



REINFORCING SPORTSMANSHIP AND ENSURING A POSITIVE ATHLETIC ENVIRONMENT

Valrico, Florida, October 21, 2024– We hope that all schools affected by recent storms are on the path to recovery. We are excited to finish what has been an exciting Fall season. As SSAA members, we have the privilege of fostering not only athletic talent but also a culture of respect and sportsmanship among our student-athletes.

I want to take this opportunity to remind all schools about the critical importance of maintaining a positive environment. Good sportsmanship is a fundamental value that enriches our athletic programs and sets a standard for our young athletes to emulate both on and off the field.

Recent incidents on the Football Field involving fighting, throwing punches, or players leaving the sideline to engage in altercations have raised concerns that we must address collectively. Such behavior is not only detrimental to the spirit of competition but also jeopardizes the safety of our athletes and the integrity of our games.

As we strive to uphold the highest standards of conduct, I want to emphasize that any involvement in such actions will be dealt with severely. Our current by-laws outline a number of consequences for this type of behavior. We are committed to enforcing our policies on sportsmanship and ensuring that our students learn the importance of respect for their opponents, officials, and the rules of the game.

We encourage all coaches, players, and spectators to model positive behavior and to intervene when witnessing unsportsmanlike conduct. Let's work together to create an environment where fair play prevails, and every student-athlete can compete with pride and dignity. Please speak to your teams, coaches, parents and student-athletes prior to your next scheduled contest. Take a proactive approach to creating the positive environment we all want to be a part of!

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Together, we can ensure that our athletic programs remain a source of pride and inspiration for our schools and communities.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Weiss".

Stuart Weiss
President of the SSAA