



OFFICIALS' JURISDICTION

April 22, 2014

The purpose of this document and the following interpretations is to address situations that are occurring after contests have ended, but while the officials still have jurisdiction. This interpretation applies to all sports.

For all VHSL contests, the officials' jurisdiction shall begin when one or more of the officials arrive on the field or court. For all VHSL contests, the officials' jurisdiction shall end when all officials have left the immediate vicinity of the playing area. Any unsportsmanlike activity by a player, coach, or team personnel that occurs between the expiration of playing time and the officials leaving the vicinity of the playing area shall be considered flagrant misconduct/unsportsmanlike conduct and the offender shall be ejected. Incidents involving spectators or team personnel that occur after the jurisdiction of the officials has ended are also considered violations of the VHSL Sportsmanship Rule and must be reported by the school and by the officials' association as sportsmanship "incidents."

The situations below are written specifically for sports that use cards to indicate a breach of the rules governing player conduct (soccer, field hockey, girls lacrosse, etc.). For all other sports, officials should use the sport-specific procedure for ejecting a player/coach for flagrant/unsportsmanlike conduct.

Situation 1 – As the officials are walking across the field after the game has ended, a player from Team A accosts the officials and begins shouting profanity and other derogatory comments regarding the way the game was officiated. The officials show a Red Card to the player from Team A. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** In all VHSL contests, the officials maintain jurisdiction until they have left the immediate vicinity of the field. Any unsportsmanlike activity that occurs while the officials are still on the field is considered flagrant. In this case, the officials should notify the head coach of Team A that his/her player has received a red card and is therefore ejected. Ejection reports must be filed with the VHSL office by the school and by the officials association.

Situation 2 – The officials are in the parking lot preparing to leave the school when a player from Team B comes up to them and begins shouting profanity and other derogatory comments regarding the way the game was officiated. The officials show a Red Card to the player from Team B. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The officials have left the immediate vicinity of the field, and therefore their jurisdiction has ended. This situation is considered a sportsmanship "incident" and is a violation of VHSL's Sportsmanship Rule. The officials should report this situation to their association commissioner/assigner who should then report the situation to both the Principal or AD at School B and the VHSL office.

Situation 3 – The officials are preparing to leave the field when a player from Team A throws water on them. The officials show a Red Card to the player from Team A. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The officials should notify the Head Coach of Team A that his/her player has received a Red Card and is therefore ejected. Ejection reports must be filed with the VHSL office by the school and by the officials association.