

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
KEN HECHLER
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #2

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES TITLE NUMBER: 127

COMMISSION

RULE TYPE: LEGISLATIVE RULES; CITE AUTHORITY WV CODE 18-2-25

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 09-127-4-3 (3.10)

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: CODE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON JUNE 14, 1994 AT 5:00 PM. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.

WVSSAC

ROUTE #9, BOX 76

PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

TITLE 127
LEGISLATIVE RULES
WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION
SERIES 4
PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONDUCT

***09 SECTION 127-4-1 - General.**

- 1.1 **Scope** - These rules govern conduct for active and spectator participants, coaches and all other school personnel at interscholastic athletic events.
- 1.2 **Authority** - WV Code 18-2-25
- 1.3 **Filing Date** -
- 1.4 **Effective Date** - July 1, 1987
- 1.5 **Revision To Current Rule**

Proposal 15

Amend *09 §127-4-3 - Code for Interscholastic Athletics - (pg. 74) as follows:

3.8(b) Any athlete who in protest lays hands or attempts to lay hands upon an official may be declared ineligible by his principal or by the WVSSAC for up to one year. Any athlete who strikes an opponent, coach, or a spectator during or following an athletic event may be declared ineligible by the principal or the WVSSAC for a specified period of time up to one year, depending on the seriousness of the act. A coach, player, or team attendant ejected from a game, match, meet, or contest for unsportsmanlike action(s) shall be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled contest at that level of competition. For a second ejection, the penalty shall be non-participation for the next two contests. Should the ejection occur in the last contest of the season, the penalty shall carry over to the next sport. The basis of this policy statement is that a member school shall not be represented by any student or coach whose conduct reflects discredit upon his school.

Proposal 16

Amend *09 §127-4-3 - Code for Interscholastic Athletics - (pg. 76) as follows:

3.10 (c) **Fine.** A fine may be levied by the Executive Secretary. It may be levied in addition to a warning, probation, or suspension. Suspension. A school/coach suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a WVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

(d) **Suspension.** A school suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a WVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations. Fine. A fine may be levied by the Executive Secretary. It may be levied in addition to a warning, probation, or suspension.

***09 §127-4-3 Code for Interscholastic Athletics**

3.8 Statement of Policy. Insofar as unsportsmanlike actions by players, cheerleaders, students, school administrators, officials, coaches, faculty members, and spectators are concerned, the identical items under the Sportsmanship Rule along with the following guides will be referred to by the WVSSAC:

(a) The school whose coach behaves in a manner likely to have adverse influence on the attitudes of players or spectators may be provided with the choice of taking disciplinary action against that coach or have the entire school disciplined by the WVSSAC.

(b) Any athlete who in protest lays hands or attempts to lay hands upon an official may be declared ineligible by his principal or by the WVSSAC for up to one year. Any athlete who strikes an opponent, coach, or a spectator during or following an athletic event may be declared ineligible by the principal or the WVSSAC for a specified period of time up to one year, depending on the seriousness of the act. A coach, player, or team attendant ejected from a game, match, meet, or contest for unsportsmanlike action(s) shall be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled contest at that level of competition. For a second ejection, the penalty shall be non-participation for the next two contests. Should the ejection occur in the last contest of the season, the penalty shall carry over to the next sport. The basis of this policy statement is that a member school shall not be represented by any student or coach whose conduct reflects discredit upon his school.

(c) In case of spectators physically molesting an official, coach, or player, the school may be given one of two options: 1) take action against the offender(s) or 2) accept discipline from the WVSSAC.

(d) The school that does not lend complete cooperation in the host school's effort to promote the spirit of good sportsmanship may be disciplined by the WVSSAC.

(e) A coach may be considered as committing unsportsmanlike actions if he makes degrading remarks about officials during or after a game either on the field of play, from the bench, or through any public news media, argues with officials, or goes through motions indicating this dislike for a decision, protests the decision and actions of officials pertaining to the game during and after the contest, or detains the official on the field of play following a game to request a ruling or explanation of some phase of the game. If a coach feels he has a legitimate criticism of a penalty call or a request for a rule interpretation, such criticism or request should be made in the privacy of the coach's office or the official's quarters and should be made in a courteous manner.

(f) A player or team attendant shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or his designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules. A coach shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or his designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules unless a player altercation is taking place and the official requests assistance. Violation of this rule shall cause the coach, participant, or team attendant to be immediately ejected from the contest, team penalized according to game or contest rules and that coach, player, or team attendant will not be eligible to participate in the next contest as outlined in Rules 127-4-2.3.

3.9 Procedure. Unsportsmanship action must be reported in detail to the WVSSAC. A copy of the complaint must also be filed with the principal of the school involved. Each principal involved shall report such information or answers to the report as they deem appropriate. Upon receipt of all reports, the Executive Secretary and/or the Board of Appeals of the WVSSAC shall investigate and adjudicate such reports in accordance with the powers afforded in **Section 127-1-8.6 and 8.7 and Section 127-1-12.2 and 12.3** of the Constitution. Penalties up to and including suspension of member schools may be made in accordance with **Section 127-4**.

3.10 The following defines the different types of disciplinary action which may be assessed for violation of the Sportsmanship Rule:

(a) **Warning.** A warning may be given by the Executive Secretary or Assistant Executive Secretary. It is official notice that an unexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanship action has occurred, is a matter of record, and that such an occurrence must not be repeated.

(b) **Probation.** Probation is a much more severe type of warning and may be expressed two ways. A school, coach, player, or team attendant on probation is being told that further violations will lead to a fine or suspension. A school on probation is on conditional WVSSAC membership but may engage in its regular schedule, sanctioned events, and all WVSSAC sponsored tournament play, providing a program is filed with the Executive Secretary of the WVSSAC indicating measures to be taken to alleviate this problem which caused the school to be placed on probation. A stronger form of probation could provide that a school may not enter any competition toward sectional, regional, or state championship nor may the school enter any sanctioned events.

(c) **Fine.** ~~A fine may be levied by the Executive Secretary. It may be levied in addition to a warning, probation, or suspension.~~ **Suspension.** A school/coach suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a WVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

(d) **Suspension.** ~~A school suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a WVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.~~ **Fine.** A fine may be levied by the Executive Secretary. It may be levied in addition to a warning, probation, or suspension.

3.11 **Appeals.** All cases involving disciplinary action against member schools, coaches, players, team attendants, or officials may be protested in accordance with Section 127-6.

Rationale:

127-4-3-3.8 (b): Sportsmanship has been a major concern of athletic administrators. This addition in the sportsmanship rule further emphasizes the need for positive expectations and behaviors.

127-4-3-3.10: The purpose of this change is to put in order the penalties for a violation of the code for interscholastic athletics. There is no change in content or interpretation.