

**SECTION XI**  
**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
1 INDEPENDENCE HILL SUITE 201 FARMINGVILLE, NY 11738  
631-366-0700

THOMAS COMBS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PETE BLIEBERG  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

---

To: All Sports Chairpersons  
From: Tom Combs  
RE: **Sportsmanship**

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section XI would like to ask your cooperation in the promoting of the importance of proper sportsmanship at all of its athletic contests.

Trash talking, inappropriate comments and general poor sportsmanship have become an increasing problem and we would ask that you communicate the following guidelines with the coaches at your Mandatory Coaches Meeting.

1. **There will be zero tolerance for harassing statements related to gender, race, ethnicity, disabilities, sexual orientation or religion by players, coaches, fans or officials.** It is our goal to reinforce our expectations of proper sportsmanship at all times. Incidents or violations will be handled through the regulations outlined in the NYS and Section XI procedures with the appropriate penalties administered.
2. **We have asked the officials to deal with this type of behavior with immediate and strict enforcement.**
3. **Officials are not to be involved directly with the spectators.** Officials will report this type of behavior with fans directly to the home school and follow proper procedures. Home school game administration will be responsible for the conduct at the game site.
4. **Serious incidents or violations shall be reported to Section XI on the next Business day.**
5. Coaches are asked to reinforce proper sportsmanship with their players on a regular basis and model good sportsmanship themselves.
6. Athletic Directors are asked to please review with their coaches the NYSPHSAA expectations and monitor their athletes and staff.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in creating a positive, enjoyable and healthy athletic experience for all.

cc: Jim Doig