

# **UNIVERSAL SCHOOL**

## **CROWD MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**2015-2016**

## **A PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETIC EDUCATION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Athletics have had a significant influence on American culture and society and enjoy unique status in the American value system. We believe that participation on an interscholastic athletic team is a worthwhile experience, which all students should have the opportunity to pursue. Universal School affirms the right of every student to participate in the interscholastic athletic program without regard to gender, race or creed. We support the regulations and spirit of Title IX legislation and do not limit one sex in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage or opportunity.

Since interscholastic athletics are philosophical extensions of the physical education program and classified as co-curricular activities, the goals and objectives of athletics should be supportive of and consistent with the goals and objectives of the total educational program. When conducted properly, athletics can positively contribute to intellectual, physical, social and emotional development. Growth is accomplished when an athletic program, conducted by educationally oriented coaches, provides the means to achieving these ends. Students who choose to participate in our athletic program will be expected to conform to basic standards of conduct and to demonstrate a degree of self-discipline and self-sacrifice for the welfare of their team. Athletes will also be expected to demonstrate respect for the dignity and rights of others, good sportsmanship, and respect for authority.

Therefore, Universal School adapted the following procedures for crowd control. The main goal is the prevention of crowd disturbances at our sporting events; efficient crowd control maintenance and strict discipline among administrators, coaches, players and spectators. Often, the hostility of the crowd is the reflection of hostility between the schools or coaches' actions. Also, a crowd faced with disorganized, confused events is more prone to become hostile. The following procedures strive to prevent the hostility during interscholastic athletic events.

## **CROWD CONTROL PROCEDURES FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Efficient management of interscholastic athletic contests, both at home and away, is an increasingly important aspect of administering an interscholastic athletic program. The following procedures have been assembled to be adequately prepared for crowd control at athletic contests.

1. Pre-season and pre-game responsibilities are shared by Universal School and visiting schools competing in any athletic contest.
2. Responsibilities during the game are shared by Universal School and visiting school, with the hosting school assuming the major role. A dual responsibility exists at a neutral site.
3. Post-game responsibilities are shared by officials of both schools, local police, and the community.
4. Advance preparation of all details pertaining to athletic contests is necessary for efficient administration.

### **PROCEDURES BEFORE THE GAME**

#### **Universal School**

1. Develop an operational plan for each home event.
2. Contact the visiting school as early as possible to arrange for a meeting or telephone conversation to discuss the game, including prior and existing school/community control problems. Time and location of pregame security meeting should be confirmed.
3. Discuss the situations and size of Universal School gym and rented soccer and baseball fields. Discuss the situations of the parking areas to the visiting school especially Friday nights.
4. Formulate plans which provide directions and instructions for all visiting personnel regarding safest routes, parking, seating and dismissal from bleachers, and loading and unloading buses and vehicles. Be alert to the impact of new construction projects.
5. Evaluate the use of separate spectator entrance/departure gates/ doors.
6. All parking areas will be well lighted. Arrange for on-site parking of visitor's vehicles and buses.
7. Supervision will be continued until after all visitors have left the area, including the team bus.
8. Persons assigned for crowd control will be informed in writing of their duties before the game.
9. Universal School will use the weight room as a locker room while the visiting team will use room 106 as a locker room. Teams should not enter/leave in front of opponent seating area.
10. Universal School will provide an adequate police supervision before, during and after the game. Out of duty police supervision will cover both inside and outside the school at games including parking areas.

11. Universal School in consultation with police developed emergency evacuation plans relating to activated fire alarms, bomb threats, and other inappropriate acts of violence.
12. All security personnel will be readily identifiable by the public. Prevention, not apprehension after trouble begins, should be emphasized.
13. All home games will be recorded.
14. Arrange for supervision to continue until all visitors have left the area, including the team bus.
15. The ticket sellers will screen for troublemakers and group agitators.
16. Representatives from the visiting school should screen for known troublemakers from their school/community.
17. All Universal School entrances and parking lots are covered with surveillance cameras to record all incidents of inappropriate behavior.
18. Visiting school students will be seated in separate adequate section. Do not oversell the facility.
19. A parent from Mothers club will help to assist with supervision of general admission section.
20. A student manager will be assigned to meet the visiting team when they arrive and to direct them to their dressing room.
21. Emphasize to game officials the importance of keeping the game under control.
22. Competent persons will be assigned to take charge of the scoreboard and scorebook.
23. A teacher is assigned as a public announcer.

### **A Way Games**

1. Contact hosting school or neutral site manager to discuss game preparations and obtain information on:
  - safest route to and from stadium or gymnasium.
  - location of visitors' parking area.
  - visitors' entering and exit gates.
  - visitors' seating area.
  - prior and existing school/community control problems.
  - time and location of pregame security meeting.
  - facilities for the handicapped.
2. Consider transporting students by bus if there is inadequate parking at the stadium.
3. Have adequate faculty and administrative supervision going to the game, at the game and after the game. Provide identification for school personnel. Establish an acknowledgment of attendance with home management.
4. Consider asking interested parents to help with supervision.
5. Provide information to students regarding travel, parking, entrance, seating and exit.

### **DURING THE GAME**

1. Visiting school athletic director or the head coach should contact the athletic director of hosting school immediately upon arrival to discuss final details and to indicate seat locations so that parties are available to each other.
2. Have adequate police, faculty, and patrons distributed among the students and other spectators. Assign someone to help control spectator behavior in the vicinity of the players' bench.
3. Meet faculty supervisors from the visiting school and acquaint them with their areas.
4. Check on supervision each quarter.
5. Keep lines of communication open to administrators from the visiting school and the site manager.
6. Assign a responsible adult, other than the coach, to help attend to injured players, and, if necessary, to accompany them to the hospital.
7. Provide supervision during halftime. Whether or not there is halftime entertainment, supervision is necessary to help direct the crowd, keep spectators off the playing area and keep the gym or the field clear.

### **AFTER THE GAME**

1. Sportsmanship handshake between coaches and team members will take place at the conclusion of the game.
2. When awards are presented, all team members and coaches will remain on the court/field at the conclusion of the game until award presentations have concluded. Following the ceremony, teams will immediately return to their respective locker rooms.
3. Use public address system to give directions to students and spectators regarding exit from the stands.
4. Police supervision will be provided until all students and spectators are well dispersed. Permit no loitering.
5. Check supervision of all areas; provide continuous security for locker room area.
6. Assign someone to assist police in dispersing hangers-on who wait for the team after the game.
7. Administrators of both schools should confer before leaving to be sure that all details have been attended to.
8. Discourage spectators from leaving before the end of the contest.
9. When necessary, police will escort officials to their cars.

### **SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Police**

1. Police should arrive in sufficient time before game starting time and report to athletic director to request instructions, such as best locations for observation, nearest phone, etc.
2. During the game, officers should be requested to assist in controlling the following:
  - Non-students seated in student sections who may cause disturbances.

- Any person appearing to be under the influence of alcohol must be denied admission to the event.
- Any suspicious gathering of individuals in rest rooms, in front of the gym, in the parking areas, or elsewhere.
- Loiterers should be asked to move on and crowds dispersed outside gym once game is filled.

### **Coaches**

High school coaches influence not only the conduct of players under their supervision, but also the behavior of many spectators.

1. In dealing with the officials, the coach's approach must be businesslike at all times. The coach must exercise self-control and realize that the official sees through impartial and unbiased eyes. Coaches must familiarize themselves with the proper procedure for requesting a conference with an official.
2. Opposing coaches must shake hands publicly and should ask players to shake hands with opponents before the game and behave with courtesy at all times.
3. Coaches must be sensitive to situations, such as athletes losing control of themselves, and get potential troublemakers out of the game before difficulty begins. Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their entire staff.
4. Coaches who repeatedly conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner shall be subject to sanction by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA).

### **Players**

The less notice the player takes of the spectators and the more he concentrates on his art in the game, the more absorbed the crowd will be and the less likely to misbehave.

1. Players should refrain from showing surprise or irritation at a call of an official. The official's ruling—just or unjust—should be accepted with politeness.
2. "Playing to the crowd" can cause trouble—particularly in basketball where the player's facial expressions are clearly visible to the bench and stands. Players should not communicate with the spectators.
3. Unsportsmanlike gesturing or the harassing of individual opponents should be avoided.
4. Substitutes on the bench should not heckle the opposing team.
5. The relationship of players to each other before, during and after the game affects and helps establish crowd rapport.

### **Spectators**

Spectator sportsmanship may be encouraged in the following ways:

1. Develop codes of sportsmanship.
2. Sportsmanship rating forms are helpful.
3. Sportsmanship trophies can be given to encourage good conduct.
4. The pregame atmosphere is improved if spectator participation is encouraged. Standing and prying is one opportunity for such participation.
5. Handbooks on regulations dealing with crowd conduct are helpful.

6. Disorderly persons should be removed promptly.
7. Noisemakers such as “Tablah” should not be permitted.
8. Students should sit as a group. Students and adult spectators who have a general knowledge of game rules and of officials’ techniques and signals seldom cause disturbances at athletic contests.

### **Threats**

1. Take all threats seriously.
2. An improperly handled threat can be worse than an actual incident.
3. A properly coordinated level of response thwarts the purpose of the threat.

### **Contest Officials**

1. Confirm with the conference assigner after the school received the list of scheduled officials. Reminder emails should include date of contest, time, level, location, and sport.
2. Prior to the contest provide the officials with directions and inform them of any special activities that might be occurring (i.e., Homecoming, Senior Night, etc.)
3. Provide the official a number he/she can call in case of an emergency or postponement due to weather.
4. A person will be assigned to meet the officials as they arrive. The host should do the following for the officials:
  - Provide a reserved parking space.
  - Meet Officials and take them to the dressing room.
  - Have refreshments available for halftime and postgame.
  - Ask for any additional needs.
  - The athletic director will introduce the officials to those game workers pertinent to the contest (i.e. scorer, announcer, etc.)
  - Get the proper pronunciation of officials’ names so they are correct when given to the public address announcer.
5. Do a check on game scoreboards and lighting systems prior to the game or contest.
6. Make sure the playing area is properly marked and meets NFHS guidelines especially for soccer and baseball contests.
7. The public address announcer will read the Universal School sportsmanship statement and remain unbiased during the contest.
8. Escort the officials back to the dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the contest.
9. The school is responsible to escort the officials safely back to the dressing room.
10. No unauthorized persons will be allowed in the dressing room any time.
11. It is important to thank the officials for their time and effort, regardless of the outcome of the game.

### **Other Considerations:**

1. A crowd control policy will be posted in the entrance of the gym.

2. Schools and conferences will include these among the prohibited activities of student spirit sections:
  - Booing officials or opponents at any time.
  - Holding up newspapers during the introduction of the opposing team and/or shouting “Who cares?” after each individual introduction.
  - Pointing and chanting “You, you, you” after fouls.
  - Near the end of games, chanting “We’re No. 1. We’re No. 1” or singing “Na, na, na, hey, hey, good-by, etc.”

### **Student-Athlete’s Code of Behavior**

To represent Universal School in the athletic arena entails responsibility and commitment. A student athlete must be a disciplined and committed student as well as athlete. He/she should:

- A. Abide by the principles of Universal School Code of Behavior.
- B. Submit all necessary forms at the start of practice sessions.
- C. Attend all practices and games, unless previously and personally excused by the coach for reasons beyond your control. Notify the coach ASAP if an emergency or illness prevents you from attending.
- D. Arrive punctually for games, practice sessions and bus departures.

- E. Appropriate behavior on the bus and in the locker rooms is expected of all team members.
- F. Establish a cordial relationship with peers, teachers, players on opposing teams, and coaches from Universal School and other schools.
- G. Respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
- H. Refrain from resorting to verbal and physical abuse.
- I. Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of fairness.
- J. Understand the concept of teamwork and make the most of your abilities for the benefit of the team. Be ready to sacrifice personal goals for team goals.
- K. Demonstrate humility and appreciation for opponents' skills and efforts, and be gracious in victory and in defeat.
- L. Understand that you cannot win every time but always try your best.
- M. Seek improvement and progress and be open to constructive criticism
- N. Demonstrate pride in your school, your team and yourself.
- O. Take proper care of the uniform and sports equipment.
- P. Refrain from wearing cleats/spikes in the school building, locker rooms and buses.
- Q. Take care of your body; smoking, alcohol and drugs have no place in an athlete's life.

### **Universal School Pre-Game Sportsmanship Announcement**

**In the name of Allah the Most gracious the most Merciful**

**Good evening, Universal School would like to welcome the athletes, coaches, and fans from Islamic Foundation High School to tonight's contest. The objectives of the IHSA and Universal School are to promote the educational importance of interscholastic events and good sportsmanship by the student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. In order to maintain the integrity and spirit of interscholastic activities as an extension of the classroom, Universal School ask that you respect the efforts of all the participants involved with a positive display of sportsmanship. Negative comments, cheers, chants or behaviors directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches, or teams will not be tolerated. During the contest please be supportive and show your appreciation for the efforts of both teams as you enjoy tonight's game. Universal School thanks you for you support and cooperation.**

**In the name and blessing of Allah we start tonight's event**

### **Universal School Positive Sportsmanship Policy**

Universal School seeks to promote the core values of civility and respect for opponents, fairness in competition, and honesty and responsibility in individual conduct. By adhering to these values, Universal School hopes to sustain an environment that is competitive but not hostile or offensive.

*Sportsmanship is about demonstrating respect for opposing teams, coaches, and fans, as well as officials.*

To encourage these values, Universal School asks students to remember the slogan “Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Positive.” Students are encouraged to cheer for their team, rather than against the opponent.

They should avoid singling out individuals by name or number, or in any way making disparaging remarks about players, coaches, or officials. Fans are also asked to remain at an appropriate distance from the playing area, and away from team benches. Universal School does not allow profanity, vulgarity or racist or sexist comments.

- Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Positive
- Cheer *for* your team, not against the visitors
- Don’t get personal in your comments about players, coaches or officials
- No profanity, vulgarity, racist or sexist comments
- Fans are asked to remain at an appropriate distance from the playing area
- Alcohol is not tolerated at any athletic contest
- **“No Booing”**