

SPORTSMANSHIP

Regional and State Basketball Tournaments

Basketball Finals

Face/Body Painting. General face/body painting is not permitted. An individual may have one small, appropriate decal, sticker, or painted design on the cheek.

Posters/Banners/Signs. All signs must show only positive support. Those which direct negative comments towards opponents or are unsportsmanlike or vulgar are not permitted. No handheld signs, banners, pennants, glow sticks, or poms are permitted in the stands at any AAA state play-off or championship event. Cheerleaders only may use poms while cheering on the court.

Artificial Noisemakers. Artificial noisemakers shall not be used at any indoor event. Artificial noisemakers are items such as, but not limited to, megaphones, air horns, bells, whistles, clickers, thunder sticks, explosive devices, tape/CD players, and radios. Noisemakers that require an external power source are not allowed at benefit games, regular season events, and post-season events. The use of megaphones is not permitted **BY ANYONE** at regional and state tournaments.

Balls. Balls or other items may NOT be thrown in or into the stands.

Tobacco. Smoking or use of smokeless tobacco is prohibited on school campuses. Smoking or use of smokeless tobacco is prohibited at the basketball finals except in designated areas.

Balloons. Balloons are not permitted at any AAA state play-off or championship event.

Attire. Bare chests are not permitted. Shirts and shoes must be worn. Masks are not permitted.

Inappropriate Behaviors. Throwing objects onto the playing area before, during, or after a contest is not permitted. At no time before, during, or after a contest shall spectators be permitted to enter the playing field. Verbal harassment or derogatory remarks directed toward an opponent or official are not permitted. Spectators are not permitted to hold up newspapers while teams are being introduced or when teams, cheerleaders, or dance teams are performing. Cutting down or removing nets by players, fans, spirit team members, or coaches is prohibited.

Cheers. Cheers and chants must be positive in support of your own team – never negative, taunting, or demeaning to the opponents.

FANS, BANDS, AND OTHERS. A school's students and other fans should be seated in a designated section or area and may not leave the stands to form entrance lines for the team. Pep bands are not permitted. If fans desire to stand continuously during the game, they must do so at the top of the stands to avoid blocking the view of seated spectators. At all sites, remain off the playing court after the game. **FINALS ONLY** – Standing will be permitted in separate designated end sections for home and visitors.

Instant Replays. Instant replays of controversial calls are prohibited.

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS. Fans are expected to vigorously and positively support their own teams but are prohibited from taunting, baiting, demeaning, or committing any unsporting act, by words, actions, or gestures. This includes the use of profanity or tactics designed to embarrass opponents under any circumstances, including on the basis of race, religion, gender, or national origin. The AAA handbook specifically charges the superintendent and/or principal of each school with the responsibility for ensuring sportsmanlike behavior on the part of his/her fans and school representatives.

****DO NOT BE DRAWN INTO A NEGATIVE CHEERING SITUATION.****