

Greetings,

We are contacting you today to bring to the forefront an ongoing issue with the use of derogatory and racially explicit language at our school athletic events. It is important that Coaches, Athletic Directors, Superintendents, Game Officials, and Section III leadership understand and follow the same baseline procedures for addressing these issues when they arise. Below is Section III's understanding of current practice to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all student-athletes as it relates to the use of this type of inappropriate language:

- Athletic Directors continue their efforts to educate spectators, coaches, and student-athletes about appropriate behavior and sportsmanship. Athletic Directors and Site Supervisors continue to monitor language and behavior at contests and address inappropriate actions as needed.
- Coaches continue their efforts to educate players about the importance of good sportsmanship and continue to monitor student-athlete behaviors.
- Officials continue to meet with captains and/or the teams regarding sportsmanship prior to the game. Head Coaches are encouraged to attend these meetings. Officials emphasize that the use of derogatory or racially explicit language is not tolerated.
- Players will notify coaches of specific opponents or spectators who are using derogatory or racially explicit language.
- The Head Coach will ask for a stoppage in play to address their concerns with the entire officiating crew and opposing Head Coach.
- If either the Head Coach and/or the Athletic Director believes their players are not in a physically or emotionally safe environment, they should notify the Head Official they are discontinuing play and leaving the premises due to safety concerns for their students.
- Regarding notifications and next steps, the Head Coach will communicate with their AD and the AD will communicate with their Superintendent the same day a negative event takes place.
- Concerns about the safety of student-athletes during a contest must be discussed between the opposing Athletic Directors and Superintendents within 24 hours and reported back to Section III leadership.

Sincerely,

Todd and Jason

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