

Philosophy

The interscholastic activity program of the Columbia County School System 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 of 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 Columbia County 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. Written guidelines relative to the selection of student athlete team members as well as team awards/letters will be developed by each middle and high school and will be provided to student athletes and their parents/guardians prior to each interscholastic sport season. Copies of such guidelines will be on file in the office of the **Deputy** Superintendent.

Guidelines for Proper Sportsman Behavior

Coaches, sponsors 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 or sponsor is influential in setting the tone of conduct of students, spectators, team members and interested citizens; therefore the coach/sponsor must visibly show that fair rivalries, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of results are valued;
2. The behavior of the coach or sponsor must at all times be marked by dignity and self-control. The coach/sponsor must not use provocative language or engage in any actions or remarks which would tend to incite the displeasure of the spectators or players or provoke disorderly behavior;
3. The coach or sponsor shall refrain from disrespectfully addressing officials on any matters before, during or after a game or match; and

4. The coach or sponsor 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 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 of the host and visiting school 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.

PROCEDURE: NO

ADOPTED: 3/14/89

REVISED: 10/1/97,8/10/99, 7/27/04

Columbia County Board of Education