

Appendix K - Spectator Conduct at Athletic Events

Spectators are permitted to attend school athletic activities only as guests of the school district, and, accordingly as a condition of such permission, they must comply with the school district's rules and policies. Spectators will not be allowed to interfere with the enjoyment of the students participating, other spectators, or with the performance of employees and officials supervising the school athletic activity. Spectators, like the student participants, are expected to display mature behavior and sportsmanship. The failure of spectators to do so is not only disruptive but embarrassing to the students, the school district, and the entire community.

To protect the rights of students to participate without fear of interference, and to permit the sponsors and officials of school athletic activities to perform their duties without interference, the following provisions are in effect:

1. Abusive, verbal or physical conduct of spectators, of any type, directed at participants, officials, or sponsors of school athletic activities will not be tolerated.
2. Verbal or physical conduct of spectators that interferes with the performance of students, officials, or sponsors of school athletic activities will not be tolerated.
3. The use of vulgar, or obscene or demeaning expression language directed at students, officials, or sponsors participating in school athletic activities, or at other spectators, will not be tolerated.

If a spectator at a school athletic activity becomes physically or verbally abusive, uses vulgar, obscene demeaning expression, or in any way impedes the performance of an activity, the spectator may be removed immediately from the event by the individual in charge of the event and the Winnisquam Regional School District Superintendent may recommend the exclusion of the spectator at future activities.

Upon recommendation of the school principal or their designee the Superintendent may serve a notice of exclusion, in writing or verbally, from school athletic activities to the spectator involved. The notice shall advise the spectator of the school district's right to exclude the individual from school district activities and events and the duration of the exclusion. If the spectator disobeys the school official or district's order, law enforcement authorities may be contacted and asked to remove the spectator.

Spectator Expectations

1. Singling out opposing players or coaches will not be permitted
2. Noise makers are not permitted
3. No kicking or stomping of bleachers
4. No spectators on the court, field, locker rooms, or team benches
5. Be courteous of the spectators around you
6. No throwing of objects, paper, etc.
7. Keep cheering positive. There should be no profanity or degrading language/gestures.
8. Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
9. Accept the judgment of coaches and officials.
10. Encourage other spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
11. Students in grades K-8 must be supervised by an adult at a high school athletic contest.

Cheer for your team, not against the visitors. Don't get personal in your comments about players, coaches, or officials. No profanity, vulgarity, racist or sexist comments. Give players, coaches, and officials their space by keeping away from the playing area and team benches.

BE LOUD, BE PROUD, BE POSITIVE!