

**PEN ARGYL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENTAL/SPECTATOR GUIDELINES**

The following applies to a parent/spectator physically present at an athletic event, or through the use of electronic mediums (ie internet/e-mail, etc.).

DO NOT:

- 1- Ridicule or berate players, coaches, officials, or other spectators.
- 2- Engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing, taunting, using profane language or gestures.
- 3- Encourage nor condone any behavior or practice which would endanger the health or well being of any participant.
- 4- Boo, taunt, or in any way, try to humiliate any participant or attendee.
- 5- Ridicule any participant for making a mistake.
- 6- Coach from the sidelines or grandstand.
- 7- Confront coaches in an inappropriate/antagonistic manner before, during, or after games/practices. Instead, make arrangements to speak with coaches at an appropriate time and place. (The use of impersonal, electronic, handwritten means of expressing concerns is not an acceptable substitute for effective, cooperative, face-to-face communications.)

DO:

- 1- Understand that your attendance provides you with the opportunity and privilege to observe an athletic event, not to berate players, coaches or officials.
- 2- Remember that interscholastic athletics is a part of the educational process. It is for the students, not adults.
- 3- Cheer for your team.
- 4- Be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship by giving support to, and showing respect for all players, coaches, officials and spectators.
- 5- Demand that others treat players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, religion, color, gender or ability.
- 6- Support the decisions of coaches and officials.
- 7- Teach our youth that doing their best is of the utmost importance.
- 8- Emphasize that a healthy work ethic, a high level of effort, and cooperation with coaches are imperative for doing one's best.
- 9- Learn and understand the rules of the game.
- 10- Appreciate the efforts of the players, coaches and officials.
- 11- Be generous when you win, gracious when you lose.

PARENTS:

- 1- Be a “team fan,” not a “my child” fan.
- 2- Encourage your child to discuss any problems with the coach, while emphasizing how to improve their status on the team.
- 3- Encourage the attainment of team goals, rather than individual goals.
- 4- Understand that criticism and disrespect not only undermine the purpose of interscholastic sports, but the very behavior which you’re trying to teach your child.

Behavior that degrades a player, coach, referee, school official or another parent or fan is subject to disciplinary action by school personnel.

Anyone who engages in misconduct as described above, or who is removed from an interscholastic contest at the request of a game official or school administrator will be subject to the following:

1st Offense: Offender(s) will be prohibited from attending the team’s next home contest.

2nd Offense: Offender(s) will be prohibited from attending ANY home school district athletic events for the remainder of the season in question (fall, winter, spring) or for a period of 3 months commencing from the date of the second offense, whichever is longer.

3rd Offense: Offender(s) will be prohibited from attending ANY home school district athletic events for one full calendar year, commencing from the date of the 3rd offense.

Note: In the event that someone were to commit more than 3 offenses, see the 3rd offense penalty for such continued misconduct.

**REMEMBER, WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME TEAM.
WE ALL REPRESENT OUR COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILIES.**