



SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONTEST MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to set forth plans for action and codes of conduct related to the management of athletic contests in the BVAL in all league sports listed above. Once adopted by the league Board of Managers, all schools in the league shall adhere to and take steps to implement its contents.

Guiding Philosophy regarding High School Athletics:

Athletics in our high schools should be education-based, co-curricular rather than extra-curricular, an integral part of our educational mission. They should be designed with the commitment to help our student-athletes leave high school with life lessons (teamwork, hard work and effort, playing by the rules, how to win and lose) that will help them become better and contributing members of our society. Achieving this goal requires coordinated effort by all the adults involved in the process – administrators, officials, coaches and parents. To that end, and with the idea that high school athletics should be fun as well as instructive, we, as the administrators of the BVAL, commit to the codes of conduct and action plans below with respect to the conduct of athletic contests in our schools.

Definition of a Successful Athletic Contest:

A successful athletic contest should be or result in all of the following:

- Fun
- Safe
- Welcoming
- Full of respect for Contest/teammates/opponents/officials by players, coaches and fans on both sides of the contest
- Hard fought but cleanly and positively contested
- Played, called and coached by the rules
- Winning team (including fans) handles victory with grace
- Losing team (including fans) handles defeat with grace
- Well-organized and smoothly run.
- Good Sportsmanship is exhibited by all.

None of these happens by accident. ADVANCED PLANNING is key to the successful management of a high school athletic contest.

Needs for Authorized Representatives from both sites for Contest Management

The guiding principles with respect to Authorized representatives designated for contest management are the following:

- Respect for and collegiality with league mates
- Each school ultimately responsible for conduct of own coaches, players and fans
- COMMUNICATION with league mates prior to contest
- The authorized representative for each school is designated by the school's administration and SHOULD NOT be a contest coach

- The authorized representative should be made aware of his/her responsibilities and duties by the designating school.

Contest Management:

1. Upon arrival and before the start of the varsity contest, host designee, away designee (when applicable) and officials should meet and exchange information and locations.
2. Home designee is responsible for game management, including fan management.
 - If an away designee is present, home designee should work with away designee for game management support
3. Home and away designees will inform contest coaches who is the designee on duty, including away contests in which an away designee is required.

CIF Sportsmanship Code of Ethics

It is the duty of all concerned with high school athletes:

- to emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. to eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game. to stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
- to show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
- to establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
- to respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- to achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
- to encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by the players on the team.
- to recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual players.
- to remember that an athletic contest is only a game and not a matter of life and death for the players, coaches, schools, officials, fans and communities.

How to Handle Sportsmanship Issues Between Schools:

When there is an issue involving bad sportsmanship by any school before, during or after a contest, the schools shall first communicate between their respective administrators, and the League Commissioner should be made aware of the issue. If the schools cannot resolve matters between them, the League Commissioner shall take appropriate steps to remedy the issue and to prevent its recurrence. Both schools shall cooperate in that process. As always, COMMUNICATION among league mates is the key here.