

# SCCAL Policy Section

## Enforcing CIF, CCS & SCCAL Sportsmanship Policies

**“The culture of any organization is shaped by the worst behavior the leader is willing to tolerate.”**

The SCCAL fully supports and endorses the good sportsmanship policies of the CIF and the CCS, and, of course, its own SCCAL Code of Sportsmanship. The steps below are recommendations for curbing more excessive unsportsmanlike behavior.

Note: a Good Sportsmanship statement should be read prior to every contest by the announcer, or by students or participating players.

1. It is recommended, if the school or school administrator or Athletic Director suspects that certain individuals or groups might exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior, that the school administrator or Athletic Director talk, in advance of the contest, or upon entering the contest venue, to the individual or group and explain what the school’s good sportsmanship expectations are. This includes explaining the “No 2nd chance” policy.
2. The “No 2nd chance” policy - explain to suspected unruly fans before the contest what your fan behavior expectations are, and explain that there will be no 2nd chance, ie, fans will be removed from the contest upon the 1st display of unsportsmanlike behavior. There will be no warning. This pre-event discussion counts as the warning.
  - a. It should also be explained that unsportsmanlike behavior could lead to a ban on attendance at future contests
3. Fan behavior expectations - the following behavior is never acceptable, and can result in immediate removal:
  - a. Booing
  - b. Negative or obscene gestures
  - c. Negative or obscene chants, including but not limited to:
    - i. “Scoreboard, scoreboard.....”
    - ii. “You can’t do that.....”
  - d. Complaining about officials’ calls
  - e. Rowdyism, profanity, or uncouth actions of any nature
  - f. Negative or obscene signs and banners, including clothing
  - g. Artificial noisemakers
  - h. Disrespectful behavior - which can include groups turning their backs on officials, players, and cheerleaders, pointing at the scoreboard in an unsportsmanlike gesture, pointing at opposing players, cheerleaders, and fans, etc.
4. Another pre-emptive consideration - a school administrator or Athletic Director might sit with any group that might be considering unsportsmanlike behavior.
5. Other considerations:
  - a. Have the school’s SRO in attendance
  - b. Have additional school administrators in attendance
  - c. Coordinate and strategize with the opposing school in advance

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- i. Have the opposing school's SRO and/or additional school administrators in attendance
6. Studies have shown that positive reinforcement often has better results than negative reinforcement. With that in mind, schools might also consider:
  - a. Have home and visiting student-athletes read a "Good Sportsmanship" statement together prior to the contest.
  - b. Identify a "Good Fan of the Week", and announce her/him over the PA system, and provide a small prize.
  - c. Hand-out "Good Fan" coupons at games for discounted or free food at the snack bar (e.g. Knight Bucks or Mariner Bucks).
  - d. Hand-out raffle tickets to Good Fans, and have a drawing sometime (at the contest, at school, etc.) with cool prizes.

### **CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION CODE OF ETHICS**

IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS:

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play;
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game;
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly;
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials;
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts;
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials;
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility;
8. To encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the players on the team;
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual players;
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game -- not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, officials, fan, community, state, or nation.