

FAN Behavior Rules Iowa Region

Fans are asked to use common sense and behave responsibly.

- Enjoying the competition and your child's skill growth
 - Enthusiastically celebrating, yelling and cheering for a team is encouraged.
 - Applauding a good play by either team is encouraged.
1. Parents and coaches are to encourage good sportsmanship and to remind each other to practice good sportsmanship, when needed, before an official response becomes necessary.
 2. **It is strongly recommended that teams informally monitor and correct their own fan behavior.** Teams, represented by their captain/coach, will be held responsible for any delays brought about in officially responding to disruptive fan behavior.
 3. **Parents remember that teams do the officiating and mistakes are made.** Your child's and their teammate's mistakes are just as responsible for losing the game as an official's mistakes. You certainly would not want the parents of officiating team to criticize your child's play like you criticize their calls.

For those lacking Common Sense- Here are examples of inappropriate behavior that Can & Should be sanctioned by officiating teams & tournament directors.

Examples of unacceptable fan behavior are; but not limited to:

- **Inappropriate language or action that is disruptive** to a sportsman-like atmosphere, or interferes with a player, coach or official's participation is unacceptable.
- **Actively cheering against any team**, such as celebrating the errors or misfortune of participants, is unacceptable.
- **Harassing participants:** i.e. distracting, interrupting, booing, jeering or yelling at participants; Participants include all players, coaches and officials.
- **Obscene words or gestures**
- **Racial, ethnic, or sexually oriented comments**
- **Yelling at other spectators**

What are the Penalties for Inappropriate Fan Behavior?

If an official becomes aware of disruptive fan behavior the following procedure will be used to resolve the situation. These incidents do not have to involve the same fan from the team.

1st Incident

- **Communicate to the captain or coach that there is disruptive fan behavior** which needs to cease immediately.
- The official will direct the captain/coach to inform their fan(s) that this behavior needs to cease immediately.
- **This will be considered the team's first official warning and is sanctioned as a team delay.** If a team delay has already been issued then this team delay will be a team delay penalty (TYC-Team Yellow Card)

2nd Incident

- **Strongly encourage the captain/coach to have their disruptive fan(s) leave the gym to avoid further incident.**
- This is sanctioned as a team delay penalty (TYC) since the 1st incident resulted in a team delay. This will result in a loss of rally for that team thus giving their opponents a penalty point.

3rd Incident

- **Play is suspended immediately!**
- **The offending team will forfeit this set** keeping all points won.
- **Any remaining sets will be forfeit** with the offending team scoring no points.

If the fan behavior is aggressively inappropriate- they should be removed immediately and the team will start at the sanctions for 2nd Incident.

If a team's captain/coach discovers that the disruptive fan(s) is (are) not their fan(s), what should they do?

- **They should report this to the match officials.**
- The Tournament Director will be informed and assist in finding the correct team's captain/coach to deal with the disruptive fan(s).
- This will be considered their first official warning and be assessed and recorded on the scoresheet for that team's next scheduled match.
- **In circumstances where the offending team is not scheduled to play another match; the captain/coach is still responsible to direct their fan(s) to discontinue disruptive behavior immediately or leave the gym.**
- If the captain/coach cannot be located or identified, the Tournament Director will remove the fan from the facility. If the fan tries to reenter the facility a call to the police may be necessary.

Any disruptive fan behavior incidents must be reported to the Iowa Region office, by the Tournament Director, in writing, within 48 hours.

- **Teams or clubs with multiple reports** of inappropriate behavior will pay to have a mandatory parent training session for those teams or the entire club.