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KIN 854-730

Assignment #5

East High School Game Rules/Routines and Locker Room Expectations/Policies for Away Games.

Step 1: Make sure to establish and reinforce that you represent your high school. For example, before entering the building from the bus you must remind your team that we are the guests at another school. Remind the team that they carry a reputation of the entire school in terms of respect, class, and sportsmanship for both home and away games. Reiterate that if any players are accused of disrespect, unsportsmanlike behavior, or vandalism, the team members will be warned first and then if needed released from the team by the coach. Holding expectations for your athletes puts ownership on them and makes them solely responsible for their actions. It allows the team and its captains to mature on their own and feel that they will dictate how the team is run if they are able to make the right decisions.

Step 2: Establish team captains before the season. Team captains should be given specific responsibilities for equipment, facilities, team members, and communicating with the coach any concerns about the team. For example, the team captains should do a walk-through of the women's locker room first to see if ladies from any other sports program are currently using the locker rooms and when your team can use the facilities. Make sure team captains report back immediately to coach for any possible problems. Appointing team captains allows the coach to choose individuals that are leaders among their peers, which can help players relate to how the coach wants things run on the team. Also, having female team captains allows those captains to enter facilities that a male coach cannot in order to prevent accidental walk-ins on female athletes. It also allows team members to approach the captains to talk about issues they have with the team or personal matters.

Step 3: Upon completion of the walk-through by the team captains, ask the opposing coach, athletic director, or maintenance staff to do a walk through with you before your team enters the locker room in order to make sure that the rooms are safe (ie. no slick spots from water, exposed rusty or sharp ends of the locker rooms, appropriate amount of lighting available), up to working standard for the athletic events, and that all facilities/equipment were checked for damage prior to your team entering the locker room. Doing the walk-through with another staff member or coach eliminates any false accusations a team may have on the other team for destruction of

property. It is very important that both parties be present at the time of the walk-through to determine the quality of the facility before and after the athletic event.

Step 4: Upon completion of the walk-through of the locker room, have the home staff create a checklist for you, the coach, to sign along with the school. The signature of the coach would allow the coaches from both the home and away teams to agree on the status of the locker room before the away team has entered. The signature of both coaches would eliminate any liability issues. If a staff member or coach signs a checklist, they would verbally agree that all areas of the locker room and/or equipment is working correctly and not damaged in any way prior to the athletic event.

Step 5: Once your team has changed, completed warm-ups, and is ready for your pre-game speech, make sure the captains come out to the playing area to let you know that the players are all dressed appropriately, done using the bathroom, and are in the designated area to go over strategy for the game. The coach should double-check one last time before entering the locker room asking, “is everyone decent?” in order to eliminate any questions of seeing female players not dressed, using the bathroom, or not appropriately dressed. If the team is a resounding “yes,” the coach may enter. The coach should also take note of any other changed conditions to the locker room before the match began and address it with the team and the home team’s staff if necessary.

Step 6: Ask the home team’s staff, trainer, or maintenance staff to do one final walk-through of the facility before locking the locker rooms in order to keep out fans, students of the school, or even wandering children from entering the facility. The final walk-through of the locker room (before the game) by the home staff would give them one last look for any changed conditions, turn off showers if needed, and to lock doors so no one else can enter except other staff or trainers, thus eliminating unauthorized personnel from entering the locker room during the game.

Step 7: After the game of volleyball has been completed, ask the staff to open the locker rooms and to do a walk-through just in case a door was left open during the game and the conditions of the locker room had changed. Once the walk-through is completed, the visiting players would be allowed to enter to change, shower, and get necessary equipment out of the locker room.

Step 8: While your team is changing you should ask an assistant coach, trainer, or a staff member (female if available) to sit outside your team’s locker room in order to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering (fans, visiting students that come to watch the game that are rivals of the home team, or any other person not on your girls volleyball team). The posting of this person by the locker room would ensure that no one could enter and cause damage to the facility. Also, providing that person with your athletic roster of your player’s names would help to eliminate entry of a non-specified team member.

Step 9: Once you and your team captains have accounted for everyone on the team, ask the opposing coach, athletic director, or maintenance staff to do one final walk-through with you.

Upon completion of the event, use the same checklist that was filled out prior to the game. If everything is in the same condition as previously identified, sign off on the copy and ask the home staff to send you a copy of the checklist for your records to confirm that you both saw no visible problems after your team's use of the locker room. The verbal and written agreement between the coaches or staff would help to eliminate any lingering liability on your part and destruction of school property.