



SPECTATOR CONDUCT AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

School sponsored co-curricular activities are an important part of our schools' programs because they offer our students the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities not offered during the regular school day. The Groton Area School District welcomes and encourages attendance at and support of co-curricular activities by guests, parents, and district patrons. As a condition of such attendance, all spectators must comply with Groton Area School District rules and policies. Attending such activities should be a positive experience with all comments and actions being supportive rather than disruptive or derogatory.

Spectators will not be allowed to interfere with the enjoyment of the students participating, with other spectators, or with the performance of employees and officials supervising the school sponsored or approved co-curricular activity. Understanding that good sportsmanship is good citizenship, spectators, like the student participants, are expected to display appropriate behavior. The failure of spectators to do so is not only disruptive but embarrassing to the students, the school district, and the entire community.

To protect the rights of students to participate without fear and interference and to permit the sponsors and officials of school sponsored co-curricular activities to perform their duties without Groton Area School District interference, the following provisions are in effect at home or away activities involving students:

1. Abusive verbal or physical conduct of spectators directed at or interfering with the performance of participants, officials, or sponsors of school sponsored co-curricular activities or directed at other spectators will not be tolerated.
2. If a spectator at a co-curricular activity becomes physically or verbally abusive, uses vulgar, obscene, or demeaning language, or in any way impedes the performance of an activity, the spectator will be warned by the individual in charge of the event or, if the action is considered by a reasonable person to be of a very serious nature, will be removed from the event.
3. Following the removal of any spectator, a written report shall be filed with the Superintendent on the next regular business day for review and determination of the spectator's status in attending future events.
4. Upon receipt of the written conduct report, the superintendent shall schedule a meeting with the spectator to review all perspectives of the situation and issue a written determination of the spectator's status in attending future events within twenty-four hours. If the spectator fails to assure the district that he/she would not repeat the misconduct, the district would have reason to conclude that this lack of assurance would indicate his/her inappropriate conduct might be repeated. Possible actions may include full and immediate reinstatement, reinstatement with conditions, short-term exclusion from attendance, long-term exclusion from attendance, or other consequences deemed appropriate.
5. Individuals refusing to meet with the superintendent at a mutually-agreed upon time shall be excluded from attendance until such a meeting is held and a formal determination is made pursuant to this policy.
6. Any spectator excluded from attendance may appeal the decision of the Superintendent to the School Board.

7. If the excluded spectator disobeys the school official or the district's order, law enforcement authorities may be contacted and be asked to remove the spectator. If a spectator has been notified of exclusion and thereafter attends a school sponsored or approved co-curricular activity, the spectator will be advised that his/her attendance may result in prosecution or other legal consequences.

[Adopted: March 23, 2015]