

Section VII Spectator Sportsmanship Policy

NYSPPHSAA Sportsmanship Regulation:

“Any negative, inappropriate, derogatory comments or actions that brings direct attention to a supervisor or school administrator by a spectator or group of spectators are required to be addressed by the host school, Sectional, or NYSPPHSAA representative in the following non-sequential order depending on the comments or behavior:

- First warning – Directing the spectator or group of spectators to refrain from any negative comments or actions.
- Second warning – A personal discussion with the spectators or group of spectators on the above NYSPPHSAA expectations and reminding the spectators or group of spectators of the next step, removal of the game or event, will be utilized if the behavior continues.
- Removal from contest – The spectator or group of spectators will be directed to leave the facility for the remainder of the game or event. If spectators or group of spectators refuse to leave the game or event, play will be stopped until they vacate the premise.

* Districts or officials have the right to bypass the steps above based on the severity of the situation.

Penalty for being removed from a game or event: Any spectator removed from a game or event will have a minimum penalty of completing the following 2 courses on NFHSLearn.com – *Positive Parenting Within School Programs* & *The Parent Seat* **and** a one game suspension before they are allowed to attend any interscholastic event, home or away. Once the courses are completed the spectator will provide the certificates of completion to the athletic department office. Failure to comply will result in an additional suspension. Schools are required to communicate with the offending spectator on the NYSPPHSAA Sportsmanship Spectator Expectations.

Depending on the severity of the behavior/comments or future disqualifications by the offending spectator, NYSPPHSAA and Section VII may get directly involved in the situation. Note: A school may take additional actions above and beyond the prescribed penalties.

Recommendation to Section VII districts:

The Section VII Athletic Council is recommending that a designated administrator, game chaperone, security or site supervisor be present at each event. If no such person is present, the responsibility lies with the head coach as a district employee.