



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.

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:
 - Suspension for the remainder of the current season.
 - Third-offense:
 - Suspension for one calendar year.
2. Completion of required educational component(s) before attendance at future interscholastic events (see below).

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>