



2019 SPORTSMANSHIP ADVISORY MEETING
Minutes and Recommendations
April 24, 2019

Attendance:

Leslie Alappattu (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Megan Bozarth (Athletic Director at Normal Metcalf), Rita Castans (Athletic Director at Lake in the Hills Marlowe), John Downs (Athletic Director at Girard North Mac), Ryon Kramer (Athletic Director at Delavan), Katie O'Neal (Coach at Edwardsville Liberty), Jeff Perzee (Athletic Director at Yorkville), Cameron Stone (Athletic Director at Onarga Iroquois West) and Sherri Thomas (Principal at Bloomington JHS)

The IESA Sportsmanship Advisory Committee does not have any recommendations for the IESA Board of Directors for its June 14, 2019 meeting.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. The committee members reviewed the ejection/unsportsmanlike conduct summary for the last three school years. The committee was not in favor of amending either of the current player and coach ejection policies – there is no data that shows there is a prevalence of the same individuals receiving multiple ejections in the same year or multiple years. There is greater success when school administrators are proactive and outline expectations for adults and students prior to and during the season. While schools can always choose to implement additional penalties as outlined by the IESA handbook, the IESA has established minimum consequence levels for coaches and students. The IESA Sportsmanship administrator will compile multiple resources already available to create a one-page resource for schools to distribute to parents at the pre-season meeting (attached).
2. The committee heard a report from Jeff Perzee regarding the SALT program at Yorkville – This group includes 8th grade students only, involves an application process, Student Athlete Leadership Team, and they meet once a month before school for 45-60 minutes. The group engages in community service within the school and outside of the school, there is a 3-strike policy and then a student is removed from SALT. There are currently 39 students and the goals of this program include bringing the bottom level of expectations up and to change the school culture and climate in a positive way with mentoring more student leaders.
3. The committee reviewed last year's Student Leadership Conference breakout session topics - *Using Your Influence, Expectations of Leaders, Hazing Prevention and Response and Conflict Resolution*. Last year's presenters will review their presentations to see how they can be refined, and we will combine *Using Your Influence and Expectations of Leaders* into one session. The committee heard a proposal from the IESA Sportsmanship administrator about adding a new topic on mental health of students to cover topics such as stress management, communication, goal setting, empathy and incorporating social emotional learning standards (these included recommendations from the committee).

NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

SPORTSMANSHIP ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Email Sherri Thomas and Megan Bozarth Conflict Resolution and send John Downs Using Your Influence – what can be refined/combined? **done**
2. Combine Using Your Influence and Expectations of Leaders **done**
3. Find out if the new breakout session on mental health presentation can be recorded and sent out to schools?
not permitted
4. 2019 breakout session topics – *The Power of Positive Influence* (combined Leadership Expectations and Influence), *Hazing Prevention and Response*, *Conflict Resolution* and *You Do You: (#) Strategies to Take Care of YOU Before Effectively Leading Others*

PRE-SEASON MEETING EXPECTATIONS

The pre-season meeting is a chance for families and schools to partner together to deliver a positive student experience.

This meeting also serves as an opportunity for the school to share with the student and family the school's athletic and activities program philosophy, what to expect throughout the season as far as time commitment, individual responsibilities, communication methods, how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and be proactive in minimizing the risk of injury - additional topics may also be covered which are more specific to our school.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE COACHING STAFF

- Clearly articulate coaching philosophy
- Communicate expectations of students
- Prompt notification of location and time of practice, contests and any changes/delays to what was initially outlined
- Notification about special fees, equipment needed
- Team rules and consequences
- Knowledge of how to prevent injury and minimize risk when student participates
- Be a model of strong and respectful communication for the students on the team - students learn what is appropriate when they see how adults talk to other adults, other students and the officials
- Identify appropriate ways to support the program
- Inform students and family members of the communication chain-of-command
 - What is appropriate for the student to address directly with the coach?
 - If a parent has a concern, when is it appropriate to go directly to the coach vs. the school administration?
 - Are there times when it is advised to go directly to the school administration before speaking with the coach?

IESA RULES TO ADDRESS

- School policy regarding a student participating on a school team and a non-school team at the same time
- Academic eligibility and weekly grade checks
- Residency, transfers and age/grade in school eligibility
- Sportsmanship expectations VIDEO

EXPECTATIONS OF FAMILY MEMBERS

- Early notification of schedule conflicts
- Understand that failure to attend practices/games may result in a consequence
- Provide support to your student to talk directly with the coach - students need the opportunity to practice in order to develop these communication skills
- Control negative emotions - the officials have been hired and your role is solely to cheer for our school
- Have realistic expectation of your student's success - this is the student's time to shine
- Consider how your student's goals can be supported by you
- Be a model of strong and respectful communication for your student - do your words and actions make your student proud to have you in the stands or does it embarrass your student?
- Remember that interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom and a learning experience for students; mistakes will be made
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand the game and appreciate the effort of the participants
- Avoid criticism of game officials and sideline coaching which detracts from the performance of the student athletes

INAPPROPRIATE FOR FAMILY TO DISCUSS WITH COACH:

- Student's playing time
- Team strategy
- The calling of specific plays
- Other students

APPROPRIATE FOR FAMILY TO DISCUSS WITH COACH:

- Concern about treatment of child
- Tips on how your child best learns
- Information about your student's behavior

EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENT

- Commit to being a positive member of the team
- Understand the privilege you have to be a member of the team and the responsibility it carries
- Be a model for other students in your words (in person and on social media) and actions - you never know who YOU are influencing by what you show them
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials and avoid public criticism of game officials; accept the decision of contest officials
- Remember there is a difference between gamesmanship and sportsmanship; don't push the limits of the rules to gain an advantage
- Refrain from taunting, trash talking or making derogatory remarks to your opponents
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat

Sources

NFHS Parents Brochure
IESA & IHSA Sportsmanship Manual



PRE-SEASON MEETING AGREEMENT

STUDENT

As a student participating on my school's _____ team, I have attended the pre-season meeting conducted by my coach and/or school administration. In this meeting, information was shared about the following expectations of me as a student:

- What I can expect from the coaching staff
- What is expected of my family when attending matches/contests/meets for our school
- Additional school-specific and IESA rules
- What it means to be on a team at our school
- The expectations of my behavior inside and outside of the classroom
- The different ways in which I must meet eligibility requirements
- Our school's drug and alcohol policy
- The team's attendance policies and consequences for practice and competition

By signing below, I am agreeing that I have been informed of and understand the requirements I am expected to follow as a representative of our school on this team.

Printed Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____

FAMILY MEMBER

As a family member for the student listed above, I understand the following are the expectations of parents/guardians of student-athletes:

- Understand the purpose of educational athletics
- School sports are about students learning and having fun
- School sports are not about attempting to earn a college athletic scholarship
- Don't live my life through my child's activities - this is their time
- Accept all decisions of officials
- Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches, and officials
- Make my cheers supportive and not instructions as to how to play
- Be a positive role model through my actions by remaining calm/composed during games
- There is enough pressure on students to perform as it is and I can add pressure from reacting to mistakes they make and being critical and negative. Heightened emotions create unneeded stress and take away from the fun of the game.

By signing below, I acknowledge I am aware of the information shared regarding the school's expectations of me as a partner with them in promoting my student's interscholastic experience.

Printed Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____