

EXPECTATIONS FOR CONDUCT AT INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITIONS/EVENTS

The Paramus Board of Education believes that to achieve its goals for interscholastic competition, all persons attending or involved in such competition must conduct themselves in a safe and respectful manner. Individuals attending or competing shall demonstrate respect and sportsmanship towards players, coaches, officials, and other spectators in attendance, thereby promoting a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

As a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member district, the board is required to establish a spectator code of conduct policy.

Notification

At the time of registration of a student athlete to participate in an interscholastic sport, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of every student athlete shall be provided with a copy of this policy and shall be required to return a signed form indicating that they have read and understand the provisions of the policy.

A copy of this policy shall be provided, if requested, to NJSIAA staff. Further, the superintendent shall ensure, to the extent reasonably possible, that a copy of the Expectations for Conduct and resulting potential consequences for violation be posted at all competition/event venues.

Expectations for Conduct

All people, including but not limited to students, student athletes, parents/guardians, staff, community members, coaches, and officials, who attend an interscholastic competition shall not engage in any of the following activities/conduct:

- A. Strike or physically abuse an official, coach, player, school staff, or spectator;
- B. Initiate a physical altercation with an official, coach, player, school staff, or spectator before, during, or after an interscholastic event;
- C. Intentionally incite participants or spectators to violent or abusive action;
- D. Use obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards an official, coach, player, or spectator;
- E. Engage in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event;
- F. Use profanity, threatening comments, or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event;
- G. Verbally harass an official or participant (i.e., coaches or players from any participating school) by using names or uniform numbers;
- H. Enter the field of play before, during, or after an interscholastic event;
- I. Use artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the interscholastic event or distract the participants during an interscholastic event.

Disciplinary Action for Violation of Expectations for Conduct

If the Athletic Director determines a person's conduct or action(s) at an interscholastic event violates the above Expectations for Conduct, the person will be subject to the following:

- A. First Violation: A person's first violation of the Expectations for Conduct shall result in:
 - 1. Immediate removal from the interscholastic event and school premise(s);
 - 2. Suspension from the next home interscholastic event, as determined by the Athletic Director; and
 - 3. Completion of an NJSIAA recommended educational course(s) regarding sportsmanship and appropriate behavior before attending a future home interscholastic event.
- B. Additional Violations: If a person engages in a second and/or multiple violations of the Expectations for Conduct in the same school year, such conduct may result in longer suspensions from more than one home interscholastic event as determined by the Athletic Director in consultation with the Principal and, as appropriate, the Superintendent.

Depending upon the egregiousness of the conduct, the Superintendent or designee may determine it necessary to increase the disciplinary response above. Nothing herein shall limit the Superintendent's discretion to increase the disciplinary response if it is determined that the nature of the conduct so requires.

If violative conduct occurs at the end of a sport season and/or school year and there are no remaining home interscholastic event(s), the suspension shall be served at the next scheduled home event in the subsequent season.

The Board directs the Superintendent, in consultation with the district's Athletic Director and high school Principal, to prepare regulations for the implementation of this policy as necessary.