

NDHSAA Spectator Ejection Policy

Matthew Fetsch
Executive Director
North Dakota High School Activities
Association



“The best leaders should pick 2 to 3 topics and devote almost all their time to them...delegate others to do the rest. If you pick the right topics, you’ll add value to your organization.”

Howard Tullman

NFHS Winter Meeting

San Francisco, CA

January 5, 2024



National Technical Foul Month

- Tuesday, January 31, 2023
- Bismarck @ Jamestown
- Longtime Assistant Principal “resigned” shortly afterwards
- Board formed new Committee one week later
- By-Law Amendment for new Board of Directors seat for Native American representation proposed for Fall vote

Jamestown students disciplined for taunts at Bismarck basketball play

VELÁZQUEZ Feb 2, 2023 Updated Feb 2, 2023 0



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The Jamestown School District has disciplined "a handful" of middle school high school students who directed racist taunts toward members of the Bismarck High School boys basketball team during a game in Jamestown on Tuesday night.

Jamestown Superintendent Robert Lech did not specify the discipline in a statement issued Thursday, or say how many students were held accountable. He said an investigation was done per the district's **nondiscrimination and anti-harassment policy**.

Sportsmanship & Citizenship Committee



Goal – to create and promote a culture where positive sportsmanship and citizenship are valued, respected, and a hallmark of all programs, practices, and policies within all NDHSAA member schools.



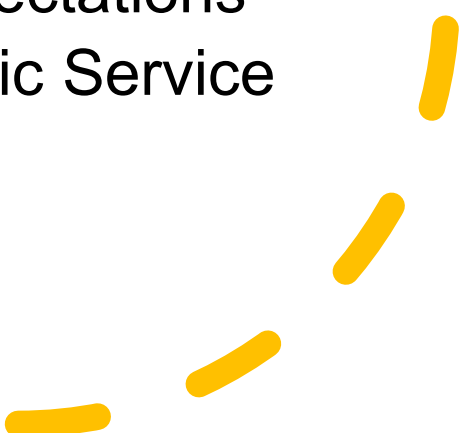
Chair – Alexis Baxley, NDSBA Executive Director & NDHSAA Board of Directors



NDHSAA Board of Directors began appointing committee members next week

A large orange circle is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Sportsmanship Grant Program

- Member schools may qualify for a \$200 grant
 - Online application
 - In-Person workshop with student body
 - Review NDHSAA Mission Statement
 - Review NDHSAA Behavior Expectations
 - NDHSAA “Be the Change” Public Service Announcement
- 
- A series of four yellow dashed line segments are arranged in a curved path in the bottom right corner of the slide.



Racist taunts at high school basketball games spur North Dakota legislation

JEREMY TURLEY Forum News Service Mar 13, 2023 Updated Mar 13, 2023 0



- After deadline to submit bills
 - Resolution
- Legislature meets biannually

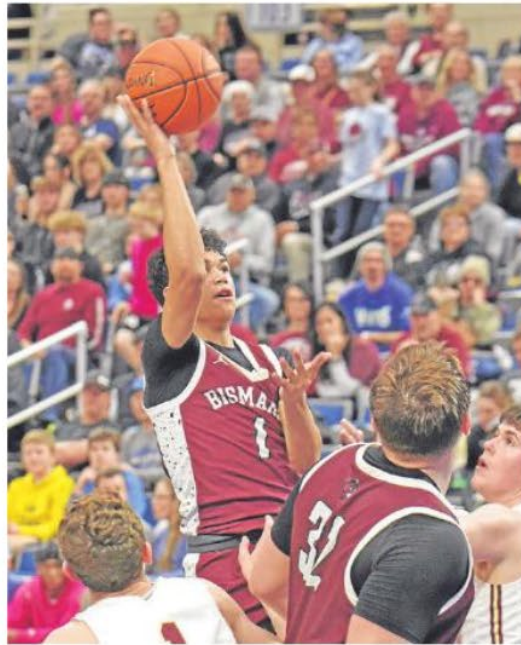
Racial taunting incidents persist at North Dakota sporting events

Advocate ejected from game played in Bismarck

BLAKE NICHOLSON
Bismarck Tribune

Minot Public Schools publicly apologized earlier this month in the wake of what it says was racially insensitive conduct by student fans toward members of the Bismarck High boys basketball team during the championship game of the Division AA West Region Boys Basketball Tournament.

During the same March 2 game,



TOM STROMME, TRIBUNE

Bismarck's Andre Austin (1) puts up a shot while surrounded by a crowd of players including

public spotlight.

Since then the North Dakota High School Activities Association has taken steps to address the problem, and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has launched an investigation. But instances across the state persist.

Minot Superintendent Mark Vollmer in a March 4 statement said a Bismarck parent toward the end of the March 2 game reported "potentially discriminatory conduct" by multiple Minot students in the stands. He said the matter was instantly addressed, and that a follow-up investigation determined that a "handful" of students "did engage in inappro-



Austin

Bismarck Public Schools issued a statement two days later — on the eve of the Class AA Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournament at the Event Center — urging respectful fan behavior at sporting events. BPS did not specifically mention the incident with Minot fans, saying the district wanted to "address a concerning pattern of behavior that's been observed during recent sporting events in our community," and that "This issue extends beyond a single school

Spectator Ejection Policy

- Any attendee ejected from a regular season or NDHSAA tournament contest will incur a minimum two (2) week suspension from that team's games/events and all other NDHSAA games/events in the interim at any level of competition. An attendee ejected for a second time during a school year shall be suspended for a minimum of one (1) calendar year from all NDHSAA regular and postseason events. NDHSAA member schools may increase these minimum penalties at their discretion.

Spectator Ejection Policy FAQs

Q. Who has the authority to eject an attendee?

A. Any on-site school administrator or game official may eject an attendee.

Q. Who is classified as an “attendee”?

A. Anyone at an event except for a participant or coach is considered an attendee.

Q: If ejected from one sport’s event, does this rule apply to all other sports and/or activities?

A: Yes. For example, if an attendee is ejected from a football game, they will not be able to attend any NDHSAA games/events (such as volleyball matches, debate competitions, etc.) until the two weeks has been served.

Q: Does this rule apply to students or coaches who are ejected as an attendee and may be participating/coaching in another sport or activity?

A: Yes. If a student or coach is ejected from a game/event as an attendee, they will be prohibited from attending or playing/coaching in any NDHSAA games/events until the period of suspension is over.

Spectator Ejection Policy Data

- 2024-25:
 - 33 reported fan ejections
 - 24 adults
 - 9 students
- 2025-26:
 - 29 ejections
 - 25 adults
 - 4 students
- By sport:
 - Basketball – 58%
 - Hockey – 16%
 - Football – 11%
 - Volleyball – 6%
 - Wrestling – 3%
 - Soccer – 2%
 - Baseball – 2%
 - Softball – 2%

Best Stories

- Sheriff
- Wrestling Official
- Hockey Dad
- College Roommate



Summary of Policy

- Positive move – 100% support from member schools is rare
- Fans talk about it
 - Neighborhood watch
 - Countdown to the postseason
 - NDHSAA polo
- No one feels sorry for “victims”



“Use your vacation days”

Rhonda Blanford-Green

NFHS Summer Meeting

San Antonio, TX

July 1, 2022





SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Sportsmanship and Effective Game Management

Dr. Curtrell Rhodan
Director of Educational Services

*greetings &
salutations*



Sportsmanship Two Tier Framework

- Tier One: Containment

- Tier Two: Connection



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Tier One: Containment

- Education
- Communication
- Accountability



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE



Education



1. Coaches Rules Clinics
2. Captains Courses/Leadership Summits
3. Principals and Athletic Directors Mandatory Meetings
4. Business Meetings/Coaches Meeting prior to championships

Common violations and unsportsmanlike trends are covered and the consequences for engaging in that behavior.



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Communicate

YOU CAN NEVER SAY IT TOO MUCH.

Social Media post, Commissioner's chat and beyond, and
Tues News

1. From you to the community
2. A consistent sportsmanship message
3. Why it matters. (explain ejections and minimums)

When : Before each season and every games.



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE





A c c o u n t a b i l i t y

1. Coaches Ejections
2. Student-Athlete Ejection
3. Student-Athlete Unsportsmanlike Conduct Questionnaire.
4. Unsportsmanlike Conduct Violations

minimum one game suspension for athletes and 2 games and a fines for coaches



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

State Association Role

What's on your checklist? Always look for cracks in the container.

- Constant Communication with facilities manager
- Security Placement
- Official Selection
- Student Section guidelines
- Effective use of Announcements at games
- Proper signage strategically placed
- Well Labeled Facilities Map (parking)
- Pre-Approved Clean Playlist
- Business Meeting



You know you've done your job if you aren't putting out fires.



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE



We connect through respect, teamwork, and shared values that strengthen individuals and communities.



TEAMWORK

We work together and support one another.



RESPECT

We value every player, coach, official and fan.



INCLUSION

We welcome diversity and promote belonging.



EMPATHY

We show kindness and understand others.



GRATITUDE

We appreciate the opportunity and those who make it possible.



**STRONGER
RELATIONSHIPS**



**STRONGER
COMMUNITIES**



**BETTER
PEOPLE**



**BETTER
PERFORMANCE**



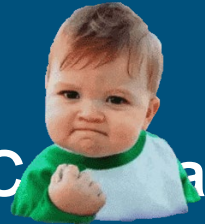
GREAT COMPETITORS. BETTER PEOPLE. STRONGER TOGETHER.

Tier Two : Connection

- Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) state level and school level initiative
- Sportsmanship Award - Banner and Certificate
- Student of the Month
- Scholar Athletes Award
- Multi-sport Award



Sportsmanship Award



**“You’re eligible for the Sportsmanship Banner and Certificate
Starts ~~August~~ May 31**

Banner	Certificate
Community Service Activities (minimum of 3 and 1 must be living clean week)	Community Service Activities (minimum of 2 and 1 must be living clean week)
Attend 3 Captain's Course and Summits (ALL)	3 Captain's Courses (ALL)
No ejections	No more than three athlete ejections No coach ejections
No other sportsmanship issues (sanction of fans or students at any contest)	No other sportsmanship issues (sanction of fans or students at any contest)
Sportsmanship Program	Sportsmanship Program or attendance at 2 Summits

We are student-athlete
centered. We promote
student-athlete leaders
as a driving force for
game management





Three examples of promoting sportsmanship through SAAC



Sports Etiquette



@schsl.saacofficial

SAAC pays it forward

A huge initiative for the Officers of SCHSL Student-Athlete Advisory council is two Middle School summits. These summits are organized and facilitated by the members of SAAC in order to instill leadership and sportsmanship into the next generation of SC student-athletes.



Take Aways

1. Containment and connection is key.
2. We are all in this together. Sportsmanship is up to all of us.
3. Prevention is worth a pound of cure, find the cracks and fill them.
4. Celebrate student -athletes/ promotes community involvement.
5. Student leadership can redirect and guide behavior.
6. Pay it forward - Middle School education matters.

