



Alamogordo Public Schools

ATHLETICS

103 Cuba Ave.
Alamogordo, NM 88310
(575) 812-5567
alamogordoschools.org

Dear APS Family,

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank each of you for the outstanding support, behavior, and sportsmanship you have demonstrated throughout this young season. Our athletes notice how we conduct ourselves in the stands, on the sidelines, and in the community. Your positive example helps create an environment where our athletes can compete with confidence and respect. We are fortunate to have families and fans who understand that high school athletics are an opportunity to teach character, accountability, teamwork, and how to handle both success and adversity.

These positive interactions and behavior have been noticed by representatives from other communities. You may have recently seen a social media post complimenting the behavior and sportsmanship from the AHS football program at a recent away game. These serve as a reminder that others are always watching, taking note, and appreciating the culture we have in Alamogordo.

A Reminder About the NMAA “2-Strike” Rule

Please remember that the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) expects appropriate conduct from everyone involved in our athletic events. This includes athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators. As you may have seen through news stories and social media, there have been incidents in other parts of the state where the NMAA has had to levy sanctions against schools for both fan and athlete behavior.

The NMAA’s “2-strike” rule is an important reminder that inappropriate behavior toward officials, opponents, coaches, athletes, or other spectators can have consequences. We ask everyone to help us avoid situations that could result in disciplinary action for our programs and schools.

Please remember:

- Officials are doing a difficult job and deserve our respect.
- Coaches should be allowed to coach without interference from the stands.
- Opposing athletes and families deserve the same respect we expect for our own.
- Disagreements should never become personal, confrontational, or disrespectful.
- If emotions are high, step away and allow time to cool down.
- Our athletes should never feel that they have to defend a parent, coach, teammate, or themselves through verbal or physical confrontation.



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Parents play an incredibly important role in teaching athletes how to handle conflict both on and off the field. When your athlete comes home frustrated about a teammate, coach, official, opponent, or situation at school, consider using the moment as an opportunity to teach problem-solving.

A few questions can help:

- “What happened from your perspective?” Encourage your athlete to explain the situation before jumping to conclusions.
- “What part of the situation can you control?” Help them focus on their own actions and responses.
- “Did you communicate directly and respectfully?” Whenever appropriate, athletes should learn to address issues with the person involved rather than allowing frustration to build.
- “What could you do differently next time?” Mistakes and conflicts can become valuable learning experiences.
- “Is this something that needs an adult’s help?” Encourage athletes to solve appropriate problems independently, while recognizing when a coach or school administrator should become involved.

Thank you for continued support of our athletes and our APS athletic programs. The example we set as adults becomes part of what our young people carry with them long after their playing days are over.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Tiger Athletic Team!

Sincerely,

Alan Edmonson
APS Director of Athletics