

## BOARD POLICY ON SPECTATORS AT EVENTS

**Spectators/Fans Gathering at Sidelines:** There have been instances where fans have been permitted to gather and stand along the sidelines or end lines of playing fields and courts during athletic contests, and a number of instances have been reported in which fans have approached the sidelines near the end of the game. Generally, this is for the purpose of rushing onto the field or court to express jubilation over winning. In other instances, fans have cast disparaging remarks toward opposing players and officials. In either case, it creates a situation conducive to crowd control problems. Under these conditions, the Board of Directors has adopted a policy authorizing and urging game officials to stop the game when this occurs, send the teams to the benches, and request the host school administration (or tournament manager) to have the fans return to their seats or leave the gymnasium or field before play is continued. The game shall not continue until the fans comply. The primary responsibility for compliance with the game officials request falls on the host school, or tournament manager, but the visiting school (both schools in a tournament) is also responsible for seeing that their fans remain in their seats. All schools should take steps to educate their students and fans to refrain from moving onto the court or playing field following games. The practice of entering these areas following games does not contribute anything toward the most worthwhile objectives of interscholastics and can contribute toward misconduct. In a related note, tournament managers should suspend the sale of tickets and close the doors when necessary to prevent overcrowding of gymnasiums.

**Spectator/Fan Support Items and Restrictions:** In the chart below, **ONLY** those items marked “Yes” will be allowed as fan/spectator support items at all MSHSAA District and State Series Championships. **Schools are encouraged to follow these guidelines during the regular season.** Sportsmanlike vocal cheering and support from the team bench area are encouraged. The items indicated on this page are for use by all fans/spectators.

**LEGEND:** BA-Baseball BK-Basketball CC-Cross Country FB-Football GO-Golf SO-Soccer SB-Softball  
SW-Swimming & Diving TN-Tennis TR-Track & Field VB-Volleyball WR-Wrestling NA-Not Apply

SPORT	BA	BK	CC	FB	GO	SO	SB	SW	TN	TR	VB	WR
Balloons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Banners on wall	Yes	Yes	Yes	No								
Confetti/shredded paper/powder	No	No	No	No								
Hand held signs (no obstruction of view during play)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Laser light/pointer/flashing objects	No	No	No	No								
Megaphones (Exception: Sideline Cheerleaders only)	No	No	No	No								
Artificial noisemakers, (including but not limited to horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, shakers, clickers, thunder sticks, rattles, instruments not part of a band)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Compressed air horns/sirens	No	No	No	No								
Whistles	No	No	No	No								
Drones/UAV/UAS	No	No	No	No								
Team introduction run-throughs or break away banners (fans)	No	No	No	No								
Team introduction run-throughs or break away banners (team personnel & sideline cheerleaders)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Poms, spirit/rally towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Cannons/muskets/guns/fireworks	No	No	No	No								
Carried school flags (running/taunting prohibited)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Animals/Pets (other than service animals with proper credential documentation)	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No	No	No							
Appropriate dress required (host determines)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								

<sup>1</sup> state only