

Pregame Statement

With feedback and suggestions from students and local school leaders, below is an optional shorter version. The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee asks that if the shorter version is read over the public announcement system, that the full version be well communicated in your local settings in places such as websites, programs, sandwich boards, or posters.

Optional Shorter Version

Our School: _____ and (name of away school) remind participants and spectators of the requirement to behave in a respectful manner.

Sportsmanship and safe playing environments are the top priorities for all Vermont school-sponsored activities. This is especially true with respect to a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, ethnic differences, or disability. Any violation on the field or in the stands can result in game stoppages, ejections, or forfeits. For the full statement, use the QR Code.

Let's work together to ensure a positive, supportive, and healthy learning environment for everyone involved and have a great game!

(End)

Additional Recommendations & Reminders

- Change who reads the statement for each event
- Have students read the statement
- Have participating captains read the statement together
- Pay attention to language translation when needed
- Put the full statement in any printed or digital programs that you may be utilizing
- Use the public announcement system whenever possible
- Post in visible locations around the school/field/gym/dugout and venue
- All coaches & officials are expected to annually complete the [NFHS Implicit Bias](#) training
- The [Reporting a Concern Form](#) is open and active for students, community members, athletic directors, and site administrators to utilize
- [VPA Guide to Good Sportsmanship \(PDF POSTER VERSION\)](#)

[Reporting Form](#)

Pregame Statement, Full-Length Version

(Name of home school): _____ and (name of away school): _____, in conjunction with the Vermont Principals' Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and the Vermont State Athletic Directors Association requires participants and spectators to behave in a respectful manner.

Sportsmanship and safe playing environments are the top priorities for all Vermont school-sponsored activities. This is especially true with respect to a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, citizenship, immigration status, ethnic differences, or disabilities.

Under no circumstances should any student-athletes, officials, or coaches be subjected to behavior and/or language aimed to demean, disrespect or harm. If behavior or hate speech of this kind is observed and/or reported, the site officials will stop the event immediately to meet with the coaches and the game officials about the next possible outcomes of violating this expectation, which could include:

- Immediate ejection from the event
- Ending the event early and returning home
- Forfeiture of the event or future events
- Resuming the game without fans
- Scheduling future games without fans
- Restrictions/suspensions from future attendance/participation

Adults and students are encouraged and expected to work together to ensure a meaningful and safe learning environment for our communities to grow and thrive together.

Thank you to all participants for helping ensure the highest levels of respect and safety for all.

SAFE PLAYING

ENVIRONMENT

Our School: _____ and our opponents remind participants and spectators of the requirement to behave in a respectful manner.

Sportsmanship and safe playing environments are the top priorities for all Vermont school-sponsored activities. This is especially true with respect to a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, ethnic differences, or disability. Any violation in the game or in the stands can result in game stoppages, ejections, or forfeits.

For the full statement, use the QR Code.

Let's work together to ensure a positive, supportive, and healthy learning environment for everyone involved and have a great game!

FULL
STATEMENT

