

HICKORY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECTATOR CODE OF ETHICS

North Carolina High School Athletic Association

The Hickory Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the importance of interscholastic sports for the mental, physical and social development of our students. To facilitate this need, the Board of Education adopts the core beliefs and values of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association as the guiding principles for interscholastic athletic programs.

The components of the core values and beliefs of the North Carolina High School Association are: Sportsmanship, Integrity, Fair play, Honesty, Respect, Equity, Fair Competition, and Development of Student Athletes. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these eight pillars of character development.

Core Values and Beliefs

- **Sportsmanship** - following the rules of the game, respecting the judgment of referees and officials, treating opponents with respect, respect for one's opponent and graciousness in winning or losing
- **Integrity** - consistency of actions, values, methods measures, principles, expectations and outcomes - the truthfulness or accuracy of one's actions
- **Fair Play** - a shared interpretation of the rules, the equal treatment of all concerned, sticking to the agreed rules, not using unfair advantages
- **Honesty** - uprightness and fairness, truthfulness, sincerity, or frankness, freedom from deceit or fraud. To consistently seek and speak the truth
- **Respect** - a positive feeling of esteem for a person or other entity and specific actions and conduct representative of the esteem
- **Equity** - fairness, just and right, equitable treatment of all, dealing fairly and equally with all concerned
- **Fair Competition** - competitors within a competition should have similar performance potential and performance strength
- **Development of student-athletes** - participation in athletics should aid in the physiological and psychological development of the student-athlete

The Hickory Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the importance of community support and participation at athletic events. To facilitate the safety of all, and the integrity of the athletic programs, the Board has adopted the following expectations for parents and spectators to adhere to while in attendance at athletic events.

As a parent and/or spectator:

1. Parents/Guardians will inform the school administration/coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.

2. Parents/Spectators will be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
3. Parents will practice good sportsmanship by refraining from negative comments about student athletes' performance. This includes refraining from posting negative comments about student athletes' performance on social media.
4. Parents/Spectators will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
5. Parents/Spectators will encourage positive behaviors and safe practices that will benefit the health and wellbeing of the student athletes.
6. Parents/Guardians will model and expect that student athletes treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
7. Parents/Spectators agree to encourage and support the opposing team, its players, coaches, cheerleaders, fans and officials/judges with words and actions. This includes refraining from posting negative comments on social media.
8. Parents/Spectators will respect the officials and their authority during games.
9. Parents/Spectators will approach the coach at an agreed upon time and place with any questions or concerns as opposed to the game venue.
10. Parents/Spectators will respect that school property is drug, tobacco and alcohol free.
11. Parents/Spectators will refrain from coaching student athletes during games and practices unless identified as one of the official coaches of the team.
12. Parents/Spectators will not throw any foreign object that may harass or injure a spectator, player or official.
13. Parents/Spectators will respect the athletic venues at all times by staying in designated spectator areas and not entering restricted zones such as playing fields/surfaces, locker rooms, etc.

Failure to adhere to the expectations outlined above will result in the following consequences:

- **First Violation:** A letter will be written by the principal and athletic director. The letter will outline the behavior of the parent/spectator that was inappropriate. The letter will remind the parent of the Spectator Code of Ethic policy and explain the possible consequences if the inappropriate behavior continues at future events.
- **Second Violation:** The parent/spectator will be banned from a certain number of games. The principal and athletic director will determine the number of games based on the severity of the violation.
- **Third Violation:** The parent/spectator will be banned from all athletic events for the remainder of the school year.