

PHILOSOPHY

The interscholastic activity program is an important part of the educational process. It provides opportunities for learning experiences in athletics, competitive band, and literary competitions which are difficult to duplicate in other school activities. The activity program teaches attitudes or responsible team play and cooperation. The program provides a vehicle for learning mental and physical self-discipline, loyalty, personal pride in the school, respect for the rights of others, and the will to win.

Participation in interscholastic activity programs in the school system is entirely voluntary. The opportunity to participate in the program is extended to all eligible students who are willing to assume the responsibilities congruent with the privilege.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPER SPORTSMAN BEHAVIOR

Coaches and/or teachers responsible for the development of activity programs shall abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit, respecting the integrity and judgment of activity officials. This includes the following:

1. the coach is influential in setting the tone of conduct of students, spectators, team members and interested citizens; therefore, he/she must visibly show that he/she values fair, honest rivalries, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of results.
2. the behavior of the coach must at all times be marked by dignity and self-control. He/she must not use provocative language or engage in any actions or remarks which would tend to incite the displeasure of the spectators or provoke disorderly behavior; and
3. the coach shall immediately take corrective action on any player/participant who intimidates an official or displays unsportsmanlike behavior.

Athletes/participants who exercise their privilege to engage in the program shall abide by the rules of the game or contest in letter and spirit, as well as those guidelines established by their administrators and coaches. This shall include:

1. maintaining standards of eligibility established by GHSA and the school of attendance;
2. being respectful and courteous to visiting teams and officials;
3. refraining from disrespectfully addressing officials, antics to intimidate, taunting or baiting visiting opponents and using insulting language and/or swearing;

4. respecting the integrity and judgment of officials and accepting their decisions without question; and
5. being modest when successful and gracious in defeat.

Administrators responsible for hosting activities are encouraged to include the following:

1. the environment, at the site of contests, should present an atmosphere where personal security is assumed for teams, officials and spectators through visibility and actions of law enforcement personnel and proper spectator behavior;
2. the student bodies and all attendees of the host and visiting schools should show evidence of schooling in proper sportsman behavior; and
3. visiting teams and officials should be without fear for personal safety before, during and after contests due to proper crowd control, easy access to dressing quarters, transportation vehicles and escort service when necessary.