

## **RULES FOR SPECTATORS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Interscholastic and intramural athletic programs are offered for our students as an extension of the academic program. Participation in athletics provides students with opportunities to develop athletic and leadership skills, physical fitness, good sportsmanship, and team and school spirit.

RSU 13 welcomes students, parents and other interested members of the public to attend athletic events in support of the stated purposes of the schools' athletic programs. The school unit values the support of spectators, but does not permit spectator conduct that is inconsistent with the goals of the athletic programs. Athletic events sponsored or conducted by the school unit are not public forums, and anyone attending such events is subject to this policy and all applicable policies and rules of the school unit. Just as participation on athletic teams is a privilege for our students and not a right, attendance at athletic events for spectators is a privilege. The school unit reserves the right to exclude any person who does not comply with the rules of this policy.

Spectators are expected to support our goals of educationally sound competition and good sportsmanship at all athletic events by showing respect and appreciation for all participants. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Booing, taunting, heckling and negative cheers .
- Derogatory remarks or signs directed at any participants in the contest, including players, coaches and/or spectators for the opposing side.
- Loudly criticizing game officials.
- Use of profanity.
- Interfering or disrupting the contest in any way, including throwing items onto the field/floor.

Spectators are also expected to abide by all applicable School Board policies and school rules including the following:

- Alcohol and drugs are not allowed on school property.
- Smoking is not allowed on school property.
- Weapons are not allowed on school property.
- Fighting or threatening any person is prohibited.

Any spectator who behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner or violates Board policies or school rules may be asked to leave the athletic event. Serious misconduct or repeated violations may result in a spectator being prohibited from attending athletic events for a period of time. School staff are authorized to seek the assistance of law enforcement authorities as necessary to enforce these guidelines.

Approved: 11/5/15