

POLICY- PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCERS

Sec. 1) ROLE OF PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCERS – REGULAR SEASON

- a) The public address announcer shall be considered a bench official for all events.
- b) He/she shall maintain complete neutrality at all times and, as such, shall not be a “cheerleader” for any team.
- c) Schools are highly encouraged to follow the protocol for postseason public address announcers, and to prompt the announcer to complete professional development available through a wide variety of athletic related services such as NASPAA and NIAAA

Sec. 2) ROLE OF PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCERS – POSTSEASON

- a) The public address announcer shall be considered a bench official for all state series events. He/she shall maintain complete neutrality at all times and, as such, shall not be a “cheerleader” for any team.
- b) The announcer will follow the provided script for promotional announcements, which are available from this association, player introductions and awards ceremonies.
- c) Other announcements are limited to:
 - (1) Those of an emergency nature (e.g., paging a doctor, lost child or parent, etc.);
 - (2) Those of a “practical” nature (e.g., announcing that a driver has left his/her vehicle lights on);
 - (3) Starting lineups or entire lineups of both participating teams (what is announced for the home team shall be announced for the visiting team);
 - (4) Messages provided by host school management; and
 - (5) Announcements that assist fans such as the fact that souvenir merchandise, souvenir programs and concessions are on sale in the facility.
- d) During the contest, the announcer:
 - (1) Should recognize players about to attempt a play (e.g., coming up to bat in baseball, punting, kicking or receiving a punt or kick in football, serving in volleyball, etc.);
 - (2) Should recognize player(s) making a play (e.g., “Basket by Jones” in basketball, “Smith on the kill” in volleyball, etc.) unless specifically precluded by playing rules;
 - (3) Should report a penalty as signaled by the referee including the proper identification of the offender;
 - (4) Should report substitutions and time-outs;
 - (5) Shall not call the “play-by-play” or provide “color commentary” as if he/she were announcing for a radio or television broadcast;
 - (6) Shall not make any comment that would offer either competing team an unfair advantage in the contest;
 - (7) Shall not make announcements unnecessary to the conduct of the contest such as birthdays and other commemorations;
 - (8) Shall not make any comment critical of any school, team, player, coach or official; or any other comment that has the potential to incite unsporting conduct on the part of any individual; and
 - (9) Shall be certain of the accuracy of his/her statements before making them. When in doubt, the announcer should remain silent.