

COACH/SPECTATOR DECORUM

Crowd control before, during, and after contests is recognized as a major problem confronting athletic administrators.

The responsibility for the control of crowds and the protection of persons who are present at contests involving PIAA member schools rests on both of the schools, and, most specifically, upon the Principal of each school.

ARTICLE X, LOCAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL, Section 2D, of the PIAA Constitution, imposes upon the Principal of the home school the responsibility for the treatment of all visitors and sports officials who attend Contests conducted by the school. If a Contest is played at a neutral location, the Principals of the participating schools are jointly responsible for the protection of visitors and sports officials. Under the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws, various penalties may be imposed upon a member school whose Principal fails to provide the required reasonable protection for sports officials and visitors. ARTICLE XIII, PENALTIES, Section 2E, of the PIAA By-Laws, specifically provides that suspension may be imposed when a school neglects to provide reasonable safeguards for the protection of Contest officials and visiting Teams. That suspension may consist of suspension of the school from membership in PIAA, or the suspension of one or more of the school's Teams from interscholastic athletic competition with PIAA member schools.

Although the provisions referenced above impose the primary responsibility for crowd control upon the home school and its Principal, visiting schools are also responsible for preventing and controlling incidents at Contests. ARTICLE XIII, PENALTIES, Section 2G, of the PIAA By-Laws, provides that a school or its Teams may be suspended when the conduct of its administration, faculty, Coaches, Teams, students, or Team followers is unsportsmanlike and results in actions which are detrimental to individual, school, and/or public welfare, and/or which are prejudicial to the purpose of PIAA. This provision has been invoked in situations involving crowd control problems on the part of visiting schools.

Crowd control incidents generally involve students and other spectators. While a school has a greater range of authority and permissible action against a student than it does against other spectators, one portion of the PIAA By-Laws dealing with athletic courtesy provides that any spectator who continually evidences poor sportsmanship should be requested not to attend future Contests.

To protect the status of PIAA member schools and to preserve the educational and recreational advantages of a well-administered program, the following guidelines have been developed:

1. Prior to each sports season, assembly programs should be held that make very clear to the student body what is expected of them as spectators. Exchange assemblies should be conducted with those schools whose rivalry could cause a spectator problem.

2. Notification, preferably both oral and written, should be given to all adult followers that inform them that (a) they are guests of the school and (b) unruly conduct will not be tolerated.
3. Contests should not be oversold. Previous experience has demonstrated clearly that problems are more likely to occur when a contest is attended by more spectators than the capacity of the facility.
4. An adequate number of law enforcement officers should be hired for all contests. The number of law enforcement officers needed to provide adequate security must be determined by the owner or director of security of the facility. The owner or director of security of the facility is in the best position to determine what is adequate security for its facility.
5. Some or all of the law enforcement officers, as determined by the owner or director of security of the facility, should have the authority to remove, and/or arrest, any spectator whose conduct is detrimental to the contest taking place.
6. An administrator and coach(es) conference(s) should be held prior to the start of each sports season. Each coach should be advised that the athletic area is his/her classroom, and immature outbursts will not be tolerated.
7. The host Principal, Athletic Director or their designee should meet before every Athletic Event with contest officials and head coaches to outline the responsibilities of each and to emphasize that the contest officials are to immediately impose the prescribed penalties for any untoward behavior.
8. The host Principal and Athletic Director should assure that:
 - (a) Proper parking is available for contest officials.
 - (b) A representative of the school greets and escorts the contest officials while they are at the contest site.
 - (c) Contest officials are quartered in dressing facilities separate from those of either Team.
 - (d) Sports officials' regular season contest fees/paperwork are distributed **prior to** the beginning of the contest. This precludes any further visit to the contest officials' locker room.
 - (e) No member of the coaching staff of either team visits the contest officials' dressing room.
9. PA Crimes Code Section 2712, Assault on Sports Official, is a **first degree misdemeanor and a maximum of \$10,000 fine and five years in jail**. PA Crimes Code Section 2701, Simple Assault, is a **second degree misdemeanor**, which carries a **maximum penalty of \$5,000 fine and up to two years maximum imprisonment**. A sports official (enforcer of event rules i.e. umpire, referee, coach, school officials, etc.) at any sporting event.

The following PIAA basketball and wrestling coaches rules have been adopted by the PIAA Board of Directors and are in effect throughout the entire Regular Season and Postseason.

2018-2019 PIAA HEAD BASKETBALL COACHES' RULE

Pursuant to PIAA adoption of the **28-foot** (maximum) designated coaching box (1-13-2), the first technical foul charged directly or indirectly to the head coach results in loss of coaching-box privileges and the head coach must remain seated for the remainder of the contest, except as stated below:

1. The head coach may stand within the coaching box to request a time-out or signal his/her players to request a time-out.
2. The head coach may stand and/or leave the coaching box to confer with personnel at the scorer's table to request a time-out.
3. The head coach may stand within the coaching box to replace or remove a disqualified/injured player or player directed to leave the game; but **shall** replace that player within 15 seconds when a substitute is available.
4. The head coach **shall not** permit a team member to participate after being removed from the game for disqualification.
5. The head coach **shall not** permit a team member to participate while wearing an illegal uniform.
6. The head coach **shall not** permit team members to leave the bench area and/or playing court for an unauthorized reason.

NOTE: A single-flagrant foul, the second direct technical foul, or the third technical (any combination of direct or indirect) charged to the head coach results in disqualification and ejection. Ejected adult bench personnel shall leave the vicinity (out of sight and sound) of the playing area immediately and are prohibited from any further contact (direct or indirect) with the team during the remainder of the game. Failure to comply with the rules of ejection may result in the game being forfeited.

If the disqualification and ejection of a coach leaves a team without supervision by an adult coach approved by both the Principal and Athletic Director, the contest shall be forfeited.

A written report must be filed with the PIAA Office by the appropriate PIAA-registered basketball official when a coach, bench personnel, and/or a player is disqualified and ejected from a regular season and/or postseason contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct.

Written reports received by PIAA are distributed to the Principal and Athletic Director of the involved school, the District Chairman, sport specific chairperson, District Officials' Representatives, and the Sportsmanship Chairperson of the PIAA District Committee having jurisdiction over the school. In addition, the Principal of the involved school is required to complete a disqualification response form and submit same to the sport specific chairperson of the PIAA district having jurisdiction over the member school.

2018-2019 PIAA WRESTLING COACHES' RULE

Coaches and other team personnel are restricted to the bench/chairs while the clock is running and during normal out-of-bounds and resumption of wrestling except:

1. When walking behind the team bench to encourage wrestlers.
2. To approach the scorer's table to request the match be stopped to discuss the misapplication of a rule.
3. During a charged time-out or at the end of the match.

Coach misconduct (during the match) is called when a conference is requested with the referee regarding a misapplication of a rule, and the referee determines there is no misapplication involved, or when, during a conference, a coach questions the judgment of the referee. The referee shall penalize the **head coach** for misconduct.

Penalty for coach misconduct (during the match):

First Offense: **Warning.**

Second Offense: **Deduct 1 team point.**

Third Offense: **Deduct 2 team points and removal of the head coach from premises immediately for the remainder of the day.**

Unsportsmanlike conduct of coaches and other team personnel is any act which becomes abusive or interferes with the orderly progress of the match. These acts could occur prior to, during, or after a match. This includes violations of the bench decorum rule, taunting, acts of disrespect, or those actions which incite negative reaction by others. The offender shall be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct in accordance without warning.

Penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct of Contestants (not during the match), Coaches, and Other Team Personnel:

First Offense: **Deduct 1 team point.**

Second Offense: **Deduct 2 team points and remove from premises immediately on second penalty. Removal is for the remainder of the event, day/dual meet or tournament.**

Flagrant misconduct on the part of the coach or any other team personnel is any act which the referee considers serious enough to remove the offender from the premises. These acts can occur prior to, during, or after a match, including the use of tobacco products. Flagrant misconduct shall be penalized without warning.

Penalty for flagrant misconduct of coaches and other team personnel:

First Offense: **Deduct 3 team points and remove from premises for the duration of the dual event, remainder of multiple school event or tournament.** Contestant is eliminated from further competition for the remainder of a dual meet, multiple school event or tournament and no team points can be earned in an individual tournament. In dual-meet competition, any team points earned shall be negated. A student shall be removed from the premises only if there is authorized school personnel present to supervisor said student. If no supervision is available, the student shall be confined to the bench area.

Premises are defined as a tract of land with the building thereon.

The PIAA Wrestling Championships are one tournament series, starting with section tournaments. A coach, other team personnel, and/or contestant disqualified and ejected from a PIAA Section, District, or Region Tournament for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct is eliminated from further participation in any remaining competition in the PIAA Wrestling Championships tournament series.

A written report must be filed with the PIAA Office by the appropriate PIAA-registered wrestling official when a coach, other team personnel, and/or contestant is disqualified and ejected from a regular season and/or postseason contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct.

Written reports received by PIAA are distributed to the Principal and Athletic Director of the involved school, the District Chairman, sport specific chairperson, District Officials' Representatives, and the Sportsmanship Chairperson of the PIAA District Committee having jurisdiction over the school. In addition, the Principal of the involved school is required to complete a disqualification response form and submit same to the sport specific chairperson of the PIAA District having jurisdiction over the member school.

2018-2019 REGULATIONS FOR COACH/SPECTATOR DECORUM FOR ALL CONTESTS



AND BASKETBALL and WRESTLING COACHES' RULES

**PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**
550 Gettysburg Road, P.O. Box 2008
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0708

(800) 382-1392
Fax (717) 697-7721

(717) 697-0374
Web site www.piaa.org

Dr. Robert A. Lombardi
Executive Director

Mark E. Byers
Chief Operating Officer

Patrick B. Gebhart
Assistant Exec. Director

Melissa N. Mertz
Associate Exec. Director

Jennifer S. Grassel
Assistant Exec. Director