

New Spectator Policy for North Dakota High School Sports: What You Need to Know

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As we get into the high school season, an announcement popped up on Facebook that includes all high schools in the state of North Dakota. In response to rising concerns about sportsmanship at high school sporting events, the [North Dakota High School Activities Association](#) (NDHSAA) has implemented a stricter policy for spectator behavior. As of August 14, 2024, the NDHSAA Board of Directors approved a

recommendation from the Class A Review to impose minimum penalties on spectators who are ejected from any contests.

The policy, initially drafted by the NDHSAA Sportsmanship & Citizenship Committee, outlines clear consequences for attendees who cross the line. Any spectator ejected from a regular season or NDHSAA tournament event will face a **minimum three-game suspension**. This means they cannot attend that team's games or any other NDHSAA games or events during this time, regardless of the level of competition.



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ndhsaa.com/spectator-ejection-policy

In cases where fewer than three games remain in the season, the suspension will carry over to the next sports season for that school.

More seriously, if a spectator is ejected twice during the same school year, they will be suspended from all NDHSAA events for **a minimum of one calendar year**.

It's important to note that individual schools are allowed to increase these penalties at their discretion. This policy aims to foster a positive, respectful environment for players, coaches, and fellow spectators alike. High school sports are about supporting young athletes, and the NDHSAA's new regulations highlight the importance of maintaining good sportsmanship not just on the field, but in the stands.

So, if you're attending a local high school game, be mindful of your behavior—because the consequences of getting ejected could keep you on the sidelines for a long time. Remember, it's just a game!

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