

THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
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TO: Head Coaches, Athletic Directors and Principals
FROM: Thomas M. Rashid, Director
Catholic High School League
DATE: December 1, 1993
RE: **Fighting and Poor Sportsmanship**

On October 11, 1993 the Executive Board directed that all schools and coaches be informed that fighting or poor sportsmanship will be not be tolerated. Specifically the Board wanted the penalties for post game fights clearly communicated.

CATHOLIC LEAGUE REGULATIONS ON SPORTSMANSHIP AND FIGHTING:

From Catholic League Manual

Page 3, Rule # 9 Suspension

"Individual coaches, athletic directors, sports programs or schools found in violation of Rules and Regulations may be censored, placed on probation or suspended."

Page 11, # 5B Coaches of Teams

"Athletic Department staff may be reprimanded, censored, placed on probation or suspended for violation of the rules and regulations or for poor sportsmanship, by the League Director or the Executive Board."

Page 12, # 6A Sportsmanship

"The school and its athletic staff will be held responsible for the behavior of its coaches, students, participants and followers. Principles of good sportsmanship and Christian values must be foremost in athletics."

Coaches are reminded that rules already exist which include the suspension of coaches, players, or entire teams for any number of contests for a fight which may break out after a game. While the "rule book" deals with actions during the game, the Catholic League Manual and Office pick up where the rule book leaves off.

POST GAME PROTOCOL

--- At the conclusion of the athletic event, the teams traditionally huddle at their own bench or sideline, congratulating each other. This should not be an extended period of time as the opposing team is waiting to shake hands. As soon as possible after the contest, the teams should form a single file line. All coaches must be physically near or present in this lineup (beginning, middle, and end). Your alert presence as a monitor of the situation will serve to prevent problems.

OVER

POST GAME PROTOCOL, continued

--- In volatile situations, Athletic Director/Administrators should also be present on the field or court for the post game.

--- If at the conclusion of the game players seem to be losing control, coaches should, in the post game huddle, strongly caution their players that there are to be no incidents. Once the teams have greeted each other at games end - get in the locker room or on the bus. Emphasis on sportsmanship and non violence should be ongoing throughout the season: among players, parents, fans and coaches.

--- In many cases it is a spoken word said by either a coach or player that sparks physical contact. Let's be sure everyone's emotions are under control- coaches, players, parents, etc.

--- The foundation of the enforcement is that the CATHOLIC LEAGUE WILL HOLD COACHES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR PLAYERS. Coaches or players may be suspended for any number of games for actions during or after the contest.

--- All administrators and principals are reminded that crowd control and spectator supervision is their responsibility. At no time are spectators to become involved in altercations between teams.

"BREAKING UP" A FIGHT IS THE HEAD COACHES JOB:

--- In advance of the season coaches instruct their players that they are not to leave the bench or sideline to break up or enter a fight. If a fight breaks out while they are on the field or court they should return to the bench or sideline. Take your own team mate back to the bench, not the other team.

---- An athlete who is the "third-man-in" in a fight in an athletic event can expect suspension for any number of contests. It is very difficult to "write rules" for controlling fights once they occur which is why generally, more rather than less, will be penalized by each school and the League.

--- Spectators getting involved in on field or on court dilemmas run the risk of being denied admission to Catholic League contests and jeopardize the school's privilege of playing games in front of their own spectators.

IN CONCLUSION, we remind all students and adults alike, that this is the Catholic League. While we are an intense athletic association, by the very name and nature of our schools we stand for something more than just sports. This is not the league for dirty play; this is not the league for trash talk; this is not the league for poor sportsmanship; this is not the league for cheap shots. This is the Catholic League. Our standards are high. Our values must be clearly understood and constantly upheld by all parties.