



Dear Lone Oak ISD Students and Families,

As some of you may know, there is currently a massive shortage of high school officials. The UIL and school districts everywhere are working on measures to counteract this shortage along with teachers and coaches. The #1 reason given by the UIL, coaches and TASO for these individuals leaving the profession is accredited to the mistreatment of officials. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all of our parents, guardians, staff, and students of our expectations at all LOISD athletic events, specifically in regards to our treatment referees.

Exhibiting school spirit in a positive manner is strongly encouraged for all spectators. Cheering and recognizing outstanding plays, being positive and refraining from making any derogatory remarks, and encouraging surrounding spectators to display sportsmanlike conduct by being a positive role model, are appropriate examples of ways to exhibit school spirit.

Just as we expect our student athletes to abide by the following rules outlined in the Extracurricular Student and Parent Handbook, so do we expect to see these behaviors reflected from our parents and spectators:

- Must refrain from the use of profanity or resorting to illegal tactics. Temper fits, flagrant rules violations, etc., will not be tolerated.
- Must learn that both winning and losing are a part of the game and that you have to win or lose with class and emotional maturity.
- **Total respect for officials is an absolute must; disrespect from athletes or fans will not be tolerated.**
- Any behavior contrary to the above mentioned or any other act that is not conducive to good sportsmanship may result in removal from the contest.

There will be zero tolerance for verbal attacks or disrespect of any kind towards referees, coaches or other players. When aggressive or threatening remarks are made towards referees, coaches or other players, those involved will be escorted out of the game. If an official requests the removal, LOISD is held responsible by the UIL and the team is punished.

**Coaches are instructed by the LOISD Administration to bench athletes whose parents, or guests, exhibit this negative or disrespectful behavior towards officials, coaches or other players.**

We appreciate your cooperation and presence at all LOISD athletic events in support of our student athletes. Follow the Golden Rule and it will be a wonderful year for all of us. "If you can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all."

As a final reminder, we want to encourage you to always pick up your trash when leaving an athletic event, whether it is at home or away. This not only sets a great example for our children, but it also reflects positively on Lone Oak as a district. It is our hope that LOISD can become a model school district, known for our positive, kind, and courteous students, athletes and fans.

Sincerely,

LOISD Administration