

Dear Parents,

It has been brought to my attention of some recent unsportsmanlike behavior from our fans towards our coaches and the referees. Good sportsmanship should be one of the top priorities, we as adults, should model for our young men and women. I enjoy the passion that athletics brings out in us, but our job as parents and fans is to enjoy watching our sons or daughters compete on the athletic field, not belittle or harass others because we don't agree with a decision they make. You should cheer for all our student-athletes and recognize them for their hard work and dedication. Athletics are about much more than winning games or state championships; those are nice, but the life-lessons that can be taught to our young people through athletics is immeasurable.

There isn't a need to criticize a coach on the decision he or she makes, especially not publicly. If you have an issue with a coach, wait 24 hours, and request a meeting with the head coach. Don't be surprised if the coach wants your son or daughter involved in the meeting as well. Many times, things said in a game or practice, are often misconstrued from the original intent of what was said. If the situation isn't resolved with the first meeting, you may then request a meeting with the Athletic Director, in which the coach will also be present.

There is absolutely NO need to have a verbal altercation with a referee or umpire at any sporting event. If you read the memo below from the LHSAA, you will see that the Louisiana Legislature has passed Louisiana Act 355 – HB 184 to protect game officials from unruly fans. There are ramifications to your actions towards officials and coaches. Per our PBS Athletic Handbook, in which every family must sign before a student participates in an athletic practice, unsportsmanlike behavior can cause you to no longer be allowed to attend home sporting events. Other legal ramifications, per Act 355 – HB 184, can include a \$500 fine, up to 90 days in jail, 40 hours of community service, and attendance at a court-approved anger management program.

As you can see, sportsmanship should be and is being taken very seriously, so I encourage all of us to act accordingly and cheer for the Parkview community. Below are two links for you to read. One from the LHSAA and the other from the National Federation of High School (NFHS). I hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Darron Mitchell

Athletic Director

Parkview Baptist School

<http://cdn.lhsaa.org/uploads/email/FallMidSeasonMemo.pdf>

http://cdn.lhsaa.org/uploads/forms/pdf/Revised_Memo-2.13.19.pdf