



Middle Township High School

Athletic Department

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Interscholastic Athletics Code of Conduct

While attending athletic events on school property, all spectators are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner as outlined below:

- Accept the judgment and strategy of the coaches and not criticize players or coaches for a loss in a contest.
- Accept the judgment of the officials and not respond negatively to their calls.
- Applaud positive performance and not heckle, distract players, and avoid the use of profanity and obnoxious behavior.
- Exercise self-control at all times, modeling appropriate behavior for others to follow.

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- using profanity, threatening comments, or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- verbally harassing an official or participant (i.e., coaches or players from any participating school) by using names or uniform numbers.
- entering the field of play – before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- engaging in a physical altercation with an official, coach, player, school staff, school security, or spectator – before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- using artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the interscholastic event or distract the participants during an interscholastic event.
- intentionally inciting participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- using obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, staff, or other spectators.

- engaging in harassing, verbal or physical, conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion at an interscholastic event.
- any additional unsportsmanlike conduct or actions determined by the Principal or designee to be unsportsmanlike conduct or action.

If the unsportsmanlike conduct involves a potential criminal act, the Principal or designee shall immediately contact law enforcement.

When a spectator at an athletic event on school property displays unsportsmanlike behavior, the following steps will be taken:

1. Immediate removal from the event and school premises, followed by a suspension as outlined below:
 - First offense:
 - One-game suspension.
 - Second offense (within one calendar year of the first offense):
 - Suspension for the remainder of the current season.
 - Third offense (within one calendar year from the first offense):
 - Suspension for one calendar year.
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2. Completion of required educational component(s) before attendance at future interscholastic events (see below).
3. The Superintendent or designee, upon consultation with the Principal or designee, may increase the disciplinary actions outlined in this code of conduct, depending on the severity of the offense.

The following **FREE** courses, provided through the National Federation of State High School Associations, are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for ALL parents. Completion of one of these courses is **REQUIRED** before returning from any suspension.

- Positive Sport Parenting
 - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/positive-sport-parenting>
- Sportsmanship
 - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sportsmanship-2>
- The Parent Seat
 - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/the-parent-seat>