

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 and or scrimmage at the sub-varsity or varsity level, for exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct, shall not participate in any scheduled interscholastic athletic event, including NHIAA tournament contests until the suspension is served in the sport at the level in which the disqualification occurred. 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. Any player or coach who is disqualified from a game and participates in the next scheduled interscholastic athletic event(s), including NHIAA tournament contests, shall 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. The school may request a hearing with the Executive Director and/or Sportsmanship Committee to explain the circumstances of the situation. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Sportsmanship Committee may modify the consequences. 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.

(CM 5.2015) (CM 5.2018)

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.

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.

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.

Note: During the period of disqualification, a coach **may not be in attendance before, during, or after the game(s)/event(s) for which the disqualification is imposed. The local school administration can impose additional sanctions in addition to the two-game suspension required under this By-Law should they feel such action is warranted.** If there is a violation the contest shall be forfeited, or reviewed by the Executive director as noted in Sect. 6 above. 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. A disqualified student athlete **must** view the “NFHS Sportsmanship” video on the NFHS website under the supervision of a school official prior to returning to game action. A certificate of completion must be filed with the athletic director and reported to the NHIAA.

C. If a player or coach receives a disqualification in a holiday tournament, they shall not participate in any scheduled interscholastic athletic event until they sit the next scheduled interscholastic event. This is defined as the next game on the teams regular season schedule.

D. 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.

E. Should an athlete disqualification occur in the final contest of that season (including tournament play), with no remaining scheduled games in that level/sport, the suspension shall be served at the next regular season or post season contest for that student athlete. If a disqualification is administered to a graduating senior in their final game for that school, it is the expectation that the school will take immediate and appropriate disciplinary action. (CM 5.2015) (CM 5.2018) (CM 5.2023)

F. Should a coach disqualification occur in the final contest of that season (including tournament play), with no remaining scheduled games in that level/sport, the suspension shall be served in the next two regular season or post season contest for that coach. If a disqualification is administered to a coach in their final game of coaching for that school, it is the expectation that the school will take immediate and appropriate disciplinary action. (CM 5.2023)

G. 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. If the infraction is not reported by the game official, it is the responsibility of the school administration to report and enforce the consequence. (CM 5.2019)

H. *This rule supersedes 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.

I. *Soccer Yellow/Red Card Violations

1. Any team, whose players/coaches receive 4 (four) red cards or a collective total of 12 cards during the regular season, will be required to attend a hearing with the Soccer Committee. (Preseason yellow cards are not counted towards your season total. Preseason red cards will be counted towards your season total.) (CM 5.2015; CM 5.2019) (CM 5.2022)
2. If a player/coach receives his/her third yellow card of the regular season a, one (1) game disqualification will be given.
3. At the conclusion of the regular season, player/coach-accumulated yellow card counts will re-set to zero.
 - If a player/coach receives his/her second yellow card of the post season, a one (1) game disqualification will be given.
4. Any team whose players/coaches receive a collective total of five (5) 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 at the preliminary and quarterfinal rounds. In the spirit of player safety, semifinal and final soccer games may be terminated following the issuance of five (5) cards to a single team, at the discretion of the officials and Soccer Tournament Committee present.
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 soccer card report on the NHIAA website.

Notes:

- a. Preseason yellow cards are not counted towards your season total. Preseason red cards will be counted towards your season total. (CM 5.2015)
- b. An athlete or coach, who receives two (2) yellow cards, resulting in a red card, will only be counted for the red card disqualification.
- c. Any team (member school) attending a hearing with the Soccer Committee may result in a hearing with the Sportsmanship Committee for additional sanctions.

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 schools 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
2011-12	Alvirne, Bedford, Inter-Lakes, Sant Bani
2012-13	Belmont, Exeter, Gilford, Merrimack Valley, Sunapee
2013-14	Canaan-Pittsburg, Coe-Brown, Concord, Inter-Lakes, Pinkerton
2014-15	Alvirne, Hinsdale, Kearsarge, Milford
2015-16	Kearsarge, Lebanon, Pinkerton, Pittsfield
2016-17	Kearsarge, Merrimack, Merrimack Valley, Nute
2017-18	Canaan-Pittsburg, Fall Mountain, Hanover, Londonderry
2018-19	Exeter, Gorham, Kearsarge, Oyster River
2019-20	Fall Mountain, Littleton, Sanborn, Timberlane
2020-21	COVID – No Banners Awarded
2021-22	Fall Mountain, Franklin, Lebanon, Timberlane
2022-23	Berlin, Dover, Franklin, John Stark
2023-24	Belmont, Exeter, Lisbon, Sanborn
2024-25	Berlin, Exeter, Gorham, Sanborn

Sportsmanship Award Criteria **(PENDING Council Approval 11.2025)**

Member schools are considered for a sportsmanship award (one in each division) annually. Schools will vie for a sportsmanship award in the division in which they play a majority of their sports that offer four divisions.

In order to be eligible for the annual Sportsmanship Award or Runner-Up Award, a school must offer at least one varsity team sport per season (individual sports are not team sports).

Schools will provide a rating at the end of each season (fall, winter, and spring). Schools will choose three opponents who exhibited the best sportsmanship in each sport that they participate in. These opponents will be ranked one (1) through three (3) with those being ranked number one (#1) the school that exhibited the best sportsmanship.

At the conclusion of the school year, all of the seasonal ratings that each school earned will be averaged for an overall raw rating. These raw ratings will be subjected to modifications determined by the number of disqualifications a school received throughout the school year to provide a final rating. All schools are submitted by division in order of their sportsmanship ratings to the Sportsmanship Committee for consideration.

The Sportsmanship Committee applies the following equation when considering the banner recipients:

- Final sportsmanship rating scores will determine sportsmanship rankings.
- Schools are awarded three (3) additional points to their overall rating if they have zero coach disqualifications throughout the year.
- Schools are awarded one (1) additional point to their overall rating if they have zero athlete disqualifications throughout the year.
- Schools are penalized three (3) points from their overall rating for each coach disqualification received throughout the year.
- Schools are penalized one (1) point from their overall rating for each athlete disqualification received throughout the year.
- Player disqualifications given to cooperative teams will be assessed to the student athlete's home school.
- Coach disqualifications given to cooperative teams will be assessed to all schools in the cooperative.
- Sportsmanship at post season games is factored in.
- The school in each division with the highest rating will be awarded the Sportsmanship Banner Award.
- A large banner is awarded to the winner in each division, which is presented at the NHIAA Annual Meeting.
- A small banner is awarded to the runner-up in each division, which is presented at the NHIAA Annual Meeting.

The Sportsmanship Committee will honor, by season, the top three schools in each sport, by division, based on their raw seasonal sportsmanship ratings.

- If there is a tie for first place after deductions have taken place, the winner will be determined by whichever school has the least amount of disqualification deductions.
- The Sportsmanship Committee holds the right to determine the severity of the disqualification and whether points should be deducted.

Schools receive - .05 points from their overall rating for failing to rate an opponent throughout the year. Also may be deemed not be eligible for the Sportsmanship Award. (CM 5.2015; 11.2018)