

**NEW MEXICO  
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**



**News Announcement**  
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**NMAA MEMBER SCHOOLS APPROVE NEW SPORTSMANSHIP BYLAW**

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM** – The New Mexico Activities Association membership recently voted in favor of a proposed update to sportsmanship bylaws. NMAA high schools voted by nearly 80% in favor of Bylaw 7.7.4 – Crowd Control & Unsportsmanlike Conduct. The new policy will be enacted beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

“We are glad to see our member schools approve this updated bylaw which coincides with our Compete with Class initiative and hope this will help eliminate much of the growing bad behavior,” said NMAA Executive Director Sally Marquez.

The updated bylaw now specifies the possibility of suspension of a team/fan from athletic activities for Unsportsmanlike Conduct and included the following verbiage:

*1. Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a team participant, including a coach, occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, the team will be suspended from participation in that activity for the remainder of the season.*

*2. Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a non-team participant occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, the non-team member, along with all school spectators will be suspended from attendance in that activity for the remainder of the season.*

*3. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined in the NMAA Handbook as non-compliance with sport specific rules and NMAA policies, including behaviors incompatible with “Compete with Class” and the interscholastic educational objective. Examples of egregious unsportsmanlike conduct by participants, coaches, or spectators include but are not limited to, fans entering the playing surface to engage in acts of violence or abuse, constant verbal attacks on officials, attacking other fans, coaches physically or verbally attacking officials, players fighting other players during post game handshakes, or student sections verbally chanting inappropriate or demeaning comments towards individuals, teams, or officials.*

*4. In the event the second act of misconduct occurs when there are no contests left in the current season, the penalty may be applied to the next season in the same activity. The NMAA will notify the school that the team and/or individual/spectators has been placed on warning after the first offense.*

For additional information pertaining to this release, please contact J.P. Murrieta, NMAA Sports Information Director at (505) 379-4305 or [jp@nmact.org](mailto:jp@nmact.org).