

OHSAA Winter 2023-24 Officials' Reports on Positive Sporting Behavior (Report No. 3 as of 2/12/24)

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 Girls Basketball (Bexley High School at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, 12/1/23)
Details: EXCELLENT A+ experience and sportsmanship displayed from both Bishop Ready and Bexley coaches, players and scoring table. The teams were a pleasure to officiate in a close overtime game. The coaches asked some questions but were respectful and kind. This is the type of experience that will KEEP younger officials around. Great job Ready and Bexley!

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Akron Springfield High School at Akron Manchester High School, 12/5/23)

Details: The head coach of Springfield throughout the game was very respectful to the officials. After a while the point differential between the teams got bigger in favor of Manchester. The head coach didn't take out his frustration on the officials. He also continued to coach his players to play harder instead of just yelling at them for not playing well. That was impressive! He set a great example of how excellent coaching should be done. In addition, the host administration took care of us. They made sure we had water, asked if we needed anything, had someone available to mop the floor when players landed on it and had security escort us to our room. All of this was very impressive and shows the importance they place on officials. Thank you for being a school that honors officials well and shows great respect for the game of basketball.

Contest Details: 8th Grade Girls Basketball (Alliance Junior High School at Massillon Junior High School, 12/9/23)
Details: Player No. 4 for the Massillon 8th grade girls basketball exemplified the epitome of sportsmanship. After the game she sought me out and shook my hand. She apologized for the behavior of one of her teammates. She then said I did a great job and thanked me for officiating her game. She demonstrated character and leadership. What an amazing moment to see such a young girl show respect for an official. The Massillon team is better because of her. She represents her school, team and the sport of basketball in an exemplary way. Nice job No. 4!

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Malvern High School at Lore City Buckeye Trail High School, 12/12/23)
Details: Great example of sportsmanship was displayed by the Buckeye Trail coaches and players especially since it was necessary to begin the game with a technical foul. Throughout the game, all the above conducted themselves with class. It was a pleasure to officiate this contest.

Contest Details: 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball (North Canton Middle School at Massillon Jackson Memorial Middle School, 12/12/23)

Details: Because of the athletic administrator and both 7/8 grade coaches, Jackson Middle School is always a great location to officiate. Every single game the AD will attend to our needs by providing cold water. He makes sure that the crowd does not become a distraction. He addresses any crowd issues immediately. He is always on hand and gives us the confidence that our full attention can be on the games. As always, the coaches give the utmost respect for the officials. They won't complain. If they question a call or lack of a call, they accept our answers and let it go. They coach their players to play better and don't just yell at them. They all make it desirable to officiate at their facility!

Contest Details: 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball (North Canton Middle School @ Massillon Jackson Middle School, 12/12/23)

Details: Both the 7th and 8th grade coaches at North Canton Middle School were so pleasant during each of their games. Not one time did they complain or question a call made by officials. They coached their teams to play better instead of scolding them for when they didn't play up to their expectations. From what I understand, both coaches are new, and it's refreshing to see coaches who understand early on that coaching isn't about yelling at officials but coaching their team. The school is fortunate to have these ladies who represent their school well.

Also, because of the AD and both 7th and 8th grade coaches, Jackson Middle School is always a great location to officiate. Every single game the AD will attend to our needs by providing cold water. He makes sure that the crowd does not become a distraction. He addresses any crowd issues immediately. He is always on hand and gives us the confidence that our full attention can be on the games. As always, the coaches give the utmost respect to the officials. They won't complain. If they question a call or lack of a call, they accept our answer and let it go. They coach their players to play better and don't just yell at them. They all make it desirable to officiate at their facility!

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Portsmouth High School @ Gallipolis Gallia Academy, 12/15/23)

Details: During warm ups, one of the players for Portsmouth High School attempted a dunk and grabbed the rim, resulting in a technical foul to start the game. This was addressed with the Portsmouth head coach, and he very respectfully accepted the penalty and the game proceeded accordingly. As an official and crew, I wanted to commend this coach for his courtesy and respect shown during administration of this penalty. We need more coaches like this in Ohio. Big thanks to the head coach, his staff and their players for the sportsmanship and respect shown during contest.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Massillon Tuslaw High School @ Orrville High School, 12/15/23)

Details: The head coach from Tuslaw did not complain one time. I was told by one of my partners that he questioned a foul call. After a timeout I went to him and he thought it was a tricky tack foul on his player who was considerably smaller than the opponent. I said that I can understand and agree with him. Now, I wouldn't just say that to a coach who has already demonstrated that all he does is yell at officials. I'm grateful for his high character as a coach and the way he treated me with respect. He demonstrates this on a consistent basis. Tuslaw is fortunate to have a coach who exemplifies this kind of behavior to his players. Tuslaw ended up losing the game as Orrville pulled away toward the end of the game. After the game as I was leaving the court their high school principal and athletic director made it a point to shake my hand and thank me for officiating their game. It was an impressive act of respect toward an official. This isn't the first time they have shown this kind of respect toward me. Thank you gentlemen for your display of respect!

Also, the host administration at Orrville provided excellent hospitality toward the officials. Someone from the staff made a point to find the officials when we arrived. In our changing room there was already iced bottled water. Another gentleman asked us what we wanted to eat from the concession stand and brought it to us. I was aware of a Tuslaw player that had been cyber bullied that week. He was told they would attend the game to bully him some more. I made the Orrville staff member aware of this, and she had others pay attention to signs and words from the student section. The care that was shown was impressive to me. I know the bullied student and his family. I assured them that any misbehavior would be immediately addressed. Thank you Orrville for this act of kindness! The head coach did not complain one time. He coached his players to play better and let the officials do just that - officiate. It was nice being able to focus on the game and not be distracted by a yelling coach. In every aspect, Orrville High School is the epitome of hospitality!

Contest Details: Freshman Boys Basketball (North Bloomfield Bloomfield High School @ Andover Pymatuning Valley High School, 12/18/23)

Details: I wish I would have gotten the Pymatuning Valley player's name, but he is the reason that I officiate. He hustled the whole game. Cheered his team on with positivity as well as positively engaging with the other team. He would rush to help any kid off the floor without hesitation. He just stood out and was in my heart all day as to what a great atmosphere he helped create. I wanted to share this with the state as well as his administration.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Mansfield Madison Comprehensive High School @ Lexington High School, 12/15/23)

Details: I worked a boys varsity basketball game at Lexington High School, and the hospitality shown to my crew was fantastic! Not only were we given something to eat/drink before our varsity contest, but also after. Having been an official for 22 years, this is something from the past, and I'm very glad to see the Lexington Athletics Department treat officials in this way. Not only this, but also being able to have a locker room and a hot shower after our game made this a school our crew would gladly work at again.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Beloit West Branch High School @ Salem High School, 1/12/24)

Details: The head coach and his assistants at West Branch were very respectful to the officials. Not one time did anyone complain. There were a few calls where I know the head coach did not like, but when it was explained to him he accepted it and moved on. This is how coaching should be done. His players were very respectful to the officials and opponents. They maintained their composure in a highly competitive game. This is a result of the coach setting the proper example for his players to follow. Also, Salem's head coach did not complain one time. He respectfully questioned calls and I gave him an answer he accepted without further conversation. In a highly competitive game, he interacted well with the officials. The players treated the officials with respect by not complaining. I heard "thank you sir" by a couple of players as I gave them instruction. I was very impressed by the team as a whole.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Apple Creek Waynedale High School @ Wooster Triway High School, 1/16/24)

Details: The head coach from Waynedale did not complain one time. He treated the officials with respect the entire game. One of his assistant coaches was pleasant in his interaction with me. In a game where they were handed a victory, they could have used that as an excuse to mistreat the officials. The head coach coached his players to play better instead of just yelling at them when they played poorly. He exemplified what coaching is about. Also, the Triway head coach was polite and respectful to the officials. There were a few calls that he didn't agree with, but he didn't try to show up the officials and didn't distract us from officiating by demanding our attention to complain. He coached his players and put his focus there. The host administration was attentive to our needs by providing water at halftime and water and food at the end of the game. All in all, Triway was impressive in the way they treated the officials.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Canton South High School @ Wooster Triway High School, 1/23/24)

Details: The head coach from Canton South displayed respect for the officials throughout the game. He did not complain and try to show up the officials. When he didn't like one of my calls, he didn't yell and create a scene. Later, when I explained it to him, he accepted it and was respectful toward me. One of his players showed great sportsmanship toward the opponent on two occasions. On one occasion, his opponent started to fall as he was running, but he reached out to keep him from falling. On another occasion, he checked on a player who had fallen to the ground. He showed great respect for his opponent and for the game of basketball.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Cleveland Max Hayes High School @ Massillon Washington High School, 1/20/24)

Details: The head coach from Max Hayes displayed great character toward his players and officials. In a game where the opposing team took a significant lead, the head coach kept coaching and encouraging his players to play hard and not give up. He was complimentary toward the officials. He interacted with the officials before and during the game, even when his team fell way behind in the score. He did not complain one time. He gave his players a proper example of how to respond and respect authority when things didn't go their way. His players are fortunate to have such a role model.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Delta High School and @ Archbold High School, 1/26/24)

Details: On behalf of the officiating crew for last evening's boys varsity basketball game between Archbold and Delta, we wanted to recognize Delta's players; coaching staff and head coach for displaying outstanding SPORTSMANSHIP in a most competitive and exciting game. As officials, we do communicate with players on the floor that generally goes unnoticed. When we did have two-way communication with the Delta players, they were truly attentive, receptive and thankful. It would be a injustice not to recognize their sportsmanship.

Also, we want to thank Archbold for the warm welcome received, The staff, students, coaches and boosters have much of which to be proud. Both teams played well, and there was a lot of action and hard physical play between two well-coached teams. The coaching staff and most importantly the student-athletes displayed sportsmanship and respect to the highest degree. Basketball being a most extremely challenging and physical sport played on a confined space can lead to volatile situations. We had none of that in this game. The student-athletes of Archbold were most respectful of their opponents, themselves, their coaches and most of all the game. The game is about the kids that play and the games we are most fortunate to officiate.

Contest Details: 7th/8th Grade Boys Basketball (Alliance Junior High School @ Massillon Junior High School, 1/27/24)

Details: Both the 7th and 8th grade coaches from Alliance did not complain one time. They were respectful toward the officials throughout their respective games. They coached their players to play better. During the 8th grade game, they fell way behind in the score. Yet the coach kept encouraging his players to play hard in the fourth quarter. I respect a coach who will do this and not just yell at their players for not playing better.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Bluffton High School @ McComb High School, 1/27/24)

Details: Our crew was selected to officiate the McComb vs. Bluffton varsity basketball game. It was a pleasure to officiate outstanding students coached by such good people. We wanted to recognize the student-athletes and coaching staffs from both schools for their respect and sportsmanship. It was truly our pleasure to meet the coaching staff and work with the student-athletes. Both schools much to be thankful for in the way their entire teams conducted themselves.

Contest Details: Varsity Girls Basketball (Magnolia Sandy Valley High School @ Gnadenhutten Indian Valley High School, 1/31/24)

Details: Indian Valley's coach conducted herself as a complete professional, and I felt the need to bring this to everyone's attention. It was indeed an honor to officiate her game. Sandy Valley's head coach was also a pleasure to work with. My compliments (and sincere appreciation) on a job well done! The Sandy Valley coach even added some well-received and welcomed levity during the game. I especially loved his use of the term "fiddlesticks" during a frustrating moment. I almost lost my whistle trying not to laugh, and we each had a quick moment of humor about the incident. Good luck with the rest of your seasons!

Contest Details: 7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball (Louisville Middle School @ Massillon Junior High School, 2/6/24)

Details: The head coach from Louisville did not complain one time about a call that we made. Even when his team started falling behind, he didn't take that as an opportunity to yell at us. He coached his girls to play better instead of just yelling at them. He set a great example of treating people with respect.

Contest Details: Varsity Boys Basketball (Liberty Center High School @ Hamler Patrick Henry High School, 2/9/24)

Details: On behalf of the officiating crew members, we want to recognize the student-athletes coaches of Patrick Henry for their integrity and sportsmanship in the varsity boys basketball game against Liberty Center High School. The contest was well played with high emotion and full of action from start to finish. The student-athletes displayed respect for the game, their opponents and themselves. Best of luck the rest of the basketball season!