



Conduct in Competition Guide

The Committee on Conduct in Competition dedicated efforts to establish and enhance standards for behavior in all NAIA competitions. The objective was to provide proactive best practices and reactive standards, ensuring both preventative measures and appropriate actions in response to misconduct. A comprehensive survey was conducted, focusing on the behavior of fans, coaches, and student-athletes during NAIA competitions, as well as the hospitality of campuses to officials and visiting teams.

Event Management

To align with core values, NAIA members adopted the following standards:

1. **Post-Game Sportsmanship:** After every contest, teams and coaches are required to remain on the playing surface and engage in a handshake with opponents.
2. **Profanity Policy:** PA announcement must precede the invocation/national anthem or player introductions to declare that profanity is unacceptable. The event manager has the authority to make a PA announcement warning against profanity/vulgarity when deemed necessary.
3. **Support Group Placement:** Bands, cheerleaders, etc., must be positioned as far away from the opponent's bench as possible.
4. **Official Assignment:** Coaches must not secure, assign, or pay officials.
5. **Personal Attacks:** Making personal attacks regarding physical characteristics of a player, coach, or official is unacceptable and must be addressed by the crowd control manager.
6. **Crowd Control Responsibility:** Each institution must assign a person solely responsible for crowd control at every contest in basketball, football, soccer, and other relevant sports.

Champions of Character™

The NAIA Champions of Character program, initiated in response to declining integrity standards in sports and society, focuses on instilling character values in sport. The program emphasizes five core values beyond the playing field: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant

leadership. These values guide individuals associated with student-athlete development to make positive choices and reflect the true spirit of competition. Mindful of the need to model exemplary character traits during competition, the NAIA recommends the following procedures:

- **Crowd Disturbance Prevention:** Focus on preventing crowd disturbances at NAIA sporting events.
- **Efficient Crowd Control:** Ensure efficient crowd control maintenance during events.
- **Discipline Maintenance:** Uphold discipline among officials, administrators, coaches, players, and spectators.
- **Positive Atmosphere:** Foster procedures that provide a positive atmosphere and an attitude of sportsmanship.
- **Safety Priority:** Prioritize a safe experience for all students, athletes, officials, and spectators at athletic events.

In conclusion, the NAIA encourages every institution to actively participate in fostering positive procedures within its program and conference, aiming to create an environment of sportsmanship and safety for all involved. For additional Champions of Character Resources, visit NAIA.org.

Crowd Control Procedures for Athletic Events

Efficient management of intercollegiate athletic contests remains a crucial aspect of administering an institution's athletic program. The following recommendations are designed to prevent hostility between schools and promote the efficient conduct of athletic events.

1. **Pre-Event Collaboration:**
 - Both institutions should engage in pre-season and pre-game discussions to address potential conduct issues.
 - Confirm time and location for a pregame security meeting, involving representatives from both institutions.
2. **Responsibilities During the Game:**
 - Both institutions share responsibilities during the game, with the home institution taking a key role.
 - Neutral site events require a dual responsibility approach.
3. **Post-Event Coordination:**
 - Post-game responsibilities should be shared among administrators of institutions, local security, and the community.
 - Collaboration is essential for a smooth transition after the event.

4. **Advance Preparation:**

- Emphasize the importance of advance preparation for efficient administration.
- Implement opportunities for cultural exchange between student bodies.
- Utilize assemblies to inform students about game rules and expectations.

Home Institution:

Pre-Season and Pre-Game Responsibilities:

- Early communication with the visiting institution to discuss game details, including prior conduct issues.
- Provide venue maps and information about parking, seating, and dismissal procedures.
- Evaluate and address potential issues related to on-site construction projects.
- Assess the use of pre-game music and its impact on the crowd.

Game-Day Operations:

- Ensure well-lit parking areas and on-site parking for visitors.
- Secure the stadium or gym before the scheduled opening time.
- Coordinate with local police for adequate protection and emergency evacuation plans.
- Develop a clear plan for diverting traffic and provide visible signage for crowd control.

Spectator Management:

- Screen for alcohol abuse and potential troublemakers during ticket sales.
- Record incidents of inappropriate behavior using video recording equipment.
- Implement reserved seating for bands and ensure proper half-time scheduling.

Facility Management:

- Seat students from opposing institutions separately.
- Assign a student manager or administrator to assist the visiting team.
- Provide security measures for visitors' clothing and valuables.

Officials and Facilities Check:

- Reserved parking for game officials and emphasize the importance of game control.
- Conduct pre-game checks for hazardous conditions, cleanliness, and proper markings.
- Ensure the presence of trained personnel, including athletic trainers and, if possible, a physician.

Administrative Details:

- Careful preparation, printing, and sale of athletic programs.
- Arrange for adequate concessions on both sides of the stadium.
- Ensure proper sanitation and supplies in restrooms.

Game Operations:

- Employ trained scorers, timers, and adults for officials at games.
- Assign competent personnel for the scoreboard and have adults on the chain crew.

During the Game:

1. Administrative Coordination:

- Meet administrators from the visiting school and acquaint them with their designated areas.
- Keep mascots on the side of the school's rooting section.

2. Display Guidelines:

- Limit displays to spirit posters, school banners, and Champions of Character banners on the participant's side.
- Monitor and halt inappropriate chants and cheers.

3. Spectator Management:

- Distribute security, faculty, and patrons among students and spectators.
- Assign someone to control spectator behavior near the players' bench.
- Maintain open lines of communication with administrators from the visiting institution and the site manager.

4. Injury Response:

- Assign a responsible adult, other than the coach, to attend to injured players and accompany them to the hospital if necessary.

5. Halftime Supervision:

- Provide supervision during halftime, directing the crowd, and ensuring the playing area and under-the-stands area remain clear.
- Use maximum available lighting during the contest.

Post-Game:

1. Exit Procedures:

- Use the public address system to give directions for exiting the stands.
- Provide police and faculty supervision until all students and spectators disperse.
- Prohibit loitering and arrange an escort with a key to the locker room for officials.

2. Media and Security:

- Set up an area for press interviews if needed.
- Ensure continuous security for the locker room area.
- Assist police in dispersing hangers-on waiting for the team after the game.

3. Departure Logistics:

- Coordinate departure times for buses with police escort immediately after the game.
- Administer a final conference between administrators of both schools to ensure all details are attended to.

4. **Security Escorts:**

- Arrange police escorts for officials and buses to the city/town limit if necessary.

5. **Appreciation Letters:**

- Send letters of appreciation to the opposing school, coaches, officials, and news outlets when appropriate.

Key Messages: Ticket Stubs, Program, PA Announcements:

1. **Ticket Stubs:**

- Print a message on the back of tickets emphasizing positive fan behavior, sportsmanship, and respect for visiting teams and officials.
- Example:
 1. "The NAIA requires that all fans behave in a positive manner with the highest degree of sportsmanship."

2. **Program Messages:**

- Incorporate Champions of Character messages into event programs to reinforce positive values and character development.
- Example:
 1. "Respect- Let the officials call the game. Without officials, there is no game."
 2. "Sportsmanship- Support the best in all competitors. Cheer for your team, not against the opponent."

3. **PA Announcements:**

- Instruct announcers to report the game without favoritism, use proper language, and refrain from criticizing officials.
- Utilize key Champions of Character messages through the public address system to promote positive sportsmanship and respect.

Visiting Institutions:

Pre-Event Responsibilities

Contacting the Host Institution or Neutral Site Manager

Prior to the event, establish communication with the home institution or neutral site manager to ensure a smooth experience. Gather information on the following:

1. Safest routes to and from the venue.
2. Location of visitors' parking area.
3. Entering and exit gates for visitors.
4. Designated seating area for visitors.
5. Any prior or existing school/community control problems.

Consider arranging transportation by bus if parking is limited; ensure student buses have staff supervision. Adequate faculty and administrative supervision should be in place throughout the event, and school personnel should have proper identification.

Encourage interested parents and patrons to assist with supervision. Provide clear information to students about travel, parking, seating, and exit procedures.

Ensure strict adherence to time limits for band or halftime activities.

During the Event

Communication with Host Institution

- Upon arrival, the visiting institution's athletics director or representative should contact the site manager or athletic director immediately to confirm details and indicate seat locations.
- Keep mascots on the side of the school's rooting section. Allow only spirit posters, the school banner, and Champions of Character banners on the participant's side of the venue.
- Be vigilant for potential control problems and promptly address inappropriate chants or cheers.
- Maintain open lines of communication with administrators from the visiting institution and the site manager.

Post-Event Responsibilities

Administrative Coordination

- Administrators from both schools should confer before leaving to ensure all details have been attended to.
- Departure of buses with fans, band, and team should be coordinated with a police escort immediately after the game.
- Express gratitude by sending letters of appreciation to the opposing school, coaches, officials, and relevant news outlets.

Individual Responsibilities

Security

- Security personnel should arrive in advance, report to administration for instructions, and assist in controlling disturbances, such as non-students in student sections and individuals under the influence of alcohol.
- Promptly address suspicious gatherings in restrooms, behind the stadium, parking areas, or elsewhere.
- Ask loiterers to leave and disperse crowds outside the gym once the game is sold out.

Coaches

- Coaches must maintain a business-like approach when dealing with officials and exercise self-control.
- Stay on the playing surface, shake hands with opponents, and address situations where athletes may lose control before trouble arises.
- Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of their entire staff.

Players

- Players should focus on the game and avoid reacting to spectators.
- Accept officials' rulings with politeness, refraining from showing surprise or irritation.
- Avoid "playing to the crowd" to prevent trouble.
- Substitutes on the bench should refrain from heckling the opposing team.

School Reporters

- Reporters should present stories fairly and accurately.
- Losses do not need excessive explanations, and wins should not be overemphasized.
- Avoid criticizing athletes in school newspapers.

Spectators

- Encourage sportsmanship through codes of conduct, cheerleaders, bands, sportsmanship rating forms, trophies, and pep boosters.
- Enhance the pre-game atmosphere by encouraging spectator participation, such as standing for the national anthem.
- Promote courtesy and discourage noisemakers and drunkenness.
- Students should sit together as a group.

Cheerleaders

- Cheerleaders should make positive contributions to good spectator reactions.
- Exchange greetings with opposing cheerleaders and focus on creating better relations between supporters.
- Ensure cheers are positive and avoid antagonizing opponents.
- Lead applause for injured players leaving the game; address booing promptly with crowd-diverting actions.
- Trained cheerleaders are crucial for positive spectator behavior.

Score Table Personnel

- Ensure all necessary personnel are in place for effective game management.
- Arrive a minimum of 30 minutes before each competition.
- Refrain from public criticism of game officials.
- Exhibit respect toward coaches and student-athletes.
- Dress professionally, be of appropriate age and skill level, and receive proper training.
- Be well-versed in sport-specific rules and avoid wearing team apparel.
- Public address announcers must be objective, permit authorized microphone use, and know facility details for emergencies.
- Learn correct pronunciations of players and coaches.
- Cease cell phone use once the contest begins.
- *Note: The use of tobacco-related products by scorer's table personnel is strictly prohibited by NAIA Policy.*