

Game Management:

Officials assigned to officiate a contest, are responsible for the conduct of the contest. However, controlling crowds and crowd reactions are not within the official province. That responsibility falls to game administrators. There have been situations where the officials have worsened a bad situation by engaging in conversation with unruly spectators.

Officials must be more tolerant of fans than any other group. Spectators can mostly yell whatever they want, but profanity and racially offensive remarks should not be tolerated.

Officials should never engage directly with spectators to include any verbal response.

Addressing the spectator directly is a no-win situation, and often serves to make a bad situation worse by heightening the level of abuse. Under no circumstances should an official ever confront, challenge, rebuke, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during, or after a contest.

If spectators begin to interfere with the conduct of the contest; cause an official to become distracted through continual and unrelenting verbal abuse; or berate players, coaches, or fellow officials in an unacceptable or vulgar manner, officials should stop the action, report the spectator(s) to the home school administrator or the nearest uniform security officer, and asked that they be restrained or removed from the facility. If no game administrator is present, as is often the case in a sub-varsity contest officials may have to call on coaches or other school personnel to remove an unruly spectator.

And remember, following the ejection of a spectator, please fill out an incident report with CHSAA.

Steven Riker
Rules interpreter
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