



## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, January 28, 2011

### **PIAA STRENGTHENS CODE OF ETHICS**

At its meeting of Thursday, January 27, 2011, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) Board of Directors amended its Code of Ethics, which is set forth in the PIAA By-Laws. The Code of Ethics provides guidance as to appropriate standards of behavior by those persons involved in interscholastic athletics.

The first change related to the means by which Coaches address potentially poor performances by Contest officials, such as referees. PIAA has a review process for Contest officials. Coaches are participants in that process. The Code of Ethics was amended to emphasize that Coaches should raise criticisms and concerns through this process and not through the media. PIAA Executive Director Brad Cashman noted that some Coaches have used referees as scapegoats in the media to explain defeats. This approach is unfair to opponents and officials and is not acceptable behavior.

The Code of Ethics was also amended to make clear PIAA's expectation of courteous and appropriate behavior by spectators of athletic events. While enthusiastic support of Teams and student-athletes is encouraged, the Board of Directors made clear that boorish behavior and efforts to provoke, intimidate, or berate Coaches, Contest officials, student-athletes, and/or other spectators, or to interfere with the Contest, will not be tolerated. Those fans engaging in such conduct may be removed from the site and barred from future attendance. PIAA Executive Director Brad Cashman remarked that spectators are an important part of the interscholastic experience and that unsportsmanlike and rude behavior is detrimental to the purposes of interscholastic athletics.

Finally, the Board of Directors made minor and clarifying changes to the Code of Ethics as it applies to Contest officials.

The changes are effective immediately.

A copy of the revisions is attached to this News Release.

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## **CODE OF ETHICS PERTAINING TO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

This Code of Ethics Pertaining to High School Athletics is to be regarded not only as recommendations, but also as rules governing the conduct of schools, student-athletes, Coaches, Contest officials, Athletic Directors, Principals, and the public.

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### **Section 3. Coaches Should:**

- A. Have a fair, unprejudiced relationship to student-athletes.
- B. Teach student-athletes to win through legitimate means only. Striving to win at any cost is distinctly unethical.
- C. Give opponents full credit when they win.
- D. Control one's temper at all times.
- E. Not use, and discourage the use of, profanity, obscene gestures, and/or obscene language.
- F. Recommend the use of competent Contest officials and support their decisions. The Coach should direct concerns and criticisms of Contest officials through the appropriate review process and not criticize the actions or decisions of Contest officials through the media or to before student-athletes and/or spectators.
- G. Counteract unfounded rumors of questionable practices by opponents. To establish the truth or falsity of these rumors the Coach should refer them directly to the authorities of the school concerned.
- H. Not recruit students for an athletic purpose.
- I. Maintain control of the Team for which the Coach is responsible.

### **Section 4. Contest Officials Should:**

- A. Have thorough preparation in the current rules and approved officiating techniques of the sport.
- B. Be physically fit and mentally alert.
- C. Have a neat, distinctive, and approved uniform.
- D. Report for duty at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of a Contest.
- E. Honor all agreements to officiate Contests.
- F. Control one's temper in all relations with students, Coaches, member schools, and spectators at all times.
- G. Call them as one sees them.
- H. Make clear any interpretations and announcements.
- I. Following a Contest officiated, not discuss plays or student-athletes of a Team in that Contest with any of their future opponents.

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### **Section 7. The Public Should:**

- A. Realize that gambling on Contests, the consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or the use of illegal drugs, anabolic steroids, and/or other performance enhancing drugs in connection with Contests are all detrimental to the best interests of athletics and the standards which PIAA is endeavoring to foster.
  - B. Not use profanity, obscene gestures, and/or obscene language while attending Contests.
  - C. Not attempt to provoke, intimidate, and/or berate Coaches, Contest Officials, student-athletes, and/or other spectators.
  - D. Not interfere with any Contests.
- Any spectator who evidences poor sportsmanship and/or behavior inconsistent with this Code of Ethics may be removed from a Contest venue and may be prohibited from attending future Contests.