

APPENDIX N: MIAC Sportsmanship Policy

Updated June 2020

Sportsmanship Policy

Approved by MIAC Presidents' Council, May 2013, Amended May 2018

MIAC Statement of Sportsmanship

The MIAC is committed to promoting a respectful, positive and fair environment at all contests and events while upholding values of sportsmanship, integrity and civility. All members are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical manner when engaged in competition or Conference activities. The MIAC desires student-athletes, coaches, administrators, staff members, coordinators and assignors, officials and spectators to maintain the highest levels of sportsmanship and adhere to NCAA and MIAC values.

Expectations of Membership and Associated Individuals

Administrators

MIAC administrators are expected to act in an ethical way in all interactions with MIAC members and instill values of sportsmanship and civility at each institution. Administrators should address student-athletes, coaches and staff members regarding the MIAC sportsmanship policy and enforce the policy at all contests and events hosted on an MIAC campus.

Coaches

As representatives of MIAC institutions and the NCAA, coaches must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner on and off the field of competition. This includes their public and private interactions with student-athletes, opposing coaches and administrators, officials, spectators, and the media. All coaches must adhere to the MIAC sportsmanship policy and enforce the policy with their staff and student-athletes. Coaches are responsible for sustaining a safe, fair and respectful environment for all student-athletes during practice and competition. Coaches are compelled to model sportsmanship. While the pursuit of victory is the goal of competition, it must be exercised within the best traditions of sportsmanship including demonstrating respect for one's opponents, practicing restraint in the face of varying levels of ability, and modelling what it means to "win with class, and lose with grace."

Student-Athletes

Participation in intercollegiate athletics competition is a privilege and MIAC student-athletes are responsible for conducting themselves in a respectful and appropriate manner that reflects the values of the MIAC. Student-athletes are expected to maintain integrity and display sportsmanlike behavior in their interactions on and off the field with opposing players and other student-athletes, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators.

Officials and Coordinators/Assignors

As independent contractors of the MIAC, officials and coordinators/assignors are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike way in their interactions with student-athletes, coaches, administrators and spectators. Officials are responsible for enforcing NCAA and MIAC rules and sportsmanlike behavior respective to the nature of each sport. Officials are encouraged to report issues regarding sportsmanship and civility to their respective coordinator or assignor who will then work with the Commissioner to develop a resolution. Coordinators and Assignors should immediately report severe incidents involving student-athlete or coach behavior to the Commissioner.

Spectators

Spectators are expected to conduct themselves in appropriate and sportsmanlike manner at MIAC contests to help promote a positive and fair playing environment for competing student-athletes. Each MIAC institution has the authority to act with discretion in removing spectators from an event for unwarranted behavior.

Responsibility to Report

Should an incident involving unsportsmanlike behavior arise at an MIAC contest, event or activity, the administrators of the host institution should determine a course of action for resolving the issue. Members are encouraged to resolve issues with spectators based on institutional protocol. Incidents that occur involving student-athletes from another MIAC institution can be resolved by working with the offending institution's administration. Those that cannot be resolved effectively between the two parties should then be referred to the Commissioner for assistance. If an incident is severe in nature or involves members of a coaching staff and/or officials, the Commissioner should be notified of the incident immediately. The Commissioner will then determine the best course of action to proceed with the incident.

Unacceptable Behaviors at MIAC Contests

Institutions are responsible for enforcing acceptable behavior and removing individuals who do not comply with MIAC policy. The following behaviors are not tolerated at MIAC contests, events or activities:

- Possession or consumption of alcohol or drugs
- Drunkenness
- Use of artificial noisemakers (See General Section 3.10 of MIAC Policies & Procedures Manual)
- Any behavior affecting normal operation of the competition
- Vulgar language or behavior
- Derogatory remarks (or actions) directed at a participant, coach, administrator, official or spectator
- Any action that makes a participant, coach, administrator, official or spectator feel threatened

Event Management Responsibilities

All athletic events should be staffed by a member of the host institution's athletics personnel who will be responsible for enforcing the MIAC sportsmanship policy. This individual is also responsible for the following:

- Greeting the visiting team and officials and show them to their locker room space(s)
- Introducing themselves as the on-site contact to officials and the visiting coaches and designating where he/she will be located throughout the contest
- Assuring a safe passage for officials before, during and after the contest or event
- Maintaining crowd control, before, during and after the contest or event
- Reporting any incidences or problems that arise to the appropriate members of their administrative staff
- Knowing and disseminating information about following emergency procedures and contacting security

A host institution is responsible for maintaining a safe environment for all visitors who come to campus for conference competition. MIAC contests, events or activities should be adequately staffed with appropriate security respective to each institution, sport or venue. Visiting institutions with concerns about security should contact the host school prior to competition. Each host is responsible for pinpointing issues that are unique to their institution, campus, teams, fans or venue that may create a negative, unfair or unsafe environment for competition and assuring that issues do not arise.

Social Media and Electronic Media Expectations

MIAC administrators, coaches, student-athletes and officials should adhere to the sportsmanship policy in all forms of electronic media including written and web content, social media use, blogs, videos, radio and web streaming. Vulgar language or inappropriate remarks about other MIAC institutions, student-athletes, administrators, coaches or officials will not be tolerated.