

# MIAA Sportsmanship Expectations

**\*\*DRAFT Updated 5/18/26\*\***

*The guidelines below were created by the MIAA Sportsmanship Committee using feedback from member schools for spectators attending state tournament events. Member schools are expected to follow these guidelines during the regular season.*

---

## **Spectator Behavior:**

- **Lead By Example:** Hold yourself and others to high standards of sportsmanship. Support the competition and everyone involved by being positive.
  - **Respect All Participants:** Negative comments directed at individual participants, coaches, officials and other spectators that include names, numbers or other personal characteristics/information including foul language is prohibited.
  - **Do Not Storm the Court/Field:** For everyone's safety, spectators must remain off the playing surface at all times, including the conclusion of games, during post-game handshake ceremonies and trophy presentations.
  - **Stay in Designated Spectator Areas:** Spectators shall remain in designated "home" and "away" areas, including student body sections. Do not leave your designated area and go to the opposing team's side of play.
  - **Be A Courteous Spectator:** Actions beyond the normal nature of the game that intentionally interfere with the competition or obstruct the view of other spectators are prohibited.
  - **Dress Code:** School appropriate attire is required at all facilities.
- 

## **Permitted Items**

- **Spirit Items:** Pom-poms and spirit/rally towels are allowed.
- **Face Paint & Hair Coloring:** Spectators may paint their face or color their hair to show school spirit. However, all painting and coloring must be done prior to arriving at the facility.
- **School Mascots/Costumes:** Dressed school mascots must remain within their school's designated area.
- **Carried School Flags:** School flags are permitted within the school's designated area, but taunting with them is prohibited.
- **Team Introductions:** Team run-throughs or breakaway banners are permitted for team personnel and sideline cheerleaders only.

---

### **Prohibited Items\***

The following items are **not permitted** at any MIAA tournament site.

- Confetti/Shredded Paper/Silly String/Powder
- Laser Lights/Pointers/Flashing Objects
- Artificial Noisemakers: Including but not limited to whistles, air horns, sirens, megaphones, speakers and musical instruments that are not part of a band.
- Cannons/Muskets/Guns/Fireworks
- Live Animal Mascots

***\*In addition, the site manager reserves the right to remove any item not listed in this "Prohibited Items" section.***

---

### **Items Allowed at Site Director's Discretion**

The following items/activities may be permitted with approval from the Site Director:

- **Hand-Held Signs:** As long as they do not obstruct the view of others or include language and/or references that are not school appropriate.
- **Prerecorded Music:** If approved by the Site Administration, the host facility may play music during pre-contest warm-ups provided that the lyrics are school appropriate and a high school band is not available to play during that time. Visiting teams are prohibited from using a speaker outside of the locker room.
- **Pep Bands:** Permission must be granted in advance by the Tournament Director.
  - An advisor must be in attendance and sit with the band.
  - **Not permitted** to play while the game is in play.

---

***PLEASE NOTE: Spectators who violate any of the above policies and expectations are subject to removal from the contest by the Site Director or MIAA Tournament Personnel.***