

OHSAA Fall 2023 Officials' Reports on Positive Sporting Behavior (As of 9/14/23)

Note: The following are reports the OHSAA office has received from registered contest officials on positive sporting behavior that has been observed. The names of the officials and individuals at schools have not been included but the schools involved have been noted. Some reports have been edited due to length and for clarity.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Soccer (Doylestown Chippewa High School at Cuyahoga Heights High School, 8/17/23)

Details: During the fourth minute of the second half of the game, thunder was heard with Chippewa about to make a throw-in deep in its defensive end of the field. The game was suspended, and the field (and stands) were cleared efficiently by Cuyahoga Heights' field administrator to pre-determined sites of safety in the school. No additional thunder was heard or lightning seen for 30 minutes. Coaches and AD's from both schools were in communication during the suspension to identify plans/curfew issues for the game if the weather suspension persisted. Players were allowed to return to the field after the weather issue time period expired. After a brief warm-up period, the game was resumed with the Chippewa throw-in. The final 36 minutes of the game were played without weather or other issues. Excellent organization and sportsmanship were demonstrated by teams, coaches and the administration from both schools, as well as the fans in attendance.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (Washington Court House Miami Trace High School at Waverly High School, 8/18/23)

Details: Waverly is always a first class host! And the players and coaches are great to work with. The head coach and his staff treat the officials and players with respect, the players play hard and they just play the game. They lost a hard fought and very close contest at the very end. How they handled themselves as players and coaches is a truly what I feel high school football should be about. My full compliments to the administrators, coaches and the entire team. Additionally, the players and coaches for Miami Trace were great to work with, the coaches coached and the players played! On the very rare occasion where we had a personal foul, the coaches corrected the players in a positive manner and represented themselves and their community in a manner that is what high school athletics are about. It was a pleasure to work this game.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (At Columbus Whetstone High School, 8/18/23)

Details: Columbus Whetstone and its game manager were wonderful hosts to our football crew. The host greeted us warmly and promptly upon arrival, then took excellent care of us the entire evening! He provided us with snacks and drinks in our spacious locker room and then brought us hot dogs after the game. We had a really nice gameday experience and came away impressed with the staff at Whetstone.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (Painesville Riverside High School at Chardon Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin High School, 8/18/23)

Details: I just wanted to let you know that officiating the varsity football game between Painesville Riverside and Chardon Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin last night was a pleasure for the entire crew. We were welcomed on arrival with snacks, Gatorade and a personal guide to provide anything we needed. The box lunches after the game were very welcome. On the field, both coaches were very outgoing and pleasant and there were no issues during the game: no complaints, arguments or unreasonable questioning of any calls. The sidelines were kept under excellent control by both coaching staffs. The real stars of the night were the players. The game was hard fought and competitive. The players never complained or argued and were very friendly, good humored and respectful of the officiating crew and each other. I saw several players helping each other up after a play. In short, this was an example of what a high school football game should be. A game like that doesn't happen by accident. It's the result of good athletic programs, good coaching and good athletes.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (At Wilmington High School, 8/18/23)

Details: What a great way to start off the year! We were greeted by name. The cheerleaders all came over and thanked us for being there. For me, what meant the most was EVERY game I find out they invite a veteran as an honorary captain. Being a 33-year Navy man and to have a Navy vet there was cool. First class all the way.

Contest Details: Varsity Girls Volleyball (At Gallipolis Gallia Academy, 8/22/23)

Details: I would like to talk about the Gallipolis Gallia Academy volleyball team's captain. I stopped her at the end of the match to congratulate her in her role as captain on the floor. I expressed to her that she is exactly in the right leadership role because of her exemplary skills in talking to officials, relaying information to her teammates and coaches and handling tough situations with poise and strength. It was a hard match for her team last night, but her ability to maintain grace under pressure and the maturity with which she spoke to officials was beyond her years. Well done to her, her team and coaches.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Cross Country (Centerburg High School at Galion Northmor High School, 8/21/23)

Details: We had a young man disqualify himself in the chute at the end of the race at the Galion Northmor Invitational on Monday. He said that he knew that he had missed a portion of the course and wasn't the true fifth-place runner as he was in the chute. He returned the medal to the volunteer and stepped out of line. I talked to the head coach and congratulated the young man on his sportsmanship. I asked the coach to pass on my feelings to the athlete. It was great to see a runner not to take advantage of the situation. It once again gives me faith in today's youth!

Contest Details: Varsity Girls Soccer (Wooster High School at Mansfield Senior High School, played at Malabar Intermediate School, 8/24/23)

Details: A Wooster attacker hurt her knee on a play. As the ball went down the field, the goalkeeper for Mansfield Senior rushed to the injured player's side and calmed her and then assisted her off the field with the athletic trainer. She showed great sportsmanship and leadership in the situation.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Soccer (At Louisville High School, 8/26/23)

Details: On numerous occasions throughout the contest, the captain for Louisville set the standard for his team's conduct. He was instrumental in setting a tone of positive behavior from his teammates. His overall behavior throughout the entire contest should be an example for his teammates and classmates to follow.

Contest Details: 8th Grade Boys Football (At Dublin Karrer Middle School, 8/24/23)

Details: The athletic administrators made sure officials, players and coaches were well taken care of and safe on a very warm day. He started with an early e-mail to all parties involved and laid out the plan for the day. Everyone had plenty of water and we took plenty of extended breaks. A job well done!

Contest Details: Varsity Girls Volleyball (At Massillon Tuslaw High School, 8/24/23)

Details: Both the JV and varsity coaches were very respectful to the officials. There were times they questioned a call, but they did so with respect. They didn't demand an answer to our call but asked for an explanation to our call. They didn't complain or try to show us up in front of the crowd. They were very respectful to their players as well and treated them with respect by coaching them to play better as opposed to yelling at them for doing something wrong. They were an example of what character is about in coaching. The host administration was amazing in providing the officials water and food. They were attentive to our needs, were not inconvenienced in doing so and were very pleasant to work with. The school's principal is a class act, and I always enjoy officiating at his school because I know he treats us with respect.

Contest Details: 8th Grade Girls Volleyball (North Canton Middle School at Massillon Jackson Middle School, 8/28/23)

Details: Both the 7th and 8th grade coaches were respectful to the officials. They didn't complain one time. After the 8th grade match in which they lost, each and every player came to the officials to shake our hands and thank us for officiating their match. How awesome and what a pleasant surprise to get that.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (At Zanesville West Muskingum High School, 8/25/23)

Details: The head coach at West Muskingum was very respectful and easy to work with. His staff on the sidelines all followed his example as a leader, and his respect was also displayed through his players during the entire game. I can only hope to have this kind of sideline with which to work all year long. Thank you to the head coach, his staff and the players of West Muskingum High School. It was a pleasure to work on their field.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Soccer (Cincinnati Oak Hills High School at Cincinnati Turpin High School, 8/29/23)

Details: On behalf of our soccer officiating crew tonight, please thank and congratulate your players, coaches and parents for exemplary sportsmanship tonight during the boys soccer game. It was a well contested game with fair and respectful behaviors from all involved. Respect for the officials and opponents was much appreciated in a world where too many times tempers flare up and games get affected. Thank you to all involved.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (At Reading High School, 8/25/23)

Details: Reading's varsity staff and players should be commended for their fantastic sportsmanship displayed the entire game to officials, their opponent and each other.

Contest Details: 8th Grade Girls Volleyball (Mansfield Madison Middle Schools and Mansfield Middle School,

Details: I am pleased to be able to report an act of good sportsmanship that took place at a middle school volleyball match between the Mansfield Madison Middle School and Mansfield Middle School. Mansfield Middle School had seven players, but one of them had white shorts while the others had black. By rule, she could not participate because of the illegal uniform. I asked the Madison 7th grade coach if one of her players might be able to loan a pair of black shorts to the Mansfield player. I am pleased that a Madison student stepped forward and let the Mansfield player borrow her black shorts, which allowed the player to participate. This was truly an act of unselfishness and good sportsmanship on the part of the Madison student . . . she is to be commended.

Contest Details: Varsity Girls Soccer (St. Clairsville High School and Richmond Edison High School, 8/31/23)

Details: I want to commend the St. Clairsville head coach on his sportsmanship tonight. I gave a red card to his keeper in the second half. Afterwards, he was very respectful towards me. He argued his case, but when I explained my decision, he let it go and never said another word about it during the game, instead choosing to focus on the game at hand. Not many coaches I know would have maintained their cool as much as he did after having a player dismissed, and I'd like to commend him for that.

Contest Details: Varsity Girls Volleyball (Salem High School at Minerva High School, 8/31/23)

Details: I want to recognize probably the BEST sporting behavior I have ever experienced in all my 38 years of OHSAA officiating within all of my sports. In both matches, the Salem JV and the varsity coaches, along with every player, expressed their appreciation at the end of the matches to both referees, line judges, all opponents, scorekeepers and the timer at the table. This was done both after a win and a loss. I personally commented on this directly to the Salem coaches after the second match at Minerva (the loss) after I witnessed it for the first time just days before in their win. This is undeniably teaching the players the ultimate value of participation. I highly commend Salem's volleyball coaches and both the entire JV and varsity squads for this wonderful display.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (At Millersport High School, 9/2/23)

Details: Despite the odds against Millersport, with smaller size and number of players, the team was well behaved and treated the opposing team and the officials with utmost respect. The coach should be proud of his team.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (Loudonville High School at Utica High School, 8/25/23)

Details: Utica played the game with great respect of the officials as well as its opponent, Loudonville. They helped players off the ground after plays and I overheard applause for good plays against themselves. The coach should be very proud of his players.

Contest Details: 7th Grade Boys Football (Bellbrook Middle School at Miamisburg Middle School, 8/31/23)

Details: Miamisburg's 7th grade football team is to be recognized for outstanding sportsmanship. During our pre-game meeting with the coach from Bellbrook, he informed us he had a special needs player and asked if we would make sure to help him line up if he got into the game. We told him we would. The score at halftime was 34-0 Bellbrook. So we started the second half with a running clock. As the third quarter ended, the score was 40+ - 0 Bellbrook. The ball was on the four yard line, 4th and goal for Bellbrook. As we were moving the ball to the other end of the field to begin the fourth quarter I approached Miamisburg's coach and asked if he was aware of the special needs player on the Bellbrook team. He responded he was not. I asked him since we had such a large difference in the score and a running clock if he'd be willing to have his players let the special needs player from Bellbrook score a touchdown. He didn't hesitate and said yes. We set the ball for play, the ball was snapped and the player scored the touchdown. The coaches and entire Miamisburg 7th grade team need to be recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (At Delaware Hayes High School, 9/1/23)

Details: I would like to recognize the entire game management crew and compliment the sportsmanship of the Hayes coaches and players. From the time of arrival until the end of the game, they were nothing but top notch. The head coach and his staff were great on my sidelines, especially during timeouts, and were respectful with their questions for clarification.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (At Sunbury Big Walnut High School, 9/1/23)

Details: I had the honor of working the sideline tonight for Big Walnut. Their head coach is extremely professional and a class act! Good sportsmanship begins with the head coach, and he definitely sets the example. His sideline was completely under control, which means his assistant coaches and staff were under control and the players were under control. He inquired professionally about penalties and accepted the explanation, never raised his voice once the entire night. His players were respectful on and off the field . . . a direct reflection on his staff and him. I would gladly work 10 games on his sideline . . . it was a pleasure!

Contest Details: 7th/8th Grade Girls Soccer (At Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy Middle School, 8/31/23)

Details: The CVCA 7th/8th Grade girls soccer team always shows great respect to their opponent and always has a good attitude on the field. Both teams showed excellent regard for their opponent and should be commended for their courteous actions on the field of play.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (At Bellevue High School, 9/1/23)

Details: Excellent sportsmanship was on display all night by the coaches and players from both teams in a very close contest.

Contest Details: Junior Varsity Boys Soccer (Medina High School at Wadsworth High School, 9/9/23)

Details: Due to the current shortage of officials, I was the only referee assigned for the Medina at Wadsworth boys JV soccer match. The players and coaches from both teams should be commended for their attitude and sportsmanship during and after the game. They were very understanding of the situation and were gentlemen throughout the event. At the end of the game, there were players from both sides who went out of their way to make comments like "I really appreciate you doing this by yourself" and "I know it wasn't easy being out there by yourself, but you did a great job.". Their attitudes and comments were greatly appreciated and I wanted to make sure that their positive actions were recognized.

Contest Details: Varsity Girls Soccer (At Brunswick High School, 9/9/23)

Details: From the moment you enter the facility, it is apparent that sportsmanship is a culture that is promoted within the Brunswick program. This continues throughout the competition and even when exiting the facility. The players display, time and time again, high levels of sportsmanship for the game, the officials and the opponents. Thank you, and have a great season!

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Football (Toledo Bowsher at Toledo Woodward High School, 9/8/23)

Details: On behalf of myself and the entire crew, the student-athletes and coaching staff from Bowsher displayed the utmost respect and sportsmanship to their opponents, the officials and themselves.

Contest Details: Varsity Girls Volleyball (Canton McKinley at Canal Fulton Northwest High School, 9/11/23)

Details: The host administration was attentive to our needs by checking to see if we needed anything. We were offered water upon arriving at the site. Northwest never ceases to take care of their officials.

All three coaches are always so pleasant to officiate. They are polite and never complain. They are easy to talk to and gracious when they are not winning (as was the case tonight). Even though her players underperformed, she did not talk down to them but coached them to be better. She treated her players with respect by coaching them instead of just yelling at them. She epitomizes what a coach should be. The varsity coach also displayed sportsmanship by being very respectful to both officials. While she disagreed with and questioned some calls, I told her what we decided, and she said ok every time. She made it a point to thank us for a great job after the match.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Soccer (At Kinsman Badger High School, 9/5/23)

Details: I just wanted to make a note that the school nurse who was present at the soccer game treated my partner and me with anything we needed due to the heat that we encountered on the day. She was willing to make multiple trips to ensure we were provided cold water during the breaks we took during the game. Well done!