

MSHSL AD LEAD

Hub



On November 21, 2022, the Minnesota State High School League facilitated a statewide LEAD Network conversation for Activities Directors focused on event management. The information below captures the ideas and best practices about developing and teaching common language and expectations that promote respectful behavior. The information below is not meant to be requirements placed on schools, rather it is a resource for ADs as they work locally and in collaboration with conferences and other regional schools to effectively manage events.

Common Language and Common Expectations

Identify “Above the Line” Behaviors – Top 20 Training

- Positive Cheers about your team
- Cheer for your team
- Be positive.
- Be about your team.
- Be respectful of all players, fans and opponents, and game personnel

Identify “Below the Line” Behaviors

- No taunting or personal attacks towards players, coaches or officials.
- No profanity, animal sounds, or other potentially insensitive noises.
- No politically, racially, culturally, or sexually charged language
- No profanity, racial, or gender related comments toward officials, players, coaches or team representatives
- No profanity, no culturally inappropriate words, no political themes
- No Name calling
- No using opponent first/last names
- No comments directed towards opposing team or team members
- How do we treat officials? Show respect - no negative comments
- No Animal Sounds
- Hockey - sieve chant - ends with “you suck” - Eliminate this!
- No Signs
- No White boards- Hard to control
- No flags - blanket policy helped avoid political debate/taunting, etc.
- No booing - during introductions, ever
- If it makes them change how they feel about themselves then it’s not okay to use
- No students on the floor (all activities)
- Seating is allowed four rows up or above
- Fans are separated at each end of the gym
- Superfans and Cheerleaders work together to promote unity and positivity

- MSHSL policy of expectations:
 - Needs to be black and white - not open to interpretation non-negotiables
 - Only if it's going to have a hard line
 - Assists at the local level – “These are our state guidelines.” E.g., noise makers - easy to enforce
 - Maybe a few general guidelines
 - MSHSL more responsible at state and sections (playoffs)
 - Need more accountability for disrespect and discrimination at larger state settings
 - More direction needed at sections that are at local schools

Best Practices for Communicating and Teaching Expectations

Whole Student Body

- Find time for students to Practice cheers & positive student body behavior
- School-wide PepFest to address proper behavior and expectations
- Common language sent home to all families
- Expectations and Consequences sent home- comes from District
- Admin conduct breakout sessions by grade level (talk about the why behind it)
- Rewarding good behavior w/ food coupons, gift cards, etc.

Using Student Leaders and Influencers

- Conference/Region Leadership Summits
- Bleacher Crews
- Bleacher Captains
- Captains Council – Leadership Academy
- Identify Bleacher captains w/ Vests or Hi-Vis shirts

Working with Student Leaders

- Annually, Monthly, Weekly
- Bring in officials and coaches to talk about expectations and impact
- Supervision and sportsmanship – ask for feedback and advice
- Connect with visiting students right away and designate one or two to work with you during the contest
- Provide conference pass to identified student leaders
- Pay a student leader to supervise student section
- Create a weekly superfan video to share across social media

Signage, P.A. Announcements, Etc.

- Use Sandwich Boards and Signage
- Conference Banners
- [MPS Business Card](#) w/ expectations and accepted behaviors – hand out to potential violators
- [Spring Lake Park Expectations and Super Fan ID Badge](#)
- [Spring Lake Park Video](#)
- [Pine River-Backus Pre-Game Introduction](#)
- [Stewartville Sportsmanship Creed](#)
- [Lake Conference Expectations and Alignment](#)

- [Lake Conference Statement](#)
- [Lake Conference Sandwich Board](#)
- [Jordan Captains Creed](#)
- [Willmar Cardinal Fan Expectations](#)
- [Big South Conference Sandwich Board/Announcements](#)
- Have students, players, coaches, officials read pre-game sportsmanship statement
- Stop and talk with visiting team right away, see it modeled by our home school
- Would love to see MSHSL develop a video to be used

Enforcing Expectations

- AD or Supervisor must be present- front and center
- Inappropriate behavior must be addressed and stopped immediately
- Rogers HS- Suspension for 6 Weeks
- Duluth Denfeld – Hunter Pass – Must have one to gain admission to events. Grades, Behavior, and Attendance checked every two weeks to earn a pass