

**ARTICLE 12**  
**SPORTSMANSHIP, BEHAVIOR and SAFETY**

**12.1 SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY**

**12.1.1** All member schools are expected to maintain school policies that will ensure high standards of sportsmanship, behavior, and safety for all participants at all CAA events.

**12.1.2** All member schools are expected to react with appropriate disciplinary measures when players, coaches, spectators, and school personnel are involved in unsportsmanlike behavior or in the event of any safety issues for any participant at all CAA events.

**12.1.3** Member schools are expected to have Emergency Action Plans in place when hosting CAA events.

**12.1.3.1** Rental facilities should provide the facilities emergency action plan to support the CAA member school that it is contracted with.

**12.1.4** Schools failing to comply with the guidelines defined in Article 4 will be held accountable per the guidelines established in Article 10.

**12.2 COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY**

**12.2.1** Coaches are expected to maintain high standards of sportsmanship and behavior at all CAA events.

**12.2.2** Coaches that are ejected by a referee or school administrator from a CAA event will be held accountable per the guidelines established in Article 10 of this Constitution.

**12.2.3** The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**12.2.4** The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**12.2.5** The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

**12.2.6** The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

**12.2.7** The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

**12.2.8** The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**12.2.9** The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

**12.2.10** The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

**12.2.11** The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

**12.2.12** The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

**12.2.13** The coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

### **12.3 STUDENT ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITY**

**12.3.1** Student Athletes are expected to maintain high standards of sportsmanship and behavior at all CAA events.

**12.3.2** CAA Student Athletes are to act appropriately before, during and after all competitions and events.

**12.3.2.1** Each member school will have on file a Student Code of Conduct policy.

**12.3.3** Student Athletes are expected to uphold the current version of the NFHS Rules and Regulations or Articles within the constitution for a specific sport or activity.

### **12.4. SPECTATOR RESPONSIBILITY**

**12.4.1** Spectators are expected to maintain high standards of sportsmanship and behavior at all CAA events.

**12.4.2** Spectators that are ejected by a referee or school administrator from a CAA event will need to be removed immediately by school administration.

**12.4.3** Spectators, parents, or other non-school personnel should not use inappropriate cheers in any CAA event. Inappropriate includes but is not limited to the use of profanity, cheers with the intent of sounding profane, heckling students/players, using derogatory statements or chants, using racist words or cheers,

**12.4.4** Spectator Code of Conduct Policy is enforced for all CAA sanction events. This policy and additional documents can be found in the Appendix section.

**12.4.5** Spectators are expected to upload the current version of the NFHS Rules and Regulations or Articles within the Constitution for a specific sport or activity.

**12.4.6** Any spectator removed from the contest must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course (see 12.9)

**12.4.6.1** Any subsequent removal from the same spectator during the current school year (for any sport) will result in the inability to attend any CAA contests for the remainder of that school year.

## **12.5 OFFICIALS RESPONSIBILITY - Refer to Article 7**

### **12.6 SPORTSMANSHIP DOCUMENTS.**

(located on CAA website under HOME/SPORTSMANSHIP)

**12.6.1** Spectator Code of Conduct

**12.6.2** Sportsmanship A to Z

**12.6.3** Sportsmanship – Open Letter to Fans

### **12.7 SPORTSMANSHIP RULE (Player/Coach Ejections)**

**12.7.1** Ejection from a Contest - If a CAA contest official determines that a coach or player has acted in an unsportsmanlike manner during either a period or intermission, the coach or player may be ordered to leave the contest.

**12.7.2** When a coach or player is ejected from a contest, his/her member school should complete the CAA Ejection Form and submit it to the CAA.

**12.7.3 Ejection from a Contest** – If a CAA contest official determines that a coach or player has acted in an unsportsmanlike manner during either a period or intermission, the coach or player may be ordered to leave the contest. **Note:** When a coach or player is ejected from a contest, their member school must complete an **electronic ejection report** and submit it to the CAA.

**12.7.3.1 Penalties for Ejection** – A coach or player ejected from a contest for any reason shall be subject to the following penalties **without appeal**:

**12.7.3.1.1 First Ejection (Player Non-Fighting)** – Ineligible for the next contest at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level.

**12.7.3.1.2 Second Ejection (Player Non-Fighting)** – Ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level.

**12.7.3.1.3 Third Ejection (Player)** – A similar infraction of Article 12, Section 12.3, Paragraph 12.3.1 of the CAA Bylaws by the same player during the same season will result in cessation of the season for the player concerned.

**Fighting Ejection** – Ineligible for the next two or three contests (depending on the sport) at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level.

**12.7.3.1.4** Any player ejected for fighting:

**12.7.3.1.4.1** Shall be ineligible for the next two contests in the following sports - badminton, cross country, football, flag football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, beach volleyball, and wrestling.

**12.7.3.1.4.2** Shall be ineligible for the next three contests in the following sports - baseball, basketball, volleyball, and softball.

**12.7.3.1.4.3** Must complete an **NFHS Sportsmanship Course** and provide a certificate of completion to regain eligibility.

**12.7.3.1.4.4** Shall not participate for the remainder of the day.

**Coaching Ejection** – Ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level.

**12.7.3.1.5** A coach ejected for fighting or flagrant contact with an official shall result in **cessation of the season** for the coach concerned.

**12.7.3.1.5.1** Any coach ejected must complete an **NFHS Sportsmanship Course** and submit the certificate of completion to regain eligibility.

**12.7.3.1.5.2** Any person ejected from a contest shall not participate for the remainder of that day.

**12.7.3.1.5.3** A third infraction of Article 12, Section 12.3, Paragraph 12.3.1 of the AIA Bylaws by the same coach during the same season will result in the **cessation of the season** for the coach concerned.

## **End-of-Season Ejection**

Suppose a penalty is imposed at the end of the sports season, and no contests remain. In that case, the penalty shall be enforced at the beginning of the subsequent season of competition in which the coach or player participates, regardless of the sport.

If an ejection affects participation in a **state championship tournament**, a responsible administrative officer of the school may appeal the ejection to the **State Commissioner of Officials (Commissioner)**.

**12.7.3.1.6** A contest with state championship implications includes:

**12.7.3.1.6.1** Last regular season contest

**12.7.3.1.6.2** Regional/Sectional tournament

**12.7.3.1.6.3** State tournament contest

**12.7.3.1.6.4** Only the advancing team in the above contests

### **12.7.3.1.7 Appeal Process**

**12.7.3.1.7.1** The appeal must be filed within **24 hours** of the contest.

**12.7.3.1.7.2** The initial **Appeals Report** must be submitted in writing by an authorized administrator from the member school to the **CAA State Commissioner of Officials** using an **electronic ejection report**.

**12.7.3.1.7.3** The **State Commissioner** will form a committee to review the ejection and any supporting evidence.

**12.7.3.1.7.4** The appeals committee will consist of an equal number of **Athletic Directors and CAA Officials**, stipulating that AD representatives reviewing the appeal **must not be from the same division** as the appealing party.

**12.7.3.1.7.5** The decision of the **appeals committee is final**.

**12.7.4** If an ejection is imposed at the end of the sports season and no contest remains, the consequence from Article 12.7.3 of the CAA Constitutional Guidelines shall be enforced at the beginning of the subsequent season of competition in which the coach or player participates, regardless of the sport.

**12.7.5** When any person (including coaches, non-playing contestants, and nonparticipating school personnel) leaves their team's bench area to initiate or participate in a confrontation or an altercation in progress, the following shall occur without appeal:

**12.7.5.1** The contest officials shall eject any person they determine to be an infraction of Article 12.

**12.7.5.2** The contest officials may terminate the contest.

**12.7.5.3** If the contest is terminated, the team(s) that left the bench area must forfeit the contest and record a loss.

**12.7.5.4** If the contest is terminated during a tournament or post-season play, the offending team(s) will be removed from further tournament or post-season competition.

**12.7.5.5** Further penalties may be imposed against the offending team(s) by the CAA Executive Board as set forth in the CAA Constitutional Guidelines.

#### **12.7.6 LEAVING PLAYING AREA**

No player may leave the playing area and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of verbal or physical conflict. Notwithstanding any other bylaw in the CAA Constitutional Guidelines, the minimum penalties for violation of this rule are:

**12.7.6.1** The player is ineligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the school year.

**12.7.6.2** The player's school shall immediately be on Probation pending an investigation and report by the school to the CAA Executive Board detailing what occurred, what caused the occurrence, what was done by the school to diffuse what occurred, what school imposed disciplinary actions have occurred, and what corrective actions have been implemented by the school to prevent future violations.

**12.7.6.3** At the discretion of the CAA Executive Board, a school's report may be rejected if deemed inadequate and the Probation shall remain in effect pending receipt of an adequate report.

**12.7.6.4** Upon receipt of an adequate report, the CAA Executive Board will review the matter and may impose any penalties set forth in Article 10 of the CAA Constitutional Guidelines. The school shall remain on Probation until action by the CAA Executive Board.

**12.8 ENTERING SPECTATOR AREA PROHIBITED** – No player may leave the playing area and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of verbal or physical conflict.

Notwithstanding any other rule in the Constitution and Bylaws, the MINIMUM penalties for violation of this rule are:

**12.8.1** The player is ineligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the school year, and;

**12.8.2** The player's school shall immediately be on Probation pending an investigation and report by the school to the CAA detailing what occurred, what caused the occurrence, what was done by

the school to diffuse what occurred, what school imposed disciplinary actions have occurred, and what corrective actions have been implemented by the school to prevent future violations. At the discretion of the Executive Director, a school's report may be rejected if deemed inadequate and the Probation shall remain in effect pending receipt of an adequate report.

**12.8.3** Upon receipt of an adequate report, the Executive Board will review the matter and may impose any penalties set forth in the CAA Bylaws. The school shall remain on Probation until action by the Executive Board.

**12.9 NFHS SPORTSMANSHIP COURSE** - Any athlete, coach, or spectator removed from a contest must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course before returning to the competition.

**12.9.1** The NFHS Course can be found at [www.NFHSLearn.com](http://www.NFHSLearn.com)

**12.9.2** The Certificate must be kept on file by the Athletic Director

**12.10 FAILURE TO COMPLY** - Schools, Coaches, Student Athletes, and/or spectators failing to comply with the guidelines defined in Article 12 will be held accountable per the guidelines established in Article 10.