



SPORTSMANSHIP / SPECTATOR CONDUCT

Rule 3.3 -- Sportsmanship Responsibility (Revised Fall 2008)

The high school principal, coach and other responsible officials of each member school shall take all reasonable measures to insure that the school's students and supporters maintain a sportsmanlike attitude toward all events so that events may be conducted without unreasonable danger or disorder. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. No cheers, comments or actions shall be directed at one's opponent or at contest officials. Derogatory and/or unsportsmanlike language is not allowed. No player may be singled out by number, name or position with negative comments of any kind.

Executive Board Policy 67 -- Spectator Conduct at OSAA Sanctioned Events (Revised Fall 2008)

In addition to the general expectations included in the OSAA Constitution, Rule 3, that school officials "...shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that the school's students and supporters maintain a sportsmanlike attitude toward all events..." the following specific expectations regarding spectator conduct at all OSAA sanctioned events, including regular and post season competition, are provided:

- A. Spectators are not permitted to have signs or banners (larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches), confetti, balloons or glass containers. Spectators are required to wear shirts.
- B. Spectators are not permitted to have artificial noisemakers. Some examples of artificial noisemakers are Thunder Stix, cowbells, clappers and air horns.
- C. Spectators shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language. Spectators shall not be permitted to engage in any racially / culturally insensitive action.
- D. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. No cheers, comments or actions shall be directed at one's opponent or at contest officials. Some examples of inappropriate conduct or actions that are not permitted are: turning backs, holding up newspapers or jeering at cheerleaders during opposing team introductions; disrespecting players by name, number or position; negative cheers or chants; throwing objects on the floor.
- E. Spectators who fail to comply with Association or site management spectator conduct expectations may be expelled from the contest.

Questions & Answers / Clarifications (Revised December, 2008)

1. Q. May home team schools display signs and/or banners at their home venues?

A. Yes, home team schools may display "permanent" signs and/or banners that are positive/supportive at their home venues. Examples are welcome signs, in season rosters, league banners, league/state championship banners and sportsmanship banners.

2. Q. May visiting schools bring signs and/or banners to hang at the host school's venue?

A. No.

3. Q. Are "run through" signs allowed?

A. Yes, so long as the message is positive/supportive.

4. Q. May a school use an artificial noisemaker at specific times during athletic events?

A. In limited cases, yes. An example of an allowable use of artificial noisemakers by a school would be the firing of a cannon or the ringing of a bell after a touchdown is scored.



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5. Q. May spectators use small, handheld megaphones?

A. Yes, but only cheerleaders are allowed to use large megaphones. Neither cheerleaders nor spectators may use megaphones for banging on the floor or bleachers.

6. Q. What are some examples of cheers that do not encourage a positive atmosphere?

A. Any yell that is intended to antagonize an opponent detracts from a positive atmosphere. "Air Ball! Air Ball!", booing, "You! You! You!", or "You Got Swatted!" are examples of yells that will not encourage a positive atmosphere. Conversely, a positive atmosphere is created when fans focus on positive yells in support of their team, rather than on negative yells attacking their team's opponents.

7. Q. Are students allowed to stand on the bottom row of the bleachers?

A. Yes, but when they sit down they must be sitting on the 2nd row.

8. Q. May students cheer during serves in volleyball and free throws in basketball?

A. Yes, as long as they are just "making noise" and not specifically addressing a contest official or an individual player from the opposing team.

9. Q. Is a school allowed to use balloons at an athletic event?

A. Yes, a host school is allowed to use them for decoration. However, fans are not allowed to have balloons and they may not be placed by the school in any manner that would block spectator viewing.

10. Q. Is a school allowed to use balloons at a state championship finals site?

A. No

11. Q. Are oversized foam fingers allowed at athletic events?

A. Yes, they are allowed as long as they are not blocking spectator viewing.