



**2015 SPORTSMANSHIP ADVISORY MEETING**  
**Minutes and Recommendations**  
**November 9, 2015**

**The following members were present for this meeting:**

Katie Bevis-O'Neal (Coach, Edwardsville Liberty), John Downs (Asst. Principal/AD, Girard North Mac), Andrea Guerrero (Athletic Director, Springfield Jefferson), Jeanne Handley (Principal, Monticello MS), Mike Kukuck (Official, Grant Park), Derek Sieg (Coach, Mansfield Blue Ridge), Henry Soltesz (Dean/AD, Lake in the Hills Marlowe MS), and Sherri Thomas (Principal, Bloomington JHS)

The IESA Sportsmanship Advisory Committee, in its meeting on November 9, 2015, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their January 22, 2016, meeting:

**A. Penalty for Violating Rules, IESA Handbook**

1. Consequence for multiple ejections for coach/player - Section 5.100, By-Law 5.101 and 5.102
  - Current* Any player/coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct a second time in any activity during the school year, shall be ineligible for all remaining interscholastic contests the day of the ejection and the next two interscholastic contests at the level which the ejection occurred (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim), in addition to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess.
  - Proposed* Any player/coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct a second time in any activity during the school year, shall be ineligible for all remaining interscholastic contests the day of the ejection and the next two interscholastic contests at the level which the ejection occurred (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim), in addition to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess, **including, but not limited to, disqualification of participation in the state series contests (regionals, sectionals, and state) for the activity in which the second ejection occurred. NOT APPROVED**
  - Rationale* In looking at the data of ejections in the last few years, the number of total ejections reported to IESA has decreased. However, the committee still feels that the number of ejections for activities at this level (junior high/middle school) are higher than desired; with the ultimate goal to teach student-athletes about character through athletics and activities, it is important for both coaches and players to know that reaching the state series contests is a reflection of both their ability and skill as well as the level of sportsmanship displayed throughout the season. With the inclusion of the possible consequence of losing the privilege of participating in the state series, the intention is to deter coaches and players from displaying poor sportsmanship. The committee articulated that the inclusion of this statement provided a specific example of what "other penalties" could include.

## **B. Committee Discussion Topics**

1. Discussed the IESA/IHSA Sportsmanship Manual
  - a. Sportsmanship manual is available on the IESA website, can be used by schools wanting to have a school-specific manual and/or ideas for how to implement/teach sportsmanship within a school
2. Discussed adding a sportsmanship segment to IESA division meetings for 2016-2017
  - a. Identify trends from previous school year re: sportsmanship and use issues from previous year as a focus point in division meetings
  - b. Recommend use of NFHS Learn sportsmanship/coaching and positive sport parenting courses
  - c. Recommend that schools hold an all-coaches meeting at the start of the school year (discuss district protocols, changes in district policy in regard to athletics/activities)
3. Discussed recommending a common sportsmanship creed for IESA contests
  - a. Schools are encouraged to inform attendees at a contest the school's sportsmanship expectations
  - b. Can be read by students
  - c. Should be 30 seconds or less and read prior to the start of a contest
4. Distribution of sportsmanship banners throughout the school year
  - a. No recommendation to IESA Board of Directors
5. Discussed producing a newsletter - Sportsmanship Spotlight
  - a. Distributed to schools via email and on the IESA website throughout the school year
  - b. Provide examples of good sportsmanship (include school recognized for being "Good Sports")
  - c. Opportunity for IESA to proactively share sportsmanship expectations
6. Discussed use of the NFHS Learn courses for ejections
  - a. Not required as a consequence, could be used as a measure for teaching
  - b. Not IESA-mandated for ejections, but schools could choose to use it as a measure for return to coaching/spectating/playing
7. Discussed providing additional support for new athletic directors
  - a. Include a session at the AD workshop in the fall specific to new ADs
    - how to have difficult conversations with coaches
    - how to navigate the IESA website
    - sharing human/print resources available to new ADs
    - identify the local officials' association
    - provide new ADs with contact information for IESA Board of Director in division
8. Miscellaneous topics discussed
  - a. Encourage schools to have parents sign a code of conduct - sample inside sportsmanship manual
  - b. Encourage schools to state at the start of the contest officials' credentials (IHSA licensed/certified)
  - c. Encourage presence of athletic director at start-of-season meetings for each activity to share the district expectations of student-athletes and parents, expectations of the hired coach/sponsor, and the chain of command if concerns arise throughout the season
  - d. Encourage host administrator to introduce self to officials at the start of each contest and inform officials where in the contest area they can be found in the event an issue arises during the contest

## **C. Recognition**

1. The committee recognized Jeanne Handley, Mike Kukuck, and Derek Sieg for their service to the sportsmanship advisory committee and their commitment to the Association and its membership.

## **D. 2016-2017 Sportsmanship Advisory Committee Meeting**

1. The next meeting date will be on Monday, November 7, 2016 @ 10:00 am

## **E. IESA Administrator Responsibilities**

1. Create and distribute sportsmanship newsletter to all member schools on regular basis