



**Ephrata Area School District
Athletic Department**

ATHLETICS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES SPECTATOR POLICY





Ephrata Area School District Athletic Department

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Spectator Policy at Athletic Contests

Introduction

At EASD sporting contests, we take pride in creating a positive environment for all spectators and athletes. It is of utmost importance that all members in attendance promote good behavior and sportsmanship. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere conducive to the development of citizenship, inclusiveness, positive recognition and equitable opportunities for learning while maximizing the achievement of educational and extracurricular goals.

EASD is committed to promoting good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or sexist comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for immediate removal from the site of competition.

We thank everyone who comes out to support our students and our school and look forward to another great year at EASD. Go Mountaineers!

Do (What is permitted):

- Understand your attendance is a privilege that provides an opportunity to observe an athletic contest, not to berate players, coaches, or officials.
- Cheer for your team.
- Encourage sportsmanship by supporting and respecting all players, coaches and officials
- Demand that others treat players, coaches, officials and other spectators with respect regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or ability.
- Support decisions of coaches and officials.
- Appreciate the efforts of players, coaches and officials.
- Be generous when we win, gracious when we lose.

Don't (What is not permitted):

- Ridicule or berate players, coaches, officials, or other spectators. Engage in any unsportsmanlike conduct with officials, coaches, players or parents. This includes inappropriate comments including taunting, profanity, or gestures.
- Participate in any behavior endangering the health or well-being of a participant.
- Humiliate, denigrate, or intimidate, in any way, any participant or attendee. This includes chants about underclassmen.





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- Under any circumstances, possess a weapon of any sort to events (i.e. guns, knives, etc.)
- Ridicule any participant for making a mistake.
- Attempt to coach from the stands/sidelines or grandstand.
- Confront coaches, officials, opposing fans or participants in an antagonistic manner before, during or after contest.
- Throw ANY object onto the court/field of play.
- Rush the field/court in protest or celebration after a contest.
- Use tobacco, electronic smoking products, alcohol, nicotine, illegal or other controlled substances are expressly prohibited, and law enforcement will be contacted if illegal activity is suspected.
- Wear inappropriate attire.
- Bring drones and pets onto our campus during sporting contests and at after-school events
- Use balloons, banners, laser pointers, noisemakers, pom-poms (by spectators), shakers, signs, sirens, strips of material, towels, whistles, and/or portable listening devices (without earphones).
- Bring food or drink into any gym. All food or drink must remain in the appropriate areas outside of the gym near the concession stands.

Consequences

Any negative, inappropriate, derogatory comments or actions that draw the direct attention of a supervisor or school administrator by a spectator or group of spectators are required to be addressed by the host school in the following non-sequential order depending on the comments or behavior:

- **First warning:** Directing the spectator or group of spectators to refrain from any negative comments or actions.
- **Second warning:** A personal discussion with the spectators or group of spectators on the above EASD expectations and reminding the spectators or group of spectators of the next step, removal of the game or event, will be utilized if the behavior continues.
- **Removal from the contest:** The spectator or group of spectators will be directed to leave the facility for the remainder of the game or event. If spectators or groups of spectators refuse to leave the game or event, further consequences will ensue.

All rules outlined in our EASD Student Handbooks are in full effect when students attend a contest or event as a participant or spectator. Violations of the EMS and EHS Code of Conduct will be treated as if they occurred during the school day.





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Guidelines for Seating

Student Section

Students need to be seated in the designated student area. Student seating is always on our bench side-either behind or directly across from the team. No movement of seating for the purpose of taunting the opponent is permitted.

Theme nights give our school the opportunity to come together in spirit to support our sports teams. Theme nights, (white outs/ black outs/ senior recognition, etc.,) will be permitted as long as the theme is appropriate for the specific game and has been approved by the Director of Athletics and Student Activities or the Building Principal. Theme nights are meant to bring the school together in a positive and fun way.

PIAA Policy

Sportsmanship is a core principle in interscholastic athletics. Actions which are unethical or intended to demean, embarrass, intimidate or injure opposing contestants, teams, spectators and officials are considered unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated since they are contrary to the purposes of PIAA and convey lessons incompatible with the reason why high school sports exist.

Resources

- [EASD Sportsmanship Video](#)
- [PIAA Sportsmanship Section of the PIAA Handbook](#)
- [NFHS FREE On-Line Sportsmanship Program for Coaches, Parents and Athletes](#)

