

# NJSIAA Sportsmanship Position

NJSIAA requires the reading of the following sportsmanship statement to all participants; not just Head Coach and Captains as in the past.

## OFFICIALS SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

Officials will read the following statement before every NJSIAA event at all levels (No Paraphrasing):

The NJSIAA requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. There will be no tolerance for any negative behavior, such as taunting, trash-talking and verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion. Such behavior will result in being ejected from this event. **All participants must respect the game and respect their opponents.**

**Procedure:** Most sports require officials to appear on the field/court a certain time period prior to the beginning of the contest. Baseball and Softball officials will:

- Enter the confines of the playing field as the Home Team is completing their infield practice.
- Gather Home Team coaches, players, trainers etc. in the dugout while visiting team is taking infield and read the statement in a professional manner. Remember, NFHS rules require all to be in the bench/dugout area while the opponent is taking infield.
- When visiting team's infield is completed, proceed to their dugout/bench and read the statement in a professional manner to coaches, players, trainers, etc.
- Upon completion, request visiting Head Coach and Captain(s) to accompany you to the home plate area for the exchange of lineup cards and ground rules. Umpires shall signal Home Team Head Coach and Captain(s) to move simultaneously to home plate area. Remember, NFHS rules require everyone to be in the bench/dugout area until the pregame meeting is completed.