.

6. Bleacher supervision is necessary as well as door control.
7. The local crowd control plan should give specific directions for action to be taken as the result of particular incidents.

B. Announcer

The information provided by the announcer should include only those details pertinent to the contest that trained observers see but that might be missed by the average spectator. Announcers are not to attempt to do a play by play radio broadcast or to supply “color” as TV announcers often do. Announcers should remember that all who are within hearing range are also within visual range of the action on the playing field or court.

C. Coaches

The behavior of the coach must, at all times, be marked by dignity and self-control. A coach should not, at any time, use provocative language or engage in any unsportsmanlike actions or tactics. A coach must avoid any action or remarks which tend to incite the displeasure of the spectators or provoke disorderly behavior and should stress to their team that they will not tolerate incidents on the field or playing floor which reflect poor sportsmanship.

D. Cheerleaders

Cheerleaders are an integral part of the high school athletic scene and will continue to be a factor for influencing good crowd control. It is important that cheerleaders regard themselves as part of the game and that they realize what they do can have a direct bearing on the game itself and the conduct of the people in the stands.

Cheerleaders represent the school in the same manner as athletes, and their conduct must be equal to that expected of the athlete. Their philosophy must include a belief in showing respect for officials, respect for players, respect for the fans, and respect for themselves. It is imperative that they become familiar with the rules of the game so they may encourage good sportsmanship, courteous treatment of visitors, and absolute fairness under all conditions. Therefore, basic duties of a cheerleader at an athletic contest should include the following:

1. They should stimulate and control crowd response.
2. They should choose the right cheers at the right time.
3. They should divert the crowd’s attention by starting a popular cheer when booing develops.
4. They should be respectful to officials.
5. They should accept adverse decisions and try hard to instill in the crowd proper acceptance of all decisions.
6. They should respect visitors and eliminate competition between cheerleaders by not conducting a cheer at the same time as the visiting cheerleading squad.
7. They should be organized and prepared.
8. Care should be taken in making certain words used in a cheer are not suggestive or do not inflame the audience.
9. “Welcome” yells are appropriate.
10. All cheers should be under the leadership of the cheerleaders. Schools are limited to eight cheerleaders at away contests.
11. The use of banners, bells, horns, and noisemakers is prohibited.
12. The stomping of feet should be discouraged.