

ADDENDUMS

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S.C.A.R. Philosophy

Coaches Code of Ethics

Coaches Code of Ethics

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect, and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student special consideration.

The coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

BYLAWS

ADHERENCE TO AND ENFORCEMENT OF PIAA BYLAWS

The initial responsibility for adherence to and enforcement of the PIAA Bylaws by a PIAA member school, its students and personnel rests with the Principal of that school.

Notwithstanding this initial responsibility for compliance, (1) the Principal of any PIAA member school, by written request or complaint to the Chairman of the appropriate District Committee or PIAA Office, may allege or bring to the attention of PIAA a violation of, or a failure to meet, applicable provisions of the PIAA Bylaws, and (2) a District Committee or the Board of Directors may, on its own motion, enforce the PIAA Bylaws in the absence of submission of the matter to it by the Principal of a PIAA member school.

Unless otherwise specifically set forth in a particular provision, this portion of the Handbook contains the PIAA Bylaws in effect as of July 1, 2022. Any subsequent amendments for 2022-2023 will appear on the PIAA Web site at www.piaa.org.

PIAA PHILOSOPHY

It is unconscionable that a school or any of its employees would subvert the high purposes of interscholastic athletics by condoning any violation of the rules. To involve boys or girls in any practice or procedure which "gets around the rules" is unworthy of a person associated with athletics.

ATHLETIC COURTESY

Athletics should foster clean sports. It is the privilege and duty of every person connected with athletics to exemplify these principles in that person's own actions and earnestly advocate them before others.

A. Contest rules are to be regarded as mutual agreements, the spirit or letter of which no honorable person would break. The stealing of advantage in sport is theft.

B. No advantages are to be sought over others except those in which the Contest is understood to show superiority.

C. Unsportsmanlike or unfair means are not to be used, even when opponents use them.

D. Visiting Teams are to be honored guests of the home Team, and should be treated as such.

E. No action is to be taken nor course of conduct pursued which would seem unsportsmanlike or dishonorable if known to one's opponent or the public.

F. Remember that student-spectators represent their school the same as student-athletes.

G. Any spectator who continually evidences poor sportsmanship should be requested not to attend future Contests.

H. Decisions of Contest officials are to be abided by, even when they seem unfair.

I. Contest officials and opponents are to be regarded and treated as honest in intention. In Contests when opponents conduct themselves in an unbecoming manner, and when Contest officials are manifestly dishonest or incompetent, future relationship with them should be avoided.

J. Good points in others should be appreciated and suitable recognition given.

K. The practice of "booing" is regarded as discourteous and unsportsmanlike.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Sportsmanship is a core principle in interscholastic athletics. Actions which are unethical or intended to demean, embarrass, intimidate or injure opposing contestants, teams, spectators and officials are considered unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated since they are contrary to the purposes of PIAA and convey lessons incompatible with the reason why high school sports exist. While acts of misconduct occurring within the scope of competition are often addressed through sport specific rules, PIAA reserves the right to address any unsportsmanlike conduct and impose supplemental discipline as appropriate under the circumstances. The following conduct, and any conduct of a similar nature may subject actors to any and all remedial measures available to PIAA.

Section 1. Schools and Their Athletic Personnel.

A. A school knowingly or recklessly condones or supports unsportsmanlike conduct by its personnel, student-athletes, Teams, and/or supporters.

B. A school cancels, schedules or reschedules a Contest to gain a competitive advantage.

C. A school knowingly or recklessly recruits students for an athletic purpose.

D. A school fails to establish and enforce a code of conduct for student-athletes.

E. A school fails or refuses to cooperate with PIAA in investigating a possible violation of the PIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and/or Rules and Regulations.

F. A school fails to treat a visiting Team as guests or fails to provide necessary and appropriate security for Contest officials, spectators and visiting Teams at Contests hosted by the school.

G. A school cancels, schedules or reschedules a Contest for the purpose of circumventing application, enforcement, and/or the intent of any provision of the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and/or Rules and Regulations of PIAA.

H. A school knowingly or recklessly certifies to the eligibility of a student or fails to conduct an appropriate investigation where there is question as to the student-athlete's eligibility.

I. A school knowingly or recklessly engages in conduct intended to increase hostile relations with opposing schools.

Section 2. Student-Athletes.

A. A student-athlete engages in conduct intended to injure an opponent or Contest officials.

B. A student-athlete uses profanity, obscene gestures, and/or obscene language immediately before, during or immediately following a Contest.

C. A student-athlete seeks to provoke opponents, Contest officials, or spectators to engage in improper conduct.

D. A student-athlete uses race, gender, ethnicity, religion or disability to bait, intimidate, or denigrate an opponent.

E. A student athlete who engages in unsportsmanlike behavior/conduct during medal/award ceremony.

Section 3. Coaches.

A. A Coach teaches student-athletes to win through illegitimate means. Striving to win at any cost is distinctly unethical.

B. A Coach fails to give opponents full credit when they win.

C. A Coach fails to control his/her temper immediately prior to, during, or after a Contest.

D. A Coach uses profanity, obscene gestures, and/or obscene language immediately prior to, during, or immediately following a Contest.

E. A Coach criticizes Contest Officials through the media or to student-athletes or spectators, rather than through the appropriate review process.

F. A Coach promotes unfounded rumors of questionable practices by opponents.

G. A Coach fails to maintain control of the Team for which the Coach is responsible.

H. A Coach knowingly seeks to embarrass an opponent or Contest officials.

I. A Coach uses race, gender, ethnicity, religion or disability to bait, intimidate or denigrate an opponent.

J. A Coach who engages in unsportsmanlike behavior/conduct during medal/award ceremony.

Section 4. Contest Officials.

A. A Contest Official fails to have thorough preparation in the current rules and approved officiating techniques of the sport.

B. A contest Official is not physically fit and mentally alert so as to appropriately officiate a Contest.

C. A Contest Official fails to have a neat, distinctive, and approved uniform.

D. A Contest Official fails to report for duty at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of a Contest.

E. A Contest Official fails to honor all agreements to officiate a Contest.

F. A Contest Official fails to control his/her temper in all relations with students, Coaches, member schools, and spectators.

G. A Contest Official fails, upon request to make clear any interpretations and announcements.

H. Following a Contest officiated, a Contest Official discusses plays or student-athletes of a Team in that Contest with any of their future opponents.

Section 5. Spectators.

A. A spectator uses profanity, obscene gestures, and/or obscene language while attending Contests.

B. A spectator attempts to provoke, intimidate, and/or berate Coaches, Contest Officials, student-athletes, and/or other spectators.

C. A spectator interferes with, or attempts to interfere with, any Contest.

D. A spectator uses race, gender, ethnicity, religion or disability to bait, intimidate or denigrate a student, school, Contest Official or other spectators.

E. Any spectator who engages in any of the behavior identified herein may be removed from a Contest venue and may be prohibited from attending future Contests.

INTERPRETATIONS

October 1, 1983; as amended May 11, 2002; July 28, 2005; and July 24, 2009.

To participate in Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests, a student must be eligible for interscholastic athletics in all respects.

July 22, 1982; as amended July 24, 2009.

A PIAA member school may permit any of its students who are ineligible to participate in Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests under any provision(s) of the PIAA Bylaws other than ARTICLES IV and V to Practice with any of its Teams.

October 5, 2016

These Bylaws apply to all PIAA member schools and those students seeking to participate in interscholastic competition at those PIAA member schools. They also apply in determining the eligibility of students at PIAA member schools who previously were enrolled at or attended non-PIAA member schools.

ARTICLE I

AGE

Preamble

The purposes of this ARTICLE are (1) to promote the safety of traditional school-age participants in interscholastic athletics; (2) to prevent a Team from gaining a competitive advantage by

permitting more mature (physically, mentally, and emotionally) students to participate in interscholastic athletics; (3) to discourage schools from "red-shirting" students; and (4) to give more of an opportunity for traditional-age students to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Section 1. Maximum Age Rule.

A student shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition upon attaining the age of nineteen years, with the following exception:

If the age of 19 is attained on or after July 1, the student is eligible, age-wise, to compete through that school year.

Section 2. How to Determine Age.

In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in a State Bureau of Vital Statistics is considered as conclusive if filed in a State Bureau of Vital Statistics within one year after the date of birth. If a birth record from a State Bureau of Vital Statistics is not available, proof of a student's age may be determined by the submission of (1) a birth certificate which was issued within one year after birth; (2) a passport with the date of birth recorded thereon; (3) an affidavit by the parent(s) or guardian(s) filed not later than one year after the student's admission to the first grade of an elementary school; or (4) the earliest date of birth as recorded in the records of the school or schools attended by the student. In the event of the non-existence of any of these documents, the Principal may rely upon the most credible available evidence as to the actual date of birth.

Section 3. Waiver of Maximum Age Rule.

Any waiver granted under this ARTICLE may be given only for a particular sport and for a particular season. While a student may receive up to three waivers in a particular school year (for a fall, winter, and spring sport), no student may receive a waiver for any season or sport in any subsequent school year.

The member school requesting a waiver for a Student With A Disability must present clear and convincing evidence in each of the areas set forth in this Section. It is not the duty of the District Committee to independently produce or collect information.

A District Committee may grant a limited waiver of Section 1 of this ARTICLE to a Student With A Disability following an individualized assessment of the student's condition in relation to the purposes of this ARTICLE and the potential impact of participation by the student on opponents and teammates if the District Committee concludes that:

1. the student currently suffers from a physical, mental, or emotional disability which has been recognized by, and certified to by, a treating physician or psychiatrist;

2. the certified to disability has a direct and significant negative impact on the student's physical athletic ability;

3. the student has a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Chapter 15 Service Agreement relating to the certified to disability, at the student's school;

4. the grant of a waiver would not be likely to render the student's Team more competitive than it would be without the waiver;

5. the student would likely not, due to the student's physical size, athletic ability, and/or other characteristics, pose an increased risk of harm to opponents; and

6. the student is otherwise eligible under these Bylaws.

In considering a waiver, with regard to factors 4 and 5 above, the District Committee shall be guided by the following:

1. Where there is a question as to the risk posed to opponents or to a possible competitive advantage to the requesting school, such questions should be resolved in favor of the health and safety of opponents and against providing an unfair advantage to the requesting school and such waiver request should be denied.



Estimated Probability of Competing in Athletics Beyond the High School Interscholastic Level

Student Athletes	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Football	Baseball	Men's Ice Hockey	Men's Soccer
High School Student Athletes	538,676	433,120	1,086,627	474,791	35,198	410,982
High School Senior Student Athletes	153,907	123,749	310,465	135,655	10,057	117,423
NCAA Student Athletes	17,984	16,186	70,147	32,450	3,964	23,365
NCAA Freshman Roster Positions	5,138	4,625	20,042	9,271	1,133	6,676
NCAA Senior Student Athletes	3,996	3,597	15,588	7,211	881	5,192
NCAA Student Athletes Drafted	46	32	254	678	7	101
Percent High School to NCAA	3.3%	3.7%	6.5%	6.8%	11.3%	5.7%
Percent NCAA to Professional	1.2%	0.9%	1.6%	9.4%	0.8%	1.9%
Percent High School to Professional	0.03%	0.03%	0.08%	0.50%	0.07%	0.09%

Note: These percentages are based on estimated data and should be considered approximations of the actual percentages.

Last Updated: September 24, 2013

ADVICE:

athletic directors sharing thoughts and actions



By Chris Kennedy, RAA

Parents are a powerful part of any athletic program. Positively involved parents can help any team or athletic program achieve its goals much more effectively. On the other hand, alienated or uninvolved parents can be devastating to an athletic endeavor. Here are some tips for improving parental involvement that can apply to either an individual team or an entire athletic department:

1. Get to know your parents. Coaches and athletic administrators should take an opportunity to get to know the parents of student-athletes whenever possible. We recently had a situation at our school in which a parent requested a meeting with the coach, athletic director and principal. At this meeting, we heard the parent's concerns and asked why he had not gone directly to the coach. The parent said he had tried on a number of occasions. The coach replied that he had no idea this was one of his players' parents. Instead, he thought the man was just a fan wanting to complain. Whenever possible, meet and greet your parents. Put names and faces together as much as you can, and let parents know when you'll be available to talk to them.

2. Set your expectations up front. Present your program's rules and regulations as soon as possible at the beginning of a sports season. Let parents know what will be expected of them and of their children to participate in the program. If possible, have parents and students sign a pledge of having reviewed the rules and requirements. This lets parents and students decide if they are willing to comply with the foundations of your program and reduces the chances of a parent or player saying, "I didn't know."

3. Encourage parents to take ownership in the program. Many parents are eager to help, but don't know how. Have parents host pregame meals or provide postgame treats. Parents can also provide labor, as in a stadium or gym spruce-up. This encourages parents to take care of their own child as well as their child's teammates. Joining a booster club is another excellent way for parents to contribute to a program.

5 Tips for Improving Parental Involvement

4. Make parents feel special. Do something nice for your parents at every opportunity. Have a special seating section at games, or have "Parent Night" where parents of your student-athletes are recognized. One team I knew had a special "parents' meal," where the students prepared a meal for their parents.

5. Recognize that you are dealing with someone's child. A quickly learned lesson in coaching or administration is that a mistake or oversight on your part, however inadvertent, is an affront to someone's child. It is all too easy to dismiss nagging or worrisome parents, but many of their issues are deeply personal and important to them. Keep an open mind and an open ear, and then fall back on your established rules and regulations to assure the parent that their child is being dealt with fairly.

One of the best ways to achieve many of these goals is a preseason meeting. At our school, we have a meeting before each of the sports seasons and discuss general athletic policies. The coach then meets with the parents of his or her individual team, allowing coaches to put together parents' faces with their children. The parents have the opportunity to hear our requirements up front and to ask questions. So many parent conflicts arise out of uncertainty and miscommunication, so take as many steps as possible to avoid these pitfalls. You will soon find that parents are working with you, not against you. **IAA**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Chris Kennedy, RAA, is a former athletic director who has worked in athletic administration at the high school and collegiate levels. He has coached basketball for the past 12 years in both high school and college, and is currently the head girls basketball coach at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School in Wake Forest, NC. He is also an associate editor for Basketball Sense magazine.*



When to Talk to Your Kid About Sports...

Never talk to your kid after practice or a game until they:

- 1) *Showered*
- 2) *Changed*
- 3) *Ate*
- 4) *Rested*

Did you know that the car ride home, while being berated by their parent, is the worst sports memory that athletes have most commonly reported?

Remember the acronym **S.C.A.R.**

If you abide by this philosophy, *everyone wins.*