



CIAC Member Principals and Athletic Directors,

We are thrilled to be able to conduct an entire fall sports season and CIAC state championship tournament! We are also looking forward to a successful winter season. As we safely engage students in education-based experiences, it is great to see our student-athletes in action. Thank you for your hard work and diligence in bringing sports back to our schools!

In preparation for the 2021 CIAC fall sports championships, the CIAC Sportsmanship Committee encourages member school administrators and coaches to emphasize several key points that can enhance the culture and climate of interscholastic athletic experiences.

- Point of Emphasis: Re-educate spectators on acceptable behaviors at athletic contests.
- Point of Emphasis: Improve social media interaction among students regarding sportsmanship.

The CIAC Sportsmanship Committee suggests implementing the following practical steps to proactively encourage a positive and supportive interscholastic athletic culture for athletes and spectators.

Update your class act roster and list those students on the CIAC website. Having students involved in remedying problems is very effective. An active, involved Class Act Council is an excellent resource for preventing and resolving sportsmanship conflicts.

Use captains and student leaders to address parents and spectators. Communication from team leaders will temper overzealous spectators.

Have students make sportsmanship and spectator behavior expectation announcements at games.

Put out social media messaging that informs spectators of sportsmanship expectations at games.

Create a sportsmanship video or use a CIAC sportsmanship video to loop in the school, cafeteria, etc.

Have Class Act councils create messaging at pep rallies.

Talk to Captains and senior leaders about the expectation that there should be no banter among students from other teams on social media. Captains should be educated on recognizing acts of poor sportsmanship by others and extend expectations to their teammates that such actions should be reported to adults rather than reacting or responding at the moment.

Require coaches to emphasize that student-athletes should not engage in unsportsmanlike social media content and clearly articulate the consequences of violating that expectation.

By taking these simple proactive steps, you can assure that the experience of playing CIAC sports is enjoyable and free of conflict. For more information on sustaining positive interscholastic athletic culture and climate that promotes good sportsmanship, please visit the CIAC Class Act website:

<http://ciacsports.com/>.

Best regards,

Gregg Simon  
CIAC Associate Executive Director