

FAN CONDUCT & SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

Public Policy | Posted at All NFMSS-Affiliated Events

This policy applies to ALL spectators, parents, guardians, fans, and community members attending any NFMSS-affiliated middle school athletic event.

NFMSS SPORTSMANSHIP PHILOSOPHY

The National Federation of Middle School Sports (NFMSS) believes that middle school athletics exist to develop the whole student — building character, discipline, teamwork, and resilience through sport. The behavior of spectators directly shapes the experience of every young athlete on the field. Positive fan conduct creates an environment where athletes can grow, compete with confidence, and learn to win and lose with dignity. Negative fan conduct undermines those goals and reflects poorly on the entire school community. NFMSS holds spectators to the same standards of conduct expected of coaches and athletes.

SECTION 1 — SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Respect All Participants	Treat all athletes, coaches, officials, and school staff with dignity and respect at all times, regardless of the outcome of the contest, calls made by officials, or team affiliation.
2. Support, Don't Demean	Cheer FOR your team rather than AGAINST the opposing team. Positive encouragement is always welcome. Taunting, mocking, or belittling opposing players, coaches, or fans is never acceptable.
3. Honor the Officials	Game officials are trained volunteers and professionals. Verbal abuse, threats, or harassment of officials — before, during, or after a contest — is strictly prohibited and may result in immediate ejection.
4. Model the Behavior You Expect	Young athletes watch and imitate adult behavior. Every spectator serves as a role model. Conduct yourself as you would want your child or student to conduct themselves in competition.
5. Know and Follow Venue Rules	Remain in designated spectator areas. Do not enter the field, court, or competition area at any time unless specifically authorized by school personnel.
6. No Profanity or Discriminatory Language	The use of profane, obscene, racially offensive, sexually explicit, or otherwise discriminatory language or gestures is prohibited and constitutes grounds for immediate removal.
7. Alcohol & Substances	Consumption of alcohol, illegal substances, or any intoxicating substance is strictly prohibited on school property and at all NFMSS-affiliated events. Violations will result in ejection and may result in law enforcement contact.
8. Electronic Devices & Social Media	Do not live-stream or post content that identifies, mocks, or demeans individual student athletes. Student athletes are minors. Respect their privacy and dignity in all digital spaces.

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SECTION 2 — PROHIBITED CONDUCT & CONSEQUENCES

Prohibited Conduct	Consequence
X Verbal or physical threats toward any person	Immediate ejection; law enforcement notified
X Physical altercation or fighting	Immediate ejection; law enforcement notified; trespass warning
X Harassment or targeting of a student athlete	Ejection; school administration notified; possible ban
X Use of profane, obscene, or discriminatory language	Warning → Ejection on repeat
X Entering the field/court without authorization	Immediate ejection
X Refusal to comply with staff/security directives	Ejection; possible law enforcement involvement
X Possession/use of alcohol or illegal substances	Ejection; law enforcement notified
X Threatening or confronting officials post-game	Ejection; school administration notified; possible ban

SECTION 3 — EJECTION PROCESS

Step 1	A school administrator, Athletic Director, or security personnel issues a verbal warning.
Step 2	If conduct continues, the individual is asked to leave the premises immediately.
Step 3	If the individual refuses to leave, law enforcement will be contacted.
Step 4	The host school Athletic Director files an NFMSS Incident Report within 48 hours.
Step 5	NFMSS compliance staff reviews the report. A trespass notice or event ban may be issued.
Step 6	Per NFMSS Article IV, a parent/guardian ejection may result in a suspension of the affiliated athlete from the next contest if conduct endangered school safety.

SECTION 4 — POSITIVE SPECTATOR RECOGNITION

NFMSS encourages member schools to recognize and celebrate exceptional fan conduct. Schools may nominate fan sections, parent groups, or individual spectators for the NFMSS Sportsmanship Recognition Program using the Report of Good Sportsmanship form available in the Forms & Downloads section at nfmss.org. Outstanding fan communities may be recognized at the state and national level.

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SECTION 5 — HOST SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Post this Fan Conduct Policy visibly at all entry points to the athletic venue.
- Include a summary of this policy in all event programs, social media announcements, and pre-game PA announcements.
- Designate at least one staff member as the Spectator Conduct Monitor for every home event.
- Brief all coaching staff on ejection procedures prior to the season opener.
- File an NFMSS Incident Report within 48 hours of any ejection or conduct violation.
- Retain copies of all ejection incidents and incident reports for a minimum of three years.

SECTION 6 — ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT (For School File)

The undersigned Athletic Director certifies that this Fan Conduct & Sportsmanship Policy has been distributed to all coaching staff, posted at the athletic venue, and communicated to parents and spectators prior to the start of the current season.

Athletic Director	_____	Date:	_____
Signature:	_____		
Printed Name:	_____	School:	_____
Principal	_____	Season /	
Signature:	_____	Year:	_____