

**Academics and Athletics
Partners for
Educational Excellence**

South Carolina High School League



**Crowd Control
Procedures
For Athletic Events**

PURPOSE

Cognizant of the need for crowd control, the South Carolina High School League, in upholding its tradition of proper maintenance of athletics, recommends the following procedures for crowd control. The main goal is the prevention of crowd disturbances at our sporting events; efficient crowd control maintenance and strict discipline among administrators, coaches, players and spectators.

Often, the hostility of the crowd is the reflection of hostility between the schools or coaches' actions. Also, a crowd faced with disorganized, confused events is more prone to become hostile. The following recommendations strive to prevent the hostility between the schools, and more efficiently conduct the events themselves.

The League supports the local control aspect of a member school's programs. The League therefore urges each school to become strongly involved within its own programs and the programs of its conference or region, in fostering procedures that provide a wholesome atmosphere, an attitude of sportsmanship and a safe experience for all students, athletes and spectators at its athletic events.

CROWD CONTROL PROCEDURES FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

Efficient management of interscholastic athletic contests, both at home and away, is an increasingly important aspect of administering a school's athletic program. The following recommendations have been assembled to assist schools in preparing adequately for crowd control at athletic contests.

1. Pre-season and pre-game responsibilities are shared by both schools competing in any athletic contest.
2. Responsibilities during the game are shared by both schools, with the home school assuming the major role. A dual responsibility exists at a neutral site.
3. Post-game responsibilities are shared by officials of both schools, local police and the citizens of the community.
4. Advance preparation of all details pertaining to contests is necessary for efficient administration.

PROCEDURES BEFORE THE GAME

HOME SCHOOL

1. Develop an operational plan for each home event.
2. Contact the visiting school as early as possible to arrange for a meeting or telephone conversation to discuss the game, including prior and existing school/community control problems. Time and location of pre-game security meeting should be confirmed.
3. Discuss any situations peculiar to your stadium (or gym) and send a map of the stadium and parking areas to the visiting school.
4. Formulate plans, which provide directions and instructions for all visiting personnel regarding safest routes, parking, seating and dismissal from bleachers, and loading and unloading buses and automobiles. Be alert to the impact of new construction projects. Travel the visiting team departure route prior to game time. Predetermine departure times and routes of visiting spectators.
5. Evaluate the type of/use of pre-game music.
6. Evaluate the conditions and factors of on-site construction projects and the resultant impact on entrance and departure procedures.
7. Evaluate the use of separate spectator entrance/departure gates/doors.
8. Have parking areas well lighted. Arrange for on-site parking of visitor's autos and buses.
9. Have stadium or gym secure and all gates locked prior to the scheduled opening time.
10. Arrange for supervision to continue until after all visitors have left the area, including the team bus.
11. Prepare a supervision chart and inform assigned personnel of their duties before the game. (Persons on duty from both schools should have some type of identification- armbands, badges, etc.)
12. Provide for adequate police supervision before, during and after the game.
 - Be sure that there is both inside and outside police supervision at games including off-site parking areas and streets.
 - Make arrangements with local police departments at the highest level possible in order that adequate police protection will be available to control the spectators at the conclusion of the contest. Develop a plan of action in cooperation with the police for measures to be taken in the event of trouble. Review prior and existing school community control problems.
 - Develop in consultation with police, emergency evacuation plans relating to activated fire alarms, bomb threats, and other inappropriate acts of violence.

- Arrange for diverting traffic away from the athletic field or gym so that spectators leaving the game can do so quickly.
- Work with local police to provide "no parking" signs around the stadium or gym, blocking off streets if needed, arranging for one-way traffic where necessary.
- Give specific instructions to auxiliary police, ushers and faculty members hired by the school, concerning their responsibilities; designate someone to provide further instructions and direction to paid auxiliary police, ushers and faculty members at the game.
- Develop a supervision chart for police coverage before, during and after the game. Police supervision of the on-site and off-site parking areas during the game should not be forgotten.
- Stagger police scheduling, so that all police will not arrive and leave at the same time.
- Suggest a suitable location to detain anyone arrested by the police until they can be taken away with the least amount of confusion.
- All security personnel should be readily identifiable by the public. Prevention, not apprehension after trouble begins should be emphasized.
- **Review the need for and the provision for metal detection equipment. If such equipment is to be used, inform administrators of visiting school prior to the day of the event. (This includes the use of police dogs.)**

13 Arrange for supervision to continue until all visitors have left the area including the team bus.

14. Depending on local conditions, you may wish to advise ticket sellers to screen for troublemakers and group agitators. Representatives from the visiting school should screen for known troublemakers from their school/community. Such individuals should be turned away prior to admission.

15. Instruct the operator of the video taping equipment to record all incidents of inappropriate behavior.

16. Have all special seating areas roped off prior to opening the gates. Use school service club members (monogram club, student council, etc.) for ushers and monitors of student sections and make sure that these students are rehearsed in their duties.

17. Provide reserved seats for bands. The amount of time they will have for half-time activities should be known to them and should be strictly observed.

18. Seat students from opposing schools in separate sections. Seating for home and visiting spectators should be adequate. Seats and tickets should be numbered. Spectators should remain on their side of the field or gymnasium throughout the contest. Do not over-sell the facility. Preferential seating may be given to season ticket holders.

19. Arrange for interested parents and patrons to assist with supervision of general admission section.

20. Check fire code for seating capacity and other recommendations.

21. Keep in mind the number of security and other personnel in addition to ticket purchases.

22. Assign a student manager or administrator to meet the visiting team when they arrive and to direct them to their dressing quarters. A good-sized room, a blackboard and chalk, a training table, benches, chairs, and drinking water should be provided. It may be necessary to ask opponents to come dressed for the game if the visiting team's quarters are not adequate.
23. Provide security measures to protect visitors' clothing and valuables while the visitors are on the field or court. The playing field or court and the area immediately adjacent to it at all athletic contests shall be restricted to team members, coaches, managers, officials, and other parties necessary to the conduct of the game. Student or faculty associates shall wear something distinctive so that they may easily be identified. Sufficient personnel shall be provided by the host school to enforce this regulation. The visiting school shall see that this rule is enforced in their area. Schools must bear a dual responsibility when playing at a neutral site.
24. Provide reserved parking for game officials.
25. Emphasize to game officials the importance of keeping the game under control.
26. If possible, give checks to officials and to representatives of the visiting school before the game.
27. Take care in the preparation, printing, and sale of athletic programs. Correct names and numbers, major rule changes and interpretations, plus statements concerning spectator behavior have proved effective. The following message has been adapted by the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations and may be considered for inclusion in game programs and should be announced several times throughout the game during breaks for time-outs, quarters, halves, etc.

These are young athletes who are performing here tonight. They are friendly rivals as members of opposing teams. They are not enemies.

This basically, is the theme of interscholastic athletics ... the idea of friendly competition. The visiting team tonight, and in every interscholastic game, is a guest of the home team. They are expected to be so regarded and so treated.

The officials are people who are assigned to administer the rules of the game. Their experience and their integrity qualifies them for their part in this friendly interscholastic contest. This attitude of sportsmanship should be reflected by all spectators, too, no matter what their personal feelings of loyalty may be to one or the other of the teams in tonight's contest.

28. Arrange for adequate concessions as a service to spectators. If possible, a concession stand should be available on both sides of the stadium at football games. Evaluate discontinuing concessions at highly contested indoor events. In such cases, suitable halftime programs should be presented.
29. Have custodian check rest rooms for sanitation and supplies before game time. Separate rest rooms should be provided for visitors.

30. Check game facilities: Condition of the field or court should be checked before the game for hazardous conditions, cleanliness, and for proper markings. Special attention should be given to the position of fences and players' benches.
31. Have a physician present at all contest, if possible. An ambulance should stand by in an area where it will not be observed by the public. It should be brought on the field only on request of the physician. The home team physician may be made available to the visiting team if the visiting team does not bring its own physician to the contest.
32. Have properly trained adult scorers and timers for officials at games. The same assistants should be used the entire season.
33. Assign a competent person to take charge of the scoreboard and have adults on the chain crew.
34. **The announcer is a key person and carries a great deal of responsibility. What is said and how it is said may have serious effects on crowd behavior.**
 - The game should be reported without showing favoritism to teams or players.
 - Proper language should be used at all times.
 - Announcers can show enthusiasm without losing control.
 - Plays, first downs, time outs, or touchdowns should not be anticipated.
 - Only those in charge of the event should be permitted to use the microphone.
 - **Under no circumstances should officials' decisions be criticized directly or indirectly.**

VISITING SCHOOLS

1. Contact home school or neutral site manager to discuss game preparations and obtain information on:
 - safest route to and from stadium or gymnasium
 - location of visitors' parking area
 - visitors' entering and exit gates
 - visitors' seating area
 - prior and existing school/community control problems
 - time and location of pre-game security meeting
2. Consider transporting students by bus if there is inadequate parking at the stadium.
3. Student buses should have staff supervision.
4. Have adequate faculty and administrative supervision going to the game, at the game and after the game. Provide identification for school personnel.
5. Consider asking interested parents and patrons to help with supervision.
6. Provide information to students regarding travel, parking, entrance seating and exit.

7. Check on amount of time allotted for band or other half-time activities and adhere strictly to the time limit.

DUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide opportunities for cultural exchange between student bodies through assemblies.
2. Use homeroom and assemblies to orient students to the importance of good conduct.
3. Ask student councils to help by planning campaigns for spectator sportsmanship.
4. Plan assemblies to inform students about game rules, or issue a book of rules and regulations so that everyone knows how to watch a game intelligently and knows what is expected of him. Utilize Physical Education classes to instruct these activities and extend the knowledge of the playing rules.
5. Any type of mascot shall be kept on the side of a school's rooting section.
6. Only the school banner or sportsmanship creed should be displayed and placed on the participant's side of the field. Spirit posters may also be displayed.
7. Be alert to prior and existing community or cross-community control problems.
8. Monitor and stop inappropriate chants and cheers.

DURING THE GAME

1. Visiting school principal or his representative should contact the site manager or athletic director immediately upon arrival to discuss final details and to indicate seat locations so that parties are available to each other.
2. Separate rest rooms and concession booths should be available.
3. Have adequate police, faculty, and patrons distributed among the students and other spectators. Assign someone to help control spectator behavior in the vicinity of the players' bench.
4. At sold-out contests, clear the site of fans that could not gain admission.
5. Prepare a plan for acquiring police back-up if necessary.
6. Meet faculty supervisors from the visiting school and acquaint them with their areas.
7. Employ a walkie-talkie system, tied into the police.
8. Check on supervision each quarter.
9. Keep lines of communication open to administrators from the visiting school and the site manager.

10. Assign a responsible adult, other than the coach, to help attend to injured players, and, if necessary, to accompany them to the hospital.
11. Provide for supervision during halftime. Whether or not there is halftime entertainment, supervision is necessary to help direct the crowd, keep spectators off the playing area and keep the under-the-stands area cleared.
12. Maximum available lighting shall be utilized during any contest and shall not be restricted to the area of competition.

AFTER THE GAME

1. Use public address system to give directions to students and spectators regarding exit from the stands.
2. Provide police and faculty supervision until all students and spectators are well dispersed. Permit no loitering.
3. Provide an escort with a key to the locker room for officials.
4. Arrange an area for press interviews if needed.
5. Check supervision of all areas; provide continuous security for locker room area.
6. Assign someone to assist police in dispersing hangers-on who wait for the team after the game.
7. Buses loaded with rooters, band, and team should depart, with police escort, immediately after the game.
8. Administrators of both schools should confer before leaving to be sure that all details have been attended to.
9. When deemed necessary, have police escort officials to their cars, and buses to the city/town limit.
10. Letters of appreciation should be sent to the opposing school, coaches, officials and newspapers, if appropriate.

GUIDELINES FOR CHEERLEADERS

1. Instead of exchanging cheers, the host school cheerleaders should go to the visiting side and greet the visiting cheerleaders. Cheerleading advisors, coaching staffs and other game management advisors should meet to discuss the importance of spectator and player sportsmanship.
2. Cheerleaders' functions are to make a positive contribution to good spectator reaction at an athletic contest and to create better relations between opposing supporters.
3. Cheers should be positive, not aimed at antagonizing an opponent. Care should be taken in making certain that words used in a cheer are not suggestive and do not have a connotation which would inflame an audience.
4. Cheerleaders should remain silent when the opponents' cheerleaders are cheering.
5. Cheerleaders are expected to lead the cheer group in a round of applause for an injured player leaving the game. Cheering is appropriate.
6. When "booing" occurs, the cheerleaders should attempt to stop it with a "waving off" motion of the hands. It is important that any booing is waved off immediately. If the booing becomes louder, the cheerleaders should help to divert the crowd's attention by starting a popular yell routine. Immediate action is the key to the control of booing.
7. Cheerleaders, properly trained, can be as important to the spectator behavior as the coach is to his team.
8. **Student bodies and teams will react as they are instructed, inspired and led by neat and well-poised cheerleaders.**

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Police

1. Police should arrive in sufficient time before game starting time and report to principal or his representative to request instructions, such as best locations for observation, nearest phone, etc.
2. During the game, officers should be requested to assist in controlling the following:
 - Non-students seated in student sections who may cause disturbances.
 - Any person appearing to be under the influence of alcohol must be denied admission to the event.
 - Any suspicious gathering of individuals in rest rooms, behind the stadium, in the parking areas, or elsewhere.
 - **Loiterers should be asked to move on and crowds dispersed outside gym once game is sold out.**

Coaches

Coaches influence not only the conduct of players under their supervision, but also the behavior of many spectators.

1. In dealing with the officials, the coach's approach must be business-like at all times. The coach must exercise self-control and realize that the official sees through impartial and unbiased eyes. Coaches must familiarize themselves with the proper procedure for requesting a conference with an official
2. Opposing coaches must shake hands publicly and should ask players to shake hands with opponents before or after the game and behave with courtesy at all times.
3. Coaches must be sensitive to situations, such as athletes losing control of themselves, and get potential troublemakers out of the game before difficulty begins. Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their entire staff.
4. Coaches who repeatedly conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner shall be subject to sanction by the South Carolina High School League.

Players

The less notice the player takes of the spectators and the more he/she concentrates on his/her art in the game, the more absorbed the crowd will be and the less likely to misbehave.

1. Players should refrain from showing surprise or irritation at a call of an official. The official's ruling-just or unjust-should be accepted with politeness.
2. "Playing to the crowd" can cause trouble-particularly in basketball where the player's facial expressions are clearly visible to the bench and stands.
3. Unsportsmanlike gesturing or the harassing of individual opponents should be avoided and will be penalized.

4. Substitutes on the bench should not heckle the opposing team.
5. The relationship of players to each other before, during and after the game affects and helps establish crowd rapport.

School Reporters

1. Stories should be presented fairly and accurately.
2. Losses do not need to be explained or alibied.
3. Wins should not be over stressed.
4. Reporters have many opportunities to speak out for good sportsmanship.
5. **Reporters should refrain from criticizing athletes in a school newspaper.**

Spectators

Spectator sportsmanship may be encouraged in the following ways:

1. Student councils can develop codes of sportsmanship.
2. Cheerleaders and bands can help promote good sportsmanship.
3. Sportsmanship rating forms are helpful.
4. Sportsmanship trophies can be given to encourage good conduct.
5. Pep boosters can promote better sportsmanship.
6. The pre-game atmosphere is improved if spectator participation is encouraged. Standing and singing "The Star Spangled Banner" is one opportunity for such participation.
7. Handbooks on regulations dealing with crowd conduct are helpful.
8. Disorderly persons should be removed promptly.
9. Posters can be used to stress courtesy and sportsmanship.
10. Noisemakers and drunkenness should not be permitted.
11. Students should sit as a group.

Students and adult spectators who have a general knowledge of game rules and of officials' techniques and signals seldom cause disturbances at athletic contests.

A PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETIC EDUCATION FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS

Participation in sound and wholesome athletic programs contributes to health, physical skill, instructional maturity, social competencies, and moral values. Cooperation and competition are both important components of American life; therefore, the experience of playing athletic games should be a part of the education of all youth who attend our member schools.

To achieve the proper goals of athletics, the school and the public must be informed concerning the role of athletic education. School athletics are a potential educative force that is not always properly used and that is too often misused. We are in a position to utilize athletics as a part of the educational program by continuing to develop the responsibilities, which belong to the state, the school, the community and this association. There is every reason to believe that if this is done, communities will recognize those contributions school athletics can make, and be willing to aid in all efforts to stimulate and motivate the establishment of sound policies and wholesome practices for the member schools of South Carolina.

Through the untiring efforts and dedication of the member schools of the South Carolina High School League, this association will continue to maintain a quality of excellence in the program of interscholastic athletics for the boys and girls of the state of South Carolina.

Violent-free sporting events are vital to South Carolina's member school athletic programs. This booklet, hopefully, will promote the enjoyable participation of students in the sporting events of their schools

Any questions regarding this booklet can be addressed to:

South Carolina High School League
PO Box 211575
Columbia, SC 29221-6575

803-798-0120 fax: 803-731-9679
E-mail: schsl@schsl.org
www.schsl.org

Any questions regarding this booklet can be addressed to:

South Carolina High School League
PO Box 211575
Columbia, SC 29221-6575

803-798-0120 fax: 803-731-9679
E-mail: schsl@schsl.org
www.schsl.org