

KANAWHA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY
Series: C27 - Athletics - Good Sportsmanship

27.01 Policy. All Kanawha County Schools and all individuals who coach, participate or attend any interscholastic athletic event are required to conduct all relations with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship. Responsibilities for good sportsmanship apply to all who engage or participate in, or attend interscholastic athletics.

27.02 The principal's responsibilities relating to interscholastic athletic competition:

- Working with the student body to explain the type of behavior expected of all students at athletic contests held either at the home facility or away from home facilities.
- Working with and through the cheerleader coach to eliminate cheers of questionable or inflammatory natures.
- Attending or designating a faculty member, usually the assistant principal or athletic director, to attend all home athletic contests.
- Establishing rules governing use of athletic facilities. Rules should include direction concerning seating (especially for vision), prohibited activities, soft drinks in the area, etc.
- Remaining or having the designated school personnel administering the contest remain until all spectators, athletes and officials have left the game premises.
- Reporting to the applicable Assistant Superintendent any unsportsmanlike act that occurred during a contest held on their school premises or at a game where their school is competing. This should include reporting any technical or unsportsmanlike foul charged to a coach. This foul shall be reported whether through the principal's knowledge of the incident or upon receiving a report from the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission.
- Reading to become knowledgeable of the rules and regulations as stated in the W.V.S.S.A.C. Handbook and the Kanawha County Schools' coaches and student/parent handbooks.

27.03 The coaches' responsibilities relating to interscholastic athletic competition:

- Assisting the principal in orientating the student body concerning good sportsmanship at athletic contests.
- Explaining what is expected of the students and why.
- Assisting in developing safeguards to ensure the safety of all spectators, and especially the athletes of competing teams.
- Assuming responsibility for the behavior of all participating athletes of his/her team before, during, and after the athletic contest.
- Assuming responsibility to conduct himself/herself in such a manner as to eliminate any action that would unnecessarily excite athletes under his/her supervision or members of the crowd.
- Conducting himself/herself in such a manner as to eliminate the possibility of an official of the contest charging him/her with a technical or unsportsmanlike foul.
- Study to become knowledgeable of the rules and regulations as stated in the W.V.S.S.A.C. Handbook and comply with the requirements of Kanawha County Schools' Coaches Handbook.

27.04 The students' responsibilities include the following:

- Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.
- Cheating and betting on games are prohibited.
- Students are encouraged to shake hands with the opposing team members after the conclusion of each athletic contest, unless the coach, game official or school administrator determines there is a safety risk in doing so.
- Maintain satisfactory scholastic standing.
- Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without question.
- Respect the facilities of host schools.
- Be familiar with and comply with the requirements of Kanawha County Schools' Student Athletic Handbook.

27.05 The spectators' responsibilities include:

- Realizing that they represent the school just as does the member of a team, and, therefore, has an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through this behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
- Being respectful to visiting teams and officials as guests.
- Respecting the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them.

27.06 Discipline.

In the event that a coach does not accept and discharge his/her responsibilities in game supervision, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action by the principal or Superintendent of Schools. Disciplinary measures for consideration may include warning, written reprimand, suspension or termination of duties.

If a coach in Kanawha County is ejected from an interscholastic contest by a game official the procedures outlined by the West Virginia Secondary Schools Athletic Commission will be followed. In addition, the principal may review the circumstances surrounding the ejection and recommend such other sanctions as the situation warrants.

Any coach charged with five (5) technical (basketball) or unsportsmanlike fouls (football, other sports) during a stated season shall be suspended from his/her coaching responsibilities with loss of salary for five (5) days. A bench or team technical foul is charged to the coach.

Any coach, player or bench personnel who has been ejected shall not be permitted to attend any contest(s) during any period of suspension. He/she shall not be affiliated with the team in any capacity in connection with an athletic contest. This would include but not be limited to transportation to or from the contest, meeting with the team before, during or after said contest. He/she is not permitted to be in sight or sound of said contest venue. Regular practice or team meetings not affiliated with a contest are permitted.

Students may also be subject to disciplinary action for conduct at school sponsored athletic events

which violates the Kanawha County Schools' Student Behavior Policy.

The Superintendent of Schools or the principal of a school may invoke sanctions against players, coaches or spectators as may be reasonably necessary in order to protect the safety of the participants or the integrity of the school's athletic program.

Issued: August 14, 1975

Revised: 03.12.2013; 06.07.2021