

## **PARENT (FAN) DECORUM**

A PIAA member school's responsibility includes the responsibility of instituting full and complete team and crowd control measures at all contests assuring that the participants, staff and boosters of the member school conduct themselves at all times in a proper and sportsmanlike manner, assuring full compliance of the member school of all Association rules.

At a time when society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontations and unmanaged anger, often associated with youth sports, Greencastle-Antrim community schools wishes to state a philosophical stance of keeping our athletes, coaches, and fans safe; insisting on proper behavior, and prompting our positive reputation as regards to sportsmanship.

We recognize that the majority of our parents and fans set a behavioral example of the highest standard. However, the few who do not, force us to address these issues.

In as much as our coaches have certain standards of expected behavior (Coaches Handbook), our student athletes are governed by the Student-Athlete Behavioral Code, and regular students are subject to school rules at athletic events; it becomes incumbent upon us to set standards for the behavior of our adult fans and parents.

Greencastle-Antrim community schools will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed toward Greencastle-Antrim staff or players, the opposing school and all its representatives, or the game officials. Such behavior by parents can cause the school to suffer severe sanctions from the PIAA, is embarrassing to the school and reflects poorly on our values as a community.

Greencastle-Antrim Schools support the PIAA rules and emphasis on sportsmanship. We embrace this fully by definition and in spirit of intent. Proper human courtesies, kindness and decorum must apply to all relationships and situations. Sports are no exception. High school sports exist to build character, allow students to express themselves through physical exertion, and as entertainment. There is no place for poor behavior toward anyone.

Parents need to understand certain facets of the structure of high school athletics and the relationships involved.

1. There is no inherent right to participate. Coaches will retain those players whose skills and attitudes meet the needs of the program, as defined by the coach.
2. Likewise, the coach alone is responsible for deciding who plays and how much.
3. By allowing one's child or children to play sports, the parent is, in effect, turning the child over to that coach for that time period. The coach, as is naturally assumed, will instruct the child safely within normally accepted standards.

4. Coaches are professional and, until proven otherwise, it is assumed that they are operating within the best interests of all student athletes in their charge.
5. It is inappropriate for a parent to confront a coach after a practice or event. Parents should wait until the next day and schedule a meeting with the coach. This will help avoid conflict at a potentially emotional time.
6. Making derogatory comments about the officials, coaches, players of either team or other parents and fans at an athletic event is never acceptable.
7. Swearing in public at athletic events is never acceptable.
8. Coming to an athletic event intoxicated is not acceptable.
9. Being offensive in any fashion is not acceptable.

Parents who violate any of the above standards of decorum risk sanctions by the school corporation including, but not limited to, the following:

1. A warning, verbal or written.
2. Removal from the contest or premises.
3. Banishment from attendance at athletic contests for a short period of time or even permanently.
4. The severing of further contact with team personnel.
5. Civil or legal action could result.

In conclusion, we commend those parents who have always exhibited exemplary behavior and who, by such, have served as positive role models for our student-athletes. We encourage our parents to volunteer, to become involved with the teams, and to be supportive of the attempts of the entire community to educate our youth. By working together, we will establish Greencastle-Antrim schools and athletics as a “class” act.

We sincerely want to strive to make sportsmanship at Greencastle-Antrim an expectation...

Where we let players play, Coaches coach.

**Together Everyone Achieves More**