



INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Dear Youth League Commissioner:

Poor adult behavior at high school athletic events has reached epidemic proportion. Maybe your youth league is experiencing the same.

There are ripple effects to bad behavior, and here's one of them: almost 80% of all licensed high school officials quit after their first two years on the job. The reason? Adult behavior. As a result, there is a growing shortage of high school officials in every state in our nation, including here in Indiana.

The IHSAA has been addressing sportsmanship issues for nearly a decade, and research shows that progress is being made. It also shows, however, that adult behavioral patterns often begin before their children reach high school. As you may know from your own observation and experiences, it is not unusual for the parents of grade school children to be overly aggressive, have unrealistic expectations and behave poorly at their son or daughter's athletic events—especially as related to their attitude toward coaches and officials.

We've taken the liberty of enclosing a handful of sportsmanship posters that we hope you'll consider displaying in and around your gymnasium. They're intended to remind us all that not only does the opportunity to play the great game of basketball start in youth leagues like yours, but so do the behavioral responsibilities of parents.

We've also enclosed 200 brochures that the parents of Indiana high school student-athletes are being given at the beginning of every sports season. If you would like more copies of this same brochure to give to parents who have children in your league, contact Robby Kimes at Robby@360grouponline.com. You can have as many brochures as you want, free of charge, compliments of the IHSAA.

Thanks for agreeing to participate in this one-of-a-kind pilot program. Starting early and working together, we're confident Indiana can lead the way in addressing the sportsmanship issues that are of concern to us all.

Sincerely,

Bobby Cox, Commissioner
Indiana High School Athletic Association

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