



To: NJSIAA Executive Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: September 15, 2021

RE: NJSIAA Sportsmanship Statement

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The NJSIAA Student Ambassadors propose that the following sportsmanship statement replace the current statement that is read to all participants prior to the start of any NJSIAA event. The student ambassadors feel that the updated statement is simpler, easier to understand, and they believe the tag line “respect the game, respect your opponent” will resonate with all participants.

**Updated statement:**

The NJSIAA requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. There will be no tolerance for any negative behavior, such as taunting, trash talking and verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion. Such behavior will result in being ejected from this event. **All participants must respect the game and respect their opponents.**

**Current statement:**

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. There will be no tolerance for negative statements or actions between opposing players and coaches. This includes taunting, baiting berating opponents, “trash-talking” or actions which ridicule or cause embarrassment to them. Any verbal, written or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion shall not be tolerated, could subject the violator to ejection, and may result in penalties being assessed against your team. If such comments are heard, a penalty will be assessed immediately. We have been instructed not to issue warnings. It is your responsibility to remind your team of this policy.