



# **CROWD CONTROL PROCEDURES**

## **FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS**

## PURPOSE

Cognizant of the need for crowd control, the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, in upholding its tradition of proper maintenance of high school athletics, strongly recommends the following procedures for crowd control. The main goal is the prevention of crowd disturbances at our sporting events; efficient crowd control maintenance and strict discipline among administrators, coaches, players and spectators.

Often, the hostility of the crowd is the reflection of hostility between the schools, or coaches' actions. Also, a crowd faced with disorganized, confused events is more apt to become hostile. The following recommendations strive to prevent the hostility between the high schools, and more efficiently conduct the events themselves.

The Association supports the local control aspect of a member school's programs. The Association therefore urges each school to become strongly involved within its own programs and the programs of its league or conference in fostering procedures that provide a wholesome atmosphere, an attitude of sportsmanship and a safe experience for all students, athletes and spectators at its athletic events.



## DISORDERLY PERSONS STATUTE

## 2C:33-2

2C:33-2 Disorderly Conduct

- a. Improper Behavior. A person is guilty of a petty disorderly person's offense, if with purpose to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof he (1) Engages in fighting or threatening, or in violent or tumultuous behavior; or (2) Creates a hazardous or physically dangerous condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose of the actor.
- b. Offensive Language. A person is guilty of a petty disorderly person's offense if, in a public place, and with purpose to offend the sensibilities of a hearer or in reckless disregard of the probability of doing so, he addresses unreasonably loud and offensively coarse or abusive language, given the circumstances of the person present.

"Public" means affecting or likely to affect persons in a place to which the public or a substantial group has access; among the places included are highways, transport facilities, schools, prisons, apartment houses, places of business or amusement, or any neighborhood.

## CROWD CONTROL PROCEDURES FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

Efficient management of interscholastic athletic contests, both at home and away, is an increasingly important and paramount aspect of administering a high school athletic program. The following recommendations have been assembled to assist schools in preparing adequately for crowd control at athletic contests.

1. Pre-season and pre-game responsibilities are shared by both schools competing in any athletic contest.
2. Responsibilities during the game are shared by both schools, with the home school assuming the major role. At neutral sites, dual responsibilities exist and should be coordinated.
3. Post-game responsibilities are shared by officials of both schools, local police and the citizens of the community.
4. Advance preparation of all details pertaining to athletic contests is necessary for efficient and effective administration.





## PROCEDURES BEFORE THE GAME

### Home School

1. Develop a written operational plan for each home event.
2. Contact the visiting school as early as possible to arrange for a meeting or telephone conversation to discuss the game, including prior and existing school/community control problems. Time and location of pregame security meeting should be confirmed.
3. Discuss any situations peculiar to your stadium (or gym or off site venue) and send a map of the stadium (venue) and parking areas to the visiting school.
4. Formulate plans which provide directions and instructions for all visiting personnel regarding safest routes, parking, seating and dismissal from bleachers, and loading and unloading buses and automobiles. Be alert to the impact of new construction projects. Travel the visiting team departure route prior to game time. Predetermine departure times and routes of visiting spectators.
5. Evaluate the type of/use of pregame music. Please note any, all, specific sport rules pertaining to music, fog machines, etc.
6. Evaluate the conditions and factors of on-site construction projects and the resultant impact on entrance and departure procedures.
7. Evaluate the use of separate spectator entrance/departure gates/ doors.
8. Have parking areas well lighted. Arrange for on-site parking of visitor's autos and buses.
9. Have stadium or gym secure and all gates locked prior to the scheduled opening time.
10. Arrange for supervision to continue until after all visitors have left the area, including the team bus.
11. Prepare a supervision chart and inform in writing the assigned personnel of their duties before the game. (Persons on duty from both schools should have some type of identification- jackets, staff shirts, arm bands, badges, etc.)
12. Evaluate location of spectator seating and team locker rooms. Teams should not enter/leave in front of opponent seating area. Arrange appropriate accommodations for the handicapped.
13. Lightning policy/procedure should be available and reviewed by coaches and officials. **(See Officials Handbook, and/or NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws for a copy of the lightning policy and procedures.)**
14. Provide for adequate police supervision before, during and after the game.
  - Be sure that there is both inside and outside police supervision at games including off-site parking areas and streets.
  - Be sure to contact and arrangements with local police departments at the highest level possible in order that adequate police protection will be available to control the spectators at the conclusion of the contest. Develop a plan of action in cooperation with the police for measures to be taken in the event of trouble. Review prior and existing school/ community control problems, along with gang activity. Crises prevention should be part of the review.
  - Develop in consultation with police, emergency evacuation plans relating to activated fire alarms, bomb threats, security breaches, and acts of violence.
  - Arrange for diverting traffic away from the athletic field or gym so that spectators leaving the game can do so quickly.

- Work with local police to provide “no parking” signs around the stadium or gym, blocking off streets if needed, arranging for one-way traffic where necessary.
  - Give specific instructions to auxiliary police, ushers and faculty members hired by the school, concerning their responsibilities; designate someone to provide further instructions and direction to paid auxiliary police, ushers and faculty members at the game.
  - Develop a supervision chart for police coverage before, during and after the game. Police supervision of the on- site and off-site parking areas during the game should not be forgotten.
  - Stagger police scheduling, so that all police will not arrive and leave at the same time.
  - Suggest a suitable location to detain anyone arrested by the police until they can be taken away with the least amount of confusion.
  - All security personnel should be readily identifiable by the public. Prevention, not apprehension after trouble begins, should be emphasized.
  - Review the need for and the provision for metal detection equipment. All spectators should be screened - not just visitors. If such equipment is to be used, inform administrators of visiting school prior to the day of the event and admission screening. (This includes the use of police bomb dogs.
  - Make use of video technology whenever possible.
15. Arrange for supervision to continue until all visitors have left the area, including the team bus.
  16. Depending on local conditions, you may wish to advise ticket sellers to screen for troublemakers and group agitators. In some communities, it may be necessary to consider the advisability of not admitting elementary and junior high students unless accompanied by adults. Representatives from the visiting school should screen for known troublemakers from both their school and community. Such individuals should be turned away prior to admission.
    - Implement a Board of Education approved “Objectionable Persons” policy (Non-admittance to known troublemakers and group agitators).
  17. Instruct the operator of school designated recording equipment to keep the camera operational during any/all incidents of inappropriate behavior, including time outs.
  18. Have all special seating areas roped off prior to opening the gates. Use school service club members (monogram club, student council, etc.) for ushers and monitors of student sections and make sure that these students are rehearsed in their duties.
  19. Provide reserved seats for bands. The amount of time they will have for halftime activities should be known to them and should be strictly observed.
  20. Seat students from opposing schools in separate sections. Seating for home and visiting spectators should be adequate. Seats and tickets should be numbered. Spectators should remain on their side of the field or gymnasium throughout the contest. Do not oversell the facility. Preferential seating may not be given to season ticket holders nor may admission for NJSIAA tournament events be included as part of season ticket sales. Keep general admission spectators separate from student sections if possible.
  21. Arrange for interested parents and patrons to assist with supervision of general admission section.
  22. Check fire code for seating capacity and other recommendations.
  23. Keep in mind the number of security and other personnel in addition to ticket purchases. If the facility is filled beyond capacity, the home team shall be subject to sanctions by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

24. Assign a student manager to meet the visiting team when they arrive and to direct them to their dressing quarters. A good-sized room, a blackboard and chalk, a training table, benches, chairs, and drinking water should be provided. It may be necessary to ask opponents to come dressed for the game if the visiting team's quarters are not adequate.
25. Provide security measures to protect visitors' clothing and valuables while the visitors are on the field or court. The playing field or court and the area immediately adjacent to it at all athletic contests shall be restricted to team members, coaches, managers, officials, and other parties necessary to the conduct of the game. Student or faculty associates shall wear something distinctive so that they may easily be identified. Sufficient personnel shall be provided by the host school to enforce this regulation. The visiting school shall see that this rule is enforced in their area. Schools must bear a dual responsibility when playing at a neutral site.
26. Provide reserved parking for game officials and medical personnel.
27. Emphasize to game officials the importance of keeping the game under control.
28. Arrange payment to officials and other personnel before the game.
29. Take care in the preparation, printing, and sale of athletic programs. All programs should have correct names and jersey numbers of participants. Any major rule changes and interpretations must be current.
30. Statements concerning spectator behavior have proved effective. The following message has been adopted by the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations and may be considered for inclusion in game programs and should be announced several times throughout the game during breaks for time-outs; quarters; halves, etc.

**NJSIAA SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT must be read.**

These are high school athletes who are performing here tonight. They are friendly rivals as members of opposing teams. They are not enemies. This basically, is the theme of interscholastic athletics ... the idea of friendly competition. The visiting team tonight, and in every interscholastic game, is a guest of the home team. They are expected to be so regarded and so treated.

The officials are people who, by agreement between competing teams, are assigned to administer the rules of the game. Their experience and their integrity qualify them for their part in this friendly interscholastic contest. This attitude of sportsmanship should be reflected by all spectators, too, no matter what their personal feelings of loyalty may be to one or the other of the teams in tonight's contest.

31. Arrange for adequate concessions as a service to spectators. If possible, a concession stand should be available on both sides of the stadium at football games. Evaluate discontinuing concessions at highly contested indoor events. In such cases, suitable halftime programs should be presented.
32. Have custodian check rest rooms for supplies before game time. Separate rest rooms should be provided for visitors.
33. Check game facilities: Condition of the field or court should be checked before the game for hazardous conditions, cleanliness, and for proper markings. Special attention should be given to the position of fences and players' benches.
34. Have a physician present whenever possible (football). If possible, an ambulance should stand by in an area where it will not be observed by the public. It should be brought on the field only on request

of the physician. The home team physician may be made available to the visiting team if the visiting team does not bring its own physician to the contest.

35. Have properly trained adult scorers and timers for officials at games. The same assistants should be used the entire season. It is recommended that chain and box men be paid for their services.
36. Assign a competent person to take charge of the scoreboard.
37. The announcer is a key person and carries a great deal of responsibility. What is said and how it is said may have serious effects on crowd behavior.
  - The game should be reported without showing favoritism to teams or players.
  - Proper language should be used always.
  - Announcers can show enthusiasm without losing control.
  - Plays, should not be anticipated.
  - Only those in charge of the event should be permitted to use the microphone.
  - Under no circumstances should officials' decisions be criticized directly or indirectly.
38. Emphasis must be placed upon restraint in littering a facility with confetti, toilet tissue, decorative streamers and the like. Failure to comply could result in punitive action, including fines to cover the cleanup costs.
39. For evening events, be alert to possible loss of power. Have in place:
  - a. Knowledge of the location of emergency energy resources.
  - b. Exit plan for teams and spectators. Review plan with coaches, security staff, police, and custodians.
  - c. Ticket refund plan.
  - d. Available working flashlights.

## **VISITING SCHOOLS**

1. Contact home school or neutral site manager to discuss game preparations and obtain information on:
  - a. safest route to and from stadium or gymnasium.
  - b. location of visitors' parking area.
  - c. visitors' entering and exit gates.
  - d. visitors' seating area.
  - e. prior and existing school/community control problems.
  - f. time and location of pregame security meeting.
  - g. facilities for the handicapped.
2. Consider transporting students by bus if there is inadequate parking at the stadium.
3. Include the cost of bus transportation in student tickets when travel is by bus only.
4. Student buses must have staff supervision.
5. Have adequate faculty and administrative supervision going to the game, at the game and after the game. Provide identification for school personnel. Establish an acknowledgment of attendance with home management.
6. Consider asking interested parents and patrons to help with supervision.
7. Provide information to students regarding travel, parking, entrance, seating and exit.
8. Check on amount of time allotted for band or other halftime activities and adhere strictly to the time limit.

## **DUAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Provide opportunities for cultural exchange between student bodies through assemblies.
2. Use home room and assemblies to orient students to the importance of good conduct.
3. Ask student councils to help by planning campaigns for spectator sportsmanship.
4. Plan assemblies to inform students about game rules, or issue a book of rules and regulations so that everyone knows how to watch a game intelligently and knows what is expected of him. Utilize Physical Education classes to instruct these activities and extend the knowledge of the playing rules.
5. Any type of mascot shall be kept on the side of a school's rooting section.
6. Only the school banner or sportsmanship creed should be displayed and placed on the participant's side of the field.
7. Be alert to prior and existing community or cross-community and gang control problems.
  - Provide home or neutral site management with listing and staff to implement "Objectionable Persons" policy (if used at visiting school's home events)
8. Monitor and stop inappropriate chants and cheers.



## **DURING THE GAME**

1. Visiting school principal or his representative should contact the site manager or athletic director immediately upon arrival to discuss final details and to indicate seat locations so that parties are available to each other.
2. Separate rest rooms and concession booths should be available.
3. Have adequate police, faculty, and patrons distributed among the students and other spectators. Assign someone to help control spectator behavior near the players' bench.
4. At sold-out contests, clear the site of fans that could not gain admission.
5. Prepare a plan for acquiring police backup if necessary.
6. Meet faculty supervisors from the visiting school and acquaint them with their areas.
7. Employ a walkie-talkie system, tied into the police.
8. Check on supervision each quarter.
9. Keep lines of communication open to administrators from visiting schools and site manager.
10. Assign a responsible adult, other than the coach, to help attend to injured players, and, if necessary, to accompany them to the hospital.
11. Provide for supervision during halftime as it is necessary to help direct the crowd, keep spectators off the playing area and keep the venue safe.
12. Maximum available lighting shall be utilized during any contest and shall not be restricted to the area of competition.

## **AFTER THE GAME**

1. **At the discretion of the site director**, the sportsmanship handshake between coaches and team members will take place at end of the game. When awards are presented, all team members and coaches will remain on the court/field at the end of the game until award presentations have concluded. Following the ceremony, teams will immediately return to their respective locker rooms.
2. Use public address system to give directions to students and spectators regarding exit from the stands.
3. Provide police and faculty supervision until all students and spectators are well dispersed. Permit no loitering.
4. Provide an escort with a key to the locker room for officials.
5. Arrange an area for press interviews.
6. Check supervision of all areas; provide continuous security for locker room area.
7. Assign someone to assist police in dispersing hangers-on who wait for the team after the game.
8. Buses loaded with rooters, band, and team should depart, with police escort, immediately after the game.
9. Administrators of both schools should confer before leaving to be sure that all details have been attended to.
10. Discourage spectators from leaving before the end of the contest.
11. When deemed necessary, have police escort officials to their cars, and buses to the city/town limit.
12. Letters of appreciation should be sent to the opposing school, coaches, officials and newspapers, if appropriate.



## GUIDELINES FOR CHEERLEADERS

Failure to observe these guidelines shall result in possible sanctions by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, including the suspension of cheerleading privileges for a specified period.

1. Instead of exchanging cheers, the host school cheerleaders should go to the visiting side and greet the visiting cheerleaders. All cheerleaders of both schools should lead a cheer for the visitor's section and follow with a cheer for the home section. Cheerleading advisors, coaching staffs and other game management advisors should meet to discuss the importance of spectator and player sportsmanship.
2. Cheerleaders' functions are to make a positive contribution to good spectator reaction at an athletic contest and to create better relations between opposing supporters.
3. Cheers should be positive, not aimed at antagonizing an opponent. Care should be taken in making certain that words used in a cheer are not suggestive and do not have a connotation which would inflame an audience.
4. Cheerleaders should remain silent when the opponents' cheer-leaders are cheering and during free throws at basketball games.
5. Cheerleaders are expected to lead the cheer group in a round of applause for an injured player leaving the game. Cheering is appropriate.
6. When "booing" occurs, the cheerleaders should attempt to stop it with a "waving off" motion of the hands. It is important that any booing is waved off immediately. If the booing becomes louder, the cheerleaders should help to divert the crowd's attention by starting a popular yell routine. Immediate action is the key to the control of booing.
7. Cheerleaders, properly trained, can be as important to the spectator behavior as the coach is to his team.
8. Student bodies and teams will react as they are instructed, inspired and led by neat and well-poised cheerleaders.



## POLICE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Police should arrive in sufficient time before game starting time and report to principal or his representative to request instructions, such as best locations for observation, nearest phone, etc.
2. During the game, officers should be requested to assist in controlling the following:
  - Non-students seated in the student sections who may be inclined to cause disturbances.
  - Any person appearing to be under the influence of alcohol must be denied admission to the event.
  - Any suspicious gathering of individuals in rest rooms, behind the stadium, in the parking areas, or elsewhere.
  - Loiterers should be asked to move on and crowds dispersed outside gym once game is sold out.
3. Police traveling with visiting team should clear their attendance with the Home School police department prior to the day of the event.



## COACHES

High school coaches influence not only the conduct of players under their supervision, but also the behavior of many spectators.

1. In dealing with the officials, the coach's approach must be businesslike and professional. The coach must exercise self-control and realize that the official sees through impartial and unbiased eyes. Coaches must familiarize themselves with the proper procedure for requesting a conference with an official.
2. Opposing coaches **must** shake hands publicly and should ask players to shake hands with opponents before the game and behave with courtesy throughout the contest.
3. Coaches must be sensitive to situations, such as athletes losing control of themselves, and get potential troublemakers out of the game before difficulty begins. **Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their entire staff. Athletic Directors are responsible for all coaches and support personnel.**
4. Coaches who repeatedly conduct themselves in an un-sportsman- like manner shall be subject to sanction by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.



## PLAYERS

The less notice the player takes of the spectators and the more he concentrates on his part in the game, the more absorbed the crowd will be and the less likely to misbehave.

1. Players should refrain from showing surprise or irritation at a call of an official. The official's ruling-just or unjust-should be accepted with politeness.
2. "Playing to the crowd" can cause trouble-particularly in basketball where the player's facial expressions are clearly visible to the bench and stands. Players should not communicate with the spectators.
3. Unsportsmanlike gesturing or the harassing of individual opponents should be avoided.
4. Substitutes on the bench should not heckle the opposing team.
5. The relationship of players to each other before, during and after the game affects and helps establish crowd rapport.



## SCHOOL REPORTERS

1. Stories should be presented fairly and accurately.
2. Losses do not need to be explained or alibied.
3. Wins should not be over stressed.
4. School Reporters are encouraged to speak out for good sportsmanship.
5. Reporters should refrain from criticizing high school athletes in a school newspaper.



## **MEDIA**

1. Should contact site director (home athletic director) in advance to request accommodations.
2. Should not enter the surrounding playing area whereby they may interfere with the players, officials or coaching staff.
3. Should be directed not to conduct post-game interviews in the playing area.
4. NJSIAA provides free individual admission to members of the media who have completed the application process and received the proper NJSIAA credential. A photo ID may be requested to authenticate such a pass.



## **SPECTATORS**

Spectator sportsmanship may be encouraged in the following ways:

1. Student councils can develop codes of sportsmanship.
2. Cheerleaders and bands can help promote good sportsmanship.
3. Proper sportsmanship must be clearly defined by the administration.
4. Sportsmanship trophies can be given to encourage good conduct.
5. Pep boosters can promote better sportsmanship.
6. The pregame atmosphere is improved if spectator participation is encouraged. Standing and singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" is one opportunity for such participation.
7. Handbooks on regulations dealing with crowd conduct are helpful.
8. Disorderly persons should be removed promptly.
9. Posters can be used to stress courtesy and sportsmanship.
10. Noisemakers (of any kind) must not be permitted.
11. Drunkenness must not be permitted.
12. Students should sit as a group.

Students and adult spectators who have a general knowledge of game rules and of officials' techniques and signals seldom cause disturbances at athletic contests.

## CONTEST OFFICIALS

### Section I - School's Responsibilities to an Official Prior to the Season

1. Communicate with the officials, once scheduled, as a reminder. (Arbiter, e-mail, phone text)
2. Reminders: should include the contest date, time, level of competition, contest location, and sport.
3. Have a standard wage scale set for your different sports and levels and a method in place to raise the pay periodically.
4. If possible, let the working official know who their partner(s) will be.
5. Hire police and security along with medical assistant or trainer coverage for events whenever possible.

### Section II - School's Responsibility to an Official Prior to the Contest

1. Prior to the contest provide the officials with directions and inform them of any special activities that might be occurring (i.e., Homecoming, Senior Night, etc.)
2. Give the official a number he/she can call in case of an emergency or postponement due to weather.
3. Have competent workers assigned at all contests (scorers, announcers, chain crew, etc.). These people are of great assistance to the official during the contest.
4. Have a host assigned to meet the officials as they arrive. The host should do the following for the officials:
  - A. Provide a reserved parking space.
  - B. Meet Officials and take them to the dressing room.
  - C. Have refreshments available for halftime and postgame.
  - D. Ask for any additional needs.
  - E. Have the escort or preferably the athletic director introduce the officials to those game workers pertinent to the contest (i.e. scorer, announcer, chain gang, etc.)
  - F. Get the proper pronunciation of officials' names so they are correct when given to the announcer.
5. Athletic Director should discuss with the officials any special events, conference rules, national anthem time, etc. that would affect the game.
6. Provide the officials with the name of the adult supervisor for the contest and where he/she can be found in the event a challenging situation should occur.
7. Make officials aware of the location of trainer or paramedics during the contest.
8. Make sure all bench personnel are properly attired.
9. Do a check on game scoreboards and lighting systems prior to the game or contest.
10. Make sure the playing area is properly marked and meets National Federation guidelines for that contest.

### Section III - School's Responsibility to an Official During the Contest

1. Insist coaches display good sportsmanship and are proper examples for your players and crowd.
2. Have your announcer or cheerleader read the NJSIAA sportsmanship statement and remain unbiased during the contest.
3. Make sure the event supervisor understands the duties and responsibilities pertinent to the contest.
4. Make sure the playing area is maintained during halftime of each contest.
5. Make sure proper crowd control is visible and in place.
6. Observe the crowd during the contest and prevent any disturbances that may occur.
7. Work with the official during the game regarding crowd control.
8. Retrieve the game ball at the end of the contest.
9. Escort the officials back to the dressing room at halftime and after the contest.

### Section IV - School's responsibility to an Official after the Contest

1. Escort the officials safely back to the dressing room.
2. Do not allow unauthorized persons in the dressing room after the game.
3. Have refreshments available for the officials after the contest.
4. Be sure to thank the officials for their time and effort, regardless of the outcome of the game.
5. Make sure arrangements for paying the officials are completed.



## Other Considerations:

1. The Threat:
  - Take all threats seriously.
  - An improperly handled threat can be worse than an actual incident.
  - A properly coordinated level of response thwarts the purpose of the threat.
2. Post a copy of the crowd control policy in a conspicuous place in the gym and/or lobby.
3. When crowds are anticipated to be large, conduct a pregame sale of tickets.
4. If prior circumstances indicate the possibility of problems, change the time of the game to the afternoon.
5. Prior to the event, evaluate the format of all music
6. Provide free admission to faculty members accompanying the visiting team. (Notice should be given.)
7. In gymnasium/arena settings, do not allow spectators in first row or rows of bleachers/seats. Reserve these seats for cheerleaders, administrators, security, press, or keep vacant.
8. Make use of video technology whenever possible.
9. Busses (team/spectator)
  - \* Unload/load/park in well-lighted, predetermined locations.
  - \* Vehicles from opposing schools not be together or intermixed.
  - \* Check prior to the end of the contest that the busses are in the proper location.
  - \* Portable mid-court security barriers (rope/movable fence/ personnel)
10. For indoor contests, at the end of the game consider:
  - \* Portable mid-court security barriers (rope/movable fence/ personnel)
  - \* Have losing team leave first. Hold winning team in seats (announce).
11. The following should be included as prohibited activities for all student sections, as part of all School, Leagues & Conferences Handbooks or Guidelines:
  - \* Booing officials or opponents at any time.
  - \* Holding up newspapers during the introduction of the opposing team and/or shouting "Who cares?" after each individual introduction.
  - \* Pointing and chanting "You, you, you" after fouls. Pointing to the goalkeeper and chanting "sieve" after a goal in ice hockey.
  - \* Near the end of games, chanting "We're No. 1. We're No. 1" or singing "Na, na, na, hey, hey, good-bye."
  - \* If you think the cheers are questionable, stop them. Work with Student Leaders to encourage proper sportsmanship.

## A PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETIC EDUCATION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Participation in sound and wholesome athletic programs contributes to health, physical skill, instructional maturity, social competencies, and moral values. Cooperation and competition are both important components of American life; therefore, the experience of playing athletic games should be a part of the education of all youth who attend our secondary schools.

To achieve the proper goals of athletics, the school and the public must be informed concerning the role of athletic education. School athletics are a potential educative force that is not always properly used and that is too often misused. We, in New Jersey, can utilize athletics as a part of the educational program by continuing to develop the responsibilities which belong to the state, the school, the community and this association. There is every reason to believe that if this is done, communities will recognize those contributions school athletics can make, and be willing to aid in all efforts to stimulate and motivate the establishment of sound policies and wholesome practices for the secondary schools of New Jersey.

Through the untiring efforts and dedication of the member schools of the NJSIAA, this association will continue to maintain a quality of excellence in the program of interscholastic athletics for the boys and girls of the State of New Jersey.

Violent-free sporting events are vital to New Jersey's high school athletic programs. This booklet, hopefully, will promote the enjoyable participation of students in the sporting events of their schools.

Any questions regarding this booklet can be addressed to:

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Revised September 2017

