MSD: Fan Code of Conduct

A. Purpose

In a society that increasingly tolerates incivility and a culture of personal attack, the Board desires to establish norms for behavior that promote a culture of support and civil discourse. The purpose of this policy is to help maintain a positive and respectful environment surrounding all school events and activities that upholds these values regarding good sportsmanship, integrity, and appropriate civil discourse.

B. Expectations

1. Fans shall respect and obey all school officials, UHSAA officials, security personnel, and event staff at all times.

2. Fans shall refrain from using profanity and insulting language.

3. Fans shall refrain from engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing, heckling, or harassing coaches, students, or other fans.

4. Engaging in any behavior that is degrading, harassing, or discriminatory towards others, including officials, based on personal characteristics has no place and will not be tolerated.

5. Fans must comply with all school policies regarding conduct, prohibition of harassment/discrimination, and expectations for a safe environment.

6. Coaches shall prepare as part of their activity's disclosure forms their prescribed method for addressing coaching decisions in a manner that reflects respect and civility.

C. Prohibited Conduct

1. Directing of any personal insults, degrading comments (verbally or in writing) toward coaches, officials, participants, students, other fans, or staff.

2. Issuing verbal or physical threats of any kind against others.

3. Using profanity, making discriminatory statements, or engaging in harassment towards any person.

4. Exhibiting violently disruptive behavior such as throwing objects or entering playing areas unauthorized.

5. Engaging in fighting, pushing, striking, or threatening behavior towards anyone.

6. Anonymously mailing, delivering, or disseminating statements or materials that attack the character of coaches, staff, or students.

7. Approaching any coach or official in a disrespectful manner, other than prescribed by the coach or official in their activity disclosure forms as described in section B 5 of this policy.

8. Physically approaching any UHSAA official, operating within that capacity, to criticize or question their decisions.

D. Disciplinary Measures

1. Warning issued for first minor infraction of unsportsmanlike conduct.

2. Immediate removal from premises and potential ban from future events for serious violations like making threats, using discriminatory language, extreme disruptions, etc.

3. Any incidents regarding discriminatory harassment, defamatory attacks on character, or threats against coaches, staff, officials, or students may result in a ban from all school events.

4. Any anonymous degrading attacks on coaches will be investigated. Individuals who are identified for delivering attacks in this manner will be banned from attendance at events. Scope and number to be determined by administration.

5. Law enforcement may be notified in cases of threats or harassment.

6. School level officials and designees are authorized and charged with the responsibility to carry out this policy.

E. Appeals Process

1. Individuals who have received disciplinary action may appeal. Appeals should originate at the level of school administration.

2. Unsuccessful appeals may be advanced to the superintendent or a designee for review.

3. If an additional review is requested, the board will review materials related to the action and may grant a hearing on the issue to gather further information or decide based on the materials presented. The decision of the board is final.

F. Notice Requirements

1. This policy shall be presented to all students and parents as part of the activity registration process through parent meetings and the Register My Athlete platform.

2. Students and parents are requested to assist in the education regarding this policy by informing their family members and friends who may attend events regarding this policy.

3. It is suggested that schools prepare materials to post at venues to inform patrons regarding this policy.

Source: MSD Policy 7170, Fan Code of Conduct, approved July 11, 2024. The text above is preserved verbatim from the Board-approved policy.