



Memo

To: Hempfield Fall Classic Spectators

From: Sarah Thomas – Tournament Director

Re: New EPYSA Sideline Behavior Policy

The 2026 Hempfield Fall Classic Tournaments, held on November 14, 15, 21 and 22, 2026, will be operating under EPYSA’s “Policy on Sideline Behavior and Conduct During a Match”. Outlined in this policy is the process of how Match Officials are instructed to handle situations of inappropriate conduct by spectators, the discipline meted out to coaches for spectator actions, and the ultimately possible cessation of matches.

For the full copy of the EPYSA directive, please visit the EPYSA website, <https://www.epysa.org/news/2025/02/21/new-competition-year-and-sideline-behavior-policy/>
Below is the main content that should be reviewed.

“If Spectators are displaying inappropriate conduct, such as foul or abusive language toward players or the game officials, or to each other in a manner disruptive to the game, the referee will stop the match and address the appropriate head coach, or both head coaches, if necessary, especially if the disruptive person(s) are not identifiable. The referee shall not directly address the spectators. The referee will direct the coach to intervene and resolve any spectator issue before the match continues. The head coach may designate an assistant coach or team manager to speak to the offending spectator(s). However, the head coach ultimately remains responsible, and should the offending behavior continue or escalate, the referee may show a yellow card to the coach. Subsequent violations can result in a dismissal (red card) of the coach or termination of the match. If there is no additional rostered coach or manager available, the match will be terminated.”

“To be clear, negative behavior and misconduct can happen before a match, during a match, halftime or after the match ends. The referee still has control. Players, coaches and spectators must always respect the referee’s personal space.”