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# SPORTSMANSHIP AND HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

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We believe it is time for the baseball coaches, athletic directors, and umpires to work together to reign in the “questionable” behavior we see on our baseball fields on a regular basis. We have seen young student/athletes try to get under the skin of opposing young student/athletes for way too long. We have seen coaches who have either ignored or worse, implored their players to do so and it is beyond unsportsmanlike.

There is no other high school sport we offer that permits the detestable behavior that goes on during our baseball games, on all levels. Football, basketball, soccer . . . do not permit their players to scream at the opposition. Why do we think it should be acceptable in baseball? Chatter used to be a positive way to help players focus. The junk yelled from our dugouts is neither positive nor acceptable and it has to stop now.

We (ADs) have asked the Bergen County Umpires Association to make sportsmanship a point of emphasis for this coming baseball season in hope that we can stop the “craziness.” There is no way that we should accept anything but positive enthusiasm when it comes to high school baseball.

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## 2011 NFHS Baseball Rules

### Section 3 Bench and Field Conduct Page 28

Article 1 . . . . A coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not: (a, b, c, d, e, f )  
g. commit any unsportsmanlike act to include, but not limited to:

1. use of words or actions to incite or attempt to incite spectators demonstrations,
2. **use of profanity, intimidating tactics, remarks reflecting unfavorably upon any other person, or taunting or baiting.** The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting that is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under circumstances including race, religion, gender or national origin.
3. **use of any language intended to intimidate,**
4. **behavior in any manner not in accordance with the spirit of fair play,**  
(5 & 6)

**PENALTY: The umpire shall eject the offender from the game, unless the offense is judged to be of a minor nature. The umpire may warn the offender and then eject him if he repeats the offense. Failure to comply shall result in the game being forfeited. For coaches who violate g (1-4), the umpire may 1) restrict the offender to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game or 2) eject the offender.**

### Quotes From Our Colleagues

“Kudos to you Gat man. I support you 100%.” Bergen Cty. baseball coach  
“I could not agree with you more . . . your comments are a breath of fresh air.”  
Bergen County AD

“Like your idea. . . I would propose that at the pre-game meeting at home plate, the decorum be discussed and at that time the coaches are reminded that this is the only warning that will be given regarding sportsmanship.”

Bergen County AD  
I cannot stress enough how happy I am personally that this is going to be addressed. It is an embarrassment the way some coaches let their kids get personal with their opponent.”

Bergen Cty. baseball coach  
“I love it. Kids acting like fools have no place in the game. People talk about golf etiquette and tennis etiquette but nobody ever thinks there is in baseball. It is taunting plain and simple.”

Bergen Cty. baseball coach