



Oregon School Activities Association

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To: Volleyball Coaches and Athletic Directors
From: K.T. Emerson, OSAA Assistant Executive Director

As volleyball competitions are heating up across the state, a few bench and crowd/spectator reminders. The energy is EXCITING at this time of the year and will get even MORE exciting the closer we get to playoffs! Thank you for ALL you do to keep it positive and fun for ALL students and spectators.

S.T.A.R. School Nomination Forms: There is a new S.T.A.R. School nomination form available on the OSAA website. Anyone can nominate a school who is doing an exemplary job of meeting the [S.T.A.R. Sportsmanship expectations](#) and creating a positive and enjoyable experience for all who attend an OSAA event. These nomination and positive messages will be shared with the school who hosted the event and celebrate their efforts! The link to the form can be found through the [Support and Equity](#) tab under the S.T.A.R. Nomination Form.

Officials Sportsmanship Nominations: We have had about 30 schools receive nominations from officials for their fantastic sportsmanship during matches. If your team receives one of these nominations, it will be sent to your coach, your athletic director and principal! It is a great way for your team to be recognized by officials for providing a fun, safe and welcoming environment for volleyball competitions!

Below are a few common questions that have come up regarding bench and crowd management.

OSAA Handbook- Referenced from Rule 3- Contests-Sportsmanship-Crowd Control: (Most common volleyball questions highlighted)

3.4 Spectator Conduct. The following expectations regarding spectator conduct at all OSAA sanctioned events, including regular and post season competition, are provided. Those violating or threatening to violate the following Association rules or site management spectator conduct expectations, may be ejected from the premises, issued a trespass citation, excluded from sanctioned activities temporarily or permanently and/or referred to law enforcement officials.

3.4.1. 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 unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to disrespecting players by name, number or position; negative cheers or chants; throwing objects on the playing surface; use of derogatory or racially explicit language; discriminatory harassment or conduct that creates a hostile environment that is disruptive to the educational environment.

3.4.2 Spectators shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language or engage in any racially/culturally insensitive action.

1. Q. Is the host school exclusively responsible for crowd control?

A. No. While the host school for any activity must assume a primary responsibility for the physical management of the activity, including providing for crowd control, this is a mutual responsibility. The visiting school also must take such measures as are necessary to ensure proper behavior on the part of its own students and fans.

2. 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.

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

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

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

A. No.

5. **Q.** May spectators have signs at events?
A. Spectators are not permitted to have signs or banners larger than 8-1/2 x 11 inches. "Fathead" type items are considered signs and shall not be larger than 8-1/2 x 11 inches. Spectators are required to wear shirts.
6. **Q.** May a spectator have an artificial noisemaker?
A. No, spectators are not permitted to have artificial noisemakers. Some examples of artificial noisemakers are Thunder Stix, cowbells, clappers and air horns.
7. **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.
8. **Q.** May spectators use small, handheld megaphones?
A. Yes, provided they are not electric. Only cheerleaders are allowed to use large megaphones. Neither cheerleaders nor spectators may use megaphones for banging on the floor or bleachers.
9. **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. Spectators shall not turn their heads or hold up newspapers during team introductions, or jeer at cheerleaders during opposing team introductions.
10. **Q.** May students stand on the bottom row of the bleachers?
A. Yes, but when they sit down, they must be seated on the second row.
11. **Q.** May students cheer during serves in volleyball and free throws in basketball?
A. Yes, so long as they are just "making noise" and not specifically addressing a contest official or an individual player from the opposing team.
12. **Q.** May a school use balloons at an athletic event?
A. Yes, a host school may use balloons for decoration. However, fans may not have balloons, and balloons may not be placed by the school in any manner that would block spectator viewing.
13. **Q.** May a school use balloons at a state championship final site?
A. No.
14. **Q.** May spectators have oversized foam fingers at athletic events?
A. Yes, they are allowed so long as they are not blocking spectator viewing.

Reminders of NFHS Rules regarding sportsmanship:

Rule 12 Conduct: (Pgs. 49-52 in the 2021-22 NFHS Volleyball Rulebook)

Section 2 Article 7.a & c.: Teammates and other bench personnel other than the head or assistant coach(es) shall remain seated on the team bench during a set except to:

- a. Spontaneously react to an outstanding play by members of their own team;
- c. Stand at the bench to greet a replaced player(s), then immediately sit down.

Section 3 Unsporting Conduct: Spectators: when a spectator becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the set, the first referee shall suspend the set until the host management resolves the situation and the set can proceed in an orderly manner. Note: In the absence of a designated school representative, the home head coach shall serve as the host management.

Misconduct Report: The Misconduct form for volleyball is specifically issued when a participant receives a red conduct card during a match associated with Rule 12.2. A red conduct card would be issued for a first serious offense or a second minor offense, which would also result in the loss of a rally/point as well. The misconduct form will be filed by the official who issues the red conduct card and will be received by the OSAA, the commissioner of the association officiating the match and the athletic director of the school who receives the offense. Specifics regarding conduct card offenses and penalties can be found under Rule 12 in the 2021-22 NFHS Volleyball Rule book on page 50 and page 51. The misconduct form has been created for various sports to help increase the awareness of issues with conduct that occur during competition and help schools maintain good sportsmanship expectations.

Volleyball has been, and continues to be a sport that has a very positive experiences reported for all participants- coaches, athletes and officials! Let's work together to maintain that wonderful experience in volleyball throughout our state!