

## **BY-LAW ARTICLE IX**

### **Sportsmanship**

#### **Sect. 1: Committee Philosophy**

- A. The Sportsmanship Committee shall consist of administrators and athletic personnel from the member schools.
- B. The Sportsmanship Committee shall be empowered to act on all matters pertaining to sportsmanship, which involve administrators and athletic personnel, including coaches, players and spectators. Issues involving officials shall be referred to the Sports Officiating Committee.
- C. The Sportsmanship Committee shall be empowered to develop all By-Laws pertaining to sportsmanship issues and to develop broad and specific guidelines that shall be adopted by all member schools.
- D. On the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Sportsmanship Committee is empowered to reprimand, place on probation, suspend, or take similar action against member schools. Any action taken by the Sportsmanship Committee may be appealed in accordance with the due process procedures outlined in By-Law Article V.

#### **Sect. 2: School Responsibilities**

Member schools are expected to conduct their interschool relationships in a spirit of good sportsmanship in keeping with the philosophy of the NHIAA. The principal, as the administrative leader of the high school, has the responsibility of exhibiting the principles of good sportsmanship.

- A. Each school shall establish broad and specific policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and identifying responsibilities of administrators, coaches and students to ensure their observance.
- B. Each school shall insist that personnel set good examples of deportment and shall correct individuals who violate rules of good sportsmanship at a time convenient and in a manner adequate for the situation.
- C. Each school shall utilize all appropriate occasions and means to emphasize desirable deportment of coaches, students and support personnel.
- D. Any school participating in an NHIAA tournament contest shall appoint a school designated adult representative to be in attendance at the tournament. The designated representative shall be appointed by the principal and shall not be the coach for that sport. The designated school representative must identify himself/herself to the game director upon arrival at the tournament event. He/she shall be available throughout the event with the responsibility of identifying and assisting the game director when corrective action is necessary to control incidents of poor sportsmanship involving their school. (This By-Law shall apply to the sports of Baseball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Boys and Girls Soccer, Softball, Spirit, Volleyball. All remaining sports shall be covered by By-Law Article I, Section 10: School Representatives at Post-Season Activities.)
- E. Supervision of away contests shall be such as to ensure that the conduct of the school representatives reflects credit on them, their school and their sport. The NHIAA advocates the full promotion of cooperative relationships between schools entering into athletic competition.

#### **Sect. 3: MEDIA RELATIONS**

Coaches, *players* and other School Officials/Media Relations:

In an effort to ensure a relationship between coaches, players and other school officials and the media, which will reflect and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship, integrity and ethics, it is expected: Coaches, *players* and other school officials should make an effort in their communications with the media to stress the positive displays of sportsmanship demonstrated by the student athletes, coaches, spectators, and schools involved in the contest. Additionally coaches and school officials:

1. Will not permit anyone under their supervision to criticize athletic contest officials.
  2. Will cooperate with the media in the interpretation and clarification of rules and other aspects of the athletic contest.
  3. Will not comment about specific decisions of game officials.
- Any coach or *player* found in non-compliance with this By-Law shall not participate in the next scheduled

interscholastic athletic event, including NHIAA tournament Contests. A second violation of this rule shall cause disqualification from coaching or *playing* in that sport for the balance of that season. Principals and athletic directors are to monitor this By-Law and it shall be the responsibility of the school to file a report to the NHIAA within 72 hours including the name of the rule violator, a copy of the article (if available), *and action taken*.

#### **Sect. 4: TAUNTING**

Taunting in all sports is a flagrant unsportsmanlike foul, which shall result in the ejection of the participant from that day of competition, plus the next day of scheduled competition.

##### **Taunting is defined as:**

"Any actions or comments by coaches, players, or other game personnel which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is contact that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal matters."

Examples of taunting that would lead to ejection include, but are not limited to "trash talk", physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game, reference to sexual orientation; "in the face" confrontations by one player to another; standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player.

**NOTE:** This policy reinforces the responsibility of game officials, site managers, and game directors during regular season and NHIAA tournament play.

#### **Sect. 5: HAZING**

Hazing refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating. Anything that causes mental anguish or physical discomfort is considered to be classified as hazing.

Hazing or harassment practices of students will be disciplined according to School Board policy and will be reported to the police, in accordance with the State of NH Student Hazing Law RSA 631.7.

**NOTE:** The NHIAA encourages all member schools to develop a policy on hazing.

#### **Sect. 6: Disqualification from an Interscholastic Athletic Event**

A. Any player who is disqualified before, during or after any sanctioned event at the sub-varsity or varsity level, for exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct, shall not participate in the next scheduled interscholastic athletic event, including NHIAA tournament contests. Any coach who is disqualified before, during or after a game at the sub-varsity or varsity level, for exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct, shall not participate in the next two scheduled interscholastic athletic event, including NHIAA tournament contests and **MUST take the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Course for Disqualified Coaches prior to returning to coach in any capacity, effective 2011-12.** Any player or coach who is disqualified from a game and participates in the next scheduled interscholastic athletic event(s), including NHIAA tournament contests, will cause that school's game(s)/event(s) to be forfeited in the event of a win. In the event of loss (es), the matter will be referred to the Sportsmanship Committee for action. It is the coach's responsibility to promptly notify the school of any disqualification and the school must immediately impose the stated sanctions regardless of when formal notification is received from the NHIAA.

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- Q:** When is the next game suspension for the junior varsity coach who is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct while sitting with the varsity team during a contest in the same sport?
- A:** The coach may not participate in any game, at any level, until a two game suspension has been served at the level in which the disqualification occurred and must take the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Course for Disqualified Coaches **prior** to returning to coach in any capacity, effective 2011-12.
- Q:** When is the next game suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct for the person who serves as BOTH junior varsity and varsity coach in a sport?
- A:** The coach of both levels who is ejected from a contest/day of competition may not participate in the next two contests/days of competition at the level in the game which the disqualification occurred and must take the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Course for Disqualified Coaches **prior** to returning to coach in any capacity, effective 2011-12.
- Q:** If the coach is a parent of a team member, and is disqualified from a contest/day of competition, is that coach allowed to attend the next game as a parent?
- A:** During the period of disqualification, a coach shall not be in attendance at the game(s)/event(s) for which the disqualification is imposed and must take the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Course for Disqualified Coaches **prior** to returning to coach in any capacity, effective 2011-12.

**Note:** During the period of disqualification, a coach shall not be in attendance at the game(s)/event(s) for which the disqualification is imposed. If there is a violation the contest shall be forfeited. Individual schools can determine if a disqualified student athlete is allowed to continue practice or other school activities or whether to exclude the student athlete as in the case of a disqualified coach.

- B. If any player or coach receives a second game disqualification during the season, that individual will be required to forfeit any participation in that interscholastic sport, at any level, for the balance of that season.
- C. If the game disqualification is administered in the final contest of the season (including tournament play), the penalty shall be carried over in that sport and invoked at the first regular season game the following academic year. If a disqualification is administered to a graduating senior or coach in his final game of coaching for that school, it is the expectation that the school will take immediate and appropriate disciplinary action.
- D. Any player who leaves the bench area during an interscholastic athletic event where an altercation is taking place in the playing area shall receive a one-game disqualification for the next scheduled game.
- E. \*This rule supercedes the NFHS Ice Hockey penalty rule 4-5 Game Misconduct Penalties. A player or coach who has received a game misconduct penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be immediately removed from the game and the NHIAA Sportsmanship By-Law invoked as stated above.
- F. \***Soccer Yellow/Red Card Violations**
1. Any team, whose players/coaches receive a collective total of four (4) red cards during the regular season, will be ineligible for NHIAA tournament play and required to attend a hearing with the Soccer Committee.
  2. Any team, whose players/coaches receive a collective total of 12 yellow cards during the regular season, will be ineligible for NHIAA tournament play and required to attend a hearing with the Soccer Committee.
  3. If a player/coach receives his/her third yellow card of the regular or post-season a, one (1) game disqualification will be given.
  4. Any team whose players/coaches receive a collective total of five (5) yellow and/or red cards in a game will result in immediate termination of the game and result in forfeiture by the offending team.

If both teams receive the collective total of five (5) at the same time both teams will receive a forfeiture loss. This will include regular season and tournament play.

5. Game officials must report all yellow and red card infractions to the NHIAA Office via the Arbiter following their games.
6. Athletic Directors are required to report all yellow and red cards via the the soccer card report on the NHIAA website.

**Notes:**

- a. An athlete or coach, who receives two (2) yellow cards, resulting in a red card, will only be counted for the red card disqualification.
- b. Preseason cards are no longer counted.
- c. Any team scheduled to play against a team that has been disqualified from tournament play will be notified prior to the game.
- d. Teams (players/coaches) that qualify for tournament play and during post season play reach a cumulative total of either four (4) red cards or 12 yellow cards will be required to attend a hearing with the Soccer Committee.
- e. Any team (member school) attending a hearing with the Soccer Committee may result in a hearing with the Sportsmanship Committee for additional sanctions.
- f. The Soccer Committee will survey member schools next year regarding the reactions to the new sportsmanship procedures before developing sportsmanship procedures for the following season.

**NOTE:**

- Any player involved in a fight shall receive a two (2) game suspension for the first offense. A second offense will lead to a disqualification in that sport for the balance of the sports season.

\* This decision cannot be appealed to the NHIAA Sportsmanship Committee, as it is considered to be a judgment call by a game official.

**Sect. 7: Executive Authority**

The NHIAA Sportsmanship Committee, through the Executive Director, has the authority to investigate and take appropriate action on any reported flagrant violation of the Sportsmanship Rules occurring during the regular season or at NHIAA Tournament competitions.

Reported violations shall be resolved in a manner sufficient to correct the problem, and may range from a written statement of the findings by the Executive Director to the School Administration, to appropriate disciplinary action as outlined under NHIAA By-Law Article I, Policy, Section 5: Policy for Violators.

Any serious violation of good sportsmanship by players, coaches or spectators, during an NHIAA sponsored/sanctioned event, during regular season and tournament play, must be submitted in writing by the principal of the school involved to the Executive Director within five (5) days of the incident.

**Sect. 8: Due Process Procedure**

The due process procedures outlined in By-Law Article V will govern any response to a violation of this By-Law.

## **Sect. 9: Sportsmanship Award**

NHIAA Sportsmanship Awards are presented annually to school (s) who have demonstrated a high degree of sportsmanship throughout the year. The past recipients of this award are:

1991-92	Gilford, Gorham, St. Thomas, Winnacunnet
1992-93	Concord, Manchester West, Merrimack Valley, Oyster River
1993-94	Conant, Lisbon, White Mountains
1994-95	Plymouth, Profile, Souhegan
1995-96	Berlin, Concord, Epping, Pittsburg
1996-97	Concord Christian, Concord, Kearsarge, Newport
1997-98	Milford, Orford, Portsmouth, Winnisquam
1998-99	Exeter, Milford, Pittsfield, Sunapee
1999-00	Berlin, Derryfield, Portsmouth, White Mountains
2000-01	Dover, Newmarket, Plymouth, Sunapee
2001-02	Bow, Exeter, Hanover, Moultonborough
2002-03	Exeter, Hanover, Newmarket, Portsmouth Christian
2003-04	Belmont, Exeter, Moultonborough, Souhegan, Stratford
2004-05	Concord, Merrimack Valley, Profile, Sanborn
2005-06	Coe-Brown, Exeter, Portsmouth Christian, Sanborn,
2006-07	Coe-Brown, Exeter, Hanover, Newport, Profile
2007-08	Campbell, Coe-Brown, Exeter, Nashua Christian, Nashua South
2008-09	Coe-Brown, Exeter, Hopkinton, Stratford
2009-10	Alvirne, Berlin, Coe-Brown, Merrimack Valley, Portsmouth Christian
2010-11	Bedford, Campbell, Colebrook, Exeter, Timberlane