

To: MAC Coordinators of Officials
From: Ken Andrews, MAC Executive Director
Subject: Sportsmanship and Officiating Concerns
Date: August 30, 2016

The MAC presidents and directors of athletics have asked me to emphasize the need for sportsmanship at MAC athletic contests. Please forward the following statements to your officials. I ask that you and your officials report any behavioral problems to the schools that are involved. The athletics director at each school is ultimately responsible for sportsmanship at each venue, but s/he may have a person not involved in the game (coach, athletic trainer, or SID) as the site manager. The officials should make contact with this person prior to the contest in case they need to address a problem. If I can be of any assistance in this regard, please feel free to contact me. Thanks for helping convey this message to the appropriate parties.

PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENT PRIOR TO MAC CONTESTS:

The (Middle Atlantic, MAC Freedom, MAC Commonwealth) Conference and (College/University) welcome you to today's contest. The (Middle Atlantic, MAC Freedom, MAC Commonwealth) Conference promotes good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. We encourage your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or sexist comments, or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches, or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products is not permitted. Thank you for your cooperation.

TO BE PLACED WITH EACH OFFICIAL'S CHECK BY MAC SCHOOLS:

The (Middle Atlantic, Commonwealth, Freedom) Conference and (College/University) support you in upholding the highest standards of sportsmanship during the MAC contest you are officiating. Please penalize foul and abusive language, taunting and disrespectful actions on the part of coaches, players, and fans. Thank you.

TO BE EXPRESSED BY EACH HEAD COACH TO HIS OR HER TEAM:

One of the major lessons of sport is to learn self-respect as well as respect for ones opponent. An attitude of good sportsmanship enhances the quality of the competition and you as a person. As your coach, I expect honesty and good sportsmanship from every member of this team.

We have an obligation to ourselves, our college, and the game itself to behave in a responsible fashion. We need to promote a positive environment for good sportsmanship by positive personal conduct. There is no place in athletic competition for degradation of opponents, officials, or fans. Compete to win, but win or lose with dignity.

POST IN PRESS BOX:

The press box is a working area for professionals; foul language, the taunting of spectators, excessive noise, and, in general, all unprofessional conduct, will not be tolerated. The home site authority will issue one warning for those who violate the above policy.

Head coaches need to firmly express their expectations regarding press box behavior to each assistant coach.

MAC CODE OF CONDUCT POSTED AT EACH VENUE:

We expect conduct that exemplifies the best traditions of intercollegiate athletics.

Coaches and student-athletes abide by the spirit and letter of the sport playing rules and are gracious in both victory and defeat.

Competition is conducted in a nondiscriminatory manner that encourages enthusiastic, positive support of the participants and teams by all spectators. Profanity; sexist, ethnic, or racial comments; or, other intimidating actions will not be tolerated.

Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products is prohibited.

As hosts, we are responsible for providing the visitors with an environment that would meet our expectations if the roles were reversed. This is our home; please treat it as you would your own.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, ETC.:

All members of the athletic department should be familiar with the NCAA rules on alcoholic beverages, gambling, tobacco products, and performance enhancing substances as they relate to practice, competition, and promotional activities. Students who use illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at the site of a MAC contest are immediately disqualified.

POSTPONEMENTS:

Before traveling to the site, officials are responsible for checking with the host school about inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances that might impact the contest. Schools are not responsible for compensating officials who do not fulfill this obligation.

Prior to a contest, the home team is responsible for delaying or postponing the start. After the contest starts, halting the contest is at the discretion of the officials, with the exception or extraordinary circumstances. In the case of lightning, the home team's athletic trainer is responsible for determining when the game may resume.

A delayed contest must be resumed in an hour and a half (football in two and a half hours). For example: if the field is cleared at 7:15, by 8:15 no lightning must be detected, and then there is a thirty minute delay until the contest restarts.

COORDINATORS OF OFFICIALS AND OFFICIALS:

MAC institutions must use the established collegiate coordinator of officials for booking officials in every conference championship sport (minimally for MAC contests). This person must assign officials who are certified college officials. Officials with direct connections (include being a graduate of, working at, or having a direct relative currently attend the school) to a participating school should not be retained to referee contests with another MAC school.

These MAC coordinators of officials are responsible for booking all MAC contests:

Volleyball	Larry Fetterhoff
Soccer	Mark Garcia
Football	Milt Halstead
Field Hockey	Lois Pinto
Men's Basketball	Donnie Eppley
Women's Basketball	Jim Hollister
Baseball	Dennis Helmstetter
Softball	Denny Mader
Men's Lacrosse	Noel Turner
Women's Lacrosse	Bert Butler
Tennis	Mark Raynes