



## **SPOTSWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT GUIDANCE**

The NJSIAA and member schools are unified in enforcing a safe and positive environment for our student-athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. Athletics are intended to be a rewarding experience, designed to teach sportsmanship to all participants. Interscholastic athletics has no place for negative, inappropriate, or derogatory comments or behaviors. Any spectator demonstrating unsportsmanlike behavior will be addressed by officials, school supervisors, administrators, or site staff and may be immediately ejected from the event. Ejected spectators may be prohibited from attending future interscholastic contests based on their behavior. The minimum applicable penalties are set forth below.

Policy 9163 shall be provided to the parents/guardians of participating student-athletes. Such parents/guardians must provide written confirmation of their understanding of the Policy during the District's registration process. This Policy shall also be posted at all venues hosting interscholastic competitions to the extent reasonably possible.

Spectators are expected to exhibit and maintain appropriate, sportsmanlike behavior at all times during interscholastic events, to model such appropriate behavior for our student-athletes and support the District's efforts to ensure a safe and positive environment for students, coaches, officials, and other spectators.

### **Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, actions of a fan or spectator who:**

- strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator;
- intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action;
- uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators; or
- engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion at an interscholastic event.

### **The following conduct by spectators is also explicitly prohibited during any interscholastic athletics event:**

- use of profanity or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event;
- verbal harassment of an official or opponent by using names or uniform numbers;
- entering the field of play before, during, or after an interscholastic event;
- a physical altercation with an official, coach, player, or spectator, before, during, or after an interscholastic event; and
- use of artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the interscholastic event or distract the participants during an interscholastic event.

**Please note: If a spectator is reported to have been removed from an away event, the following penalties may still be enforced. Consequences for Spotswood students may differ from those outlined below. The conversation at the time of the incident serves as a verbal notification of the upcoming penalties.**

**First Offense (the 365-day calendar starts):**

- Suspension from the sport ejected [one (1) home game for football; two (2) home games for all other sports] and the individual may not attend home events for any sport until the sport-specific suspension has elapsed. This does not include removal from the contest in which the incident occurred. If the spectator(s) refuses to leave the venue, play will be stopped until they vacate the premises.
- Parent/Guardian/Spectator will be required to take at least one of the specified NFHS Courses included, including but not limited to Sportsmanship, Positive Parenting within School Programs, The Parent Seat, and Teaching and Modeling Behavior. The certificate of completion must be submitted to the Athletic Director before being permitted to attend back-at-home events.
- If the offense occurs during the last game(s) of the season, the suspension will carry over into the subsequent regular season/sport. If the offense occurs in the previous game(s) of the spring season, the suspension will carry over into the following regular fall, winter, or spring season for all school sports events.
- If the offense occurs to a parent/spectator of a Senior athlete in which no other games are left on the calendar, they will be subject to school administrative discipline.
- A letter will be sent and/or put on file documenting the situation.

**Second Offense (within the 365-day calendar of first occurrence):**

- Suspension from the sport ejected [two (2) home games for football; four (4) home games for all other sports], and the individual may not attend home events for any sport until sport-specific suspension has elapsed. This does not include removal from the contest at which the incident occurred. If the spectator(s) refuses to leave the venue, play will be stopped until they vacate the premises.
- If the offense occurs during the last game of the season, the suspension will carry over into the subsequent regular season sport events.
- If the offense occurs during the last game of the spring season, the suspension will carry over into the following regular fall, winter, or spring season for all school sport events.
- If the offense occurs to a parent/spectator of a Senior athlete in which no other games are left on the calendar, they will be subject to school administrative discipline.
- A letter documenting the situation will be sent and/or put on file.

**Third Offense (within the 365-day calendar of first occurrence):**

- The person (s) will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and one (1) year from the date of the third occurrence for all seasons and all sporting events.
- Follow-up meeting/phone conversation with school security personnel.
- A letter documenting the situation will be sent and/or put on file.

**Fourth Offense (within the 365-day calendar or beyond):**

- Indefinite suspension from all athletic events. A spectator may request a reinstatement meeting with the school administration after a full calendar year has passed.

**Appeals:**

- A person may appeal the decision of the Principal or designee to the Superintendent of Schools by submitting a written appeal to the Superintendent within three calendar days after receiving notice of the suspension from the event by the Principal or designee.