



**NEW LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

2547 Panther Drive NE, New Lexington, OH 43764  
Phone: 740-342-3528 ext. 303 Fax: 740-342-4765  
Email: nl\_dadams@seovec.org



**Dan Adams  
Athletic Director**

TO: ALL COACHES  
FROM: DAN ADAMS  
DATE: JANUARY 12, 2005  
RE: OHSAA RULING

ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 9, 2004 THE OHSAA ENACTED A NEW RULING AND IT IS IMMEDIATELY IN EFFECT. THE EXACT WORDAGE IS IN THE OHSAA NEWS RELEASE THAT IS ATTACHED TO THIS MEMO. THE RULING COVERS THOSE UNDER OHSAA GUIDELINES, PLAYERS, COACHES AND STAFF.

**DO NOT BE THE PLAYER UPON WHOM THIS FALLS.**

**DO NOT BE THE FAN WHO CAUSES THIS TO HAPPEN.**

“No member of any school sponsored interscholastic sports squad shall leave the “playing area” in which a sports contest is being conducted and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of conflict-verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the playing area and enters the spectator area of a facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

1. The student-athlete’s privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year.
2. The school shall be immediately placed on probation pending investigation into what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened, and what safeguards have been implemented by the school to prevent future happenings.”

**SCHOOLS AND LEAGUES WILL, BY NECESSITY, ESTABLISH SIMILAR POLICIES FOR THOSE IN ATTENDANCE.  
THE “PROFESSIONAL STYLE” MISCONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY OHSAA, NEW LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL OR THE MVL.**

cc: Dennis Love, High School Principal  
Roger Tom, Assistant High School Principal  
Dr. Larry Rentschler, Superintendent  
Fans  
file



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
**News Release**

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214 • Commissioner Dan Ross, Ph.D.  
(614) 267-2502 • FAX (614) 267-1677 • [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

For Immediate Release December 17, 2004      Contact Bob Goldring, Director of Information

**OHSAA BOARD OF CONTROL ADOPTS PENALTY  
FOR ATHLETES INVOLVED IN UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR WITH FANS**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Given the recent incidents of irresponsible fan and player behavior in professional, collegiate and high school contests that have drawn national headlines, the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Control has adopted penalties for athletes who enter a spectator area to participate in unsporting behavior during an athletic contest. The new penalties include banning the student-athlete who engages in such action from athletic participation for the remainder of the school year and placing the school on immediate probation pending an investigation. The OHSAA Board of Control adopted the policies at its regularly scheduled monthly meeting Dec. 9.

“Participation in high school sports is a privilege, and at the core of enriching a student’s experience in athletic participation is the promotion of citizenship and sportsmanship,” said Daniel B. Ross, commissioner of the OHSAA. “In light of recent ugly events that have gained national attention, the Board felt it was important to send a clear message to student-athletes that going into the stands will not be tolerated and the penalties will be harsh.”

The exact text of the language adopted by the Board of Control follows.

“No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the ‘playing area’ in which a contest is being conducted and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of conflict — verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the ‘playing area’ and enters the spectator area of a facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

1. The student-athlete’s privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year.
2. The school shall be immediately placed on probation pending an investigation (and report) into what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what ‘safe-guards’ have been implemented by the school to prevent future happenings.”

— MORE —

## OHSAA Player Penalties -2-2-2

The OHSAA continues to be in the midst of a new sportsmanship campaign that is intended to increase awareness of positive sporting behavior. Waste Management has become a sponsor of the new program and has helped fund the following initiatives for OHSAA member schools:

- Sportsmanship signs for schools to display at entrances to indoor and outdoor facilities. Two of the 2' x 3' signs have been provided to high schools and one has been provided to each 7th-8th grade school. The signs contain messages encouraging those at the event to display positive sporting behavior and incorporate the new OHSAA sportsmanship motto "Respect the Game."
- Sportsmanship audio messages for schools to play prior to the start of an athletic contest. The messages, approximately 30 seconds in length, have been provided to member high schools on a CD. The four messages were recorded by Ohio sports personalities Clark Kellogg, Katie Smith, Marty Brenneman and Tom Hamilton.
- Sportsmanship posters and program advertisements. Multiple copies of sportsmanship posters will soon be provided to schools to display in locker rooms, offices or other high traffic areas within the school, and schools will also be provided with a camera-ready sportsmanship ad that can be printed in souvenir programs.

Waste Management has also helped fund public service video and audio announcements on sportsmanship that will be distributed to cable television and radio stations statewide. The new video PSAs recently debuted on the Ohio News Network's live telecasts of the OHSAA state football finals and were shown at timeouts on the video board to fans attending the Division I, III and IV state football championship games at Canton's Fawcett Stadium.