
MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: STUDENT SPECTATORS AT SCHOOL SPORTING EVENTS
DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2023
CC: DISTRICT ADMIN, ZONE PRESIDENTS

It is an exciting time of year as we have officially begun our Winter Season of Play Championships, with curling starting yesterday, wrestling tomorrow, before ski/snowboard this weekend. Of course, girls' basketball begins next week, with boys the week after. This also provides the perfect opportunity to remind our member schools that part of the BCSS Member School expectations as listed in the handbook, and agreed upon by school administrators each year, is *"to maintain appropriate crowd control, as per the Spectator Code of Conduct, at all interscholastic contests and events."* Last year specifically we saw several incidents with spectators, primarily around zone basketball championships.

It is important to note, even if the game is played at a non-school venue, it is important to have school leadership present at games where one may anticipate the potential for issues. These leaders are asked to actively assist event staff with the management of the student body. In situations where a game may be taking place in the evening, against a rival or in a 'big game' such as a zone contest with a berth to provincials on the line, or Provincial Semi-Final, we ask that schools ensure there is a minimum of one, if not more, staff on-site, especially over the next couple weeks during basketball championships. For all zone and provincial events at the Langley Events Centre, if you are an Administrator or Athletic Director there to assist, please identify yourself at the ticket window, they will note your name, school and phone number, and you will be provided free admission to the venue. We ask you place yourself in a location where at the very least you can observe and where necessary intervene in any actions or comments not appropriate for an interscholastic environment.

BC School Sports is committed to providing a safe and positive environment for all individuals involved in all school sporting events and expect all participants; athletes, coaches, and spectators to conduct themselves in a manner which supports the values of BC School Sports. BCSS hopes to avoid situations where we ask those supporting our student-athletes to leave the facility but will do so when actions don't meet the expectations for a school sport event.

We thank our member schools and their leadership teams in advance, for their support.