



## **MSHSAA reminders about Postseason football**

These items below apply to ALL postseason games (district semi-finals through the state semi-finals).

1. All postseason football games are to be organized and administered as "Neutral Sites". What you do for one school you must be willing to do for the other school. (Examples: allowance of heaters on sidelines, bands playing at halftime, dance groups at halftime, use of video boards, team introductions, etc.)
2. Fundraisers are not permitted at the game site, within the stadium or just outside the stadium that gives the perception that the fundraiser is associated with the playoff football game/contest. A MSHSAA playoff game is not to be used to solicit donations or conduct fundraisers of any type. The operating of Concession Stands is not considered "fundraisers", they are considered a service to those in attendance.
3. Special Recognition of school groups, community groups or other entities are not permitted prior to the game or at half-time. Again, playoff games are to be administered as a Neutral Site; therefore, using a home playoff game as a setting to recognize school groups, community groups or other entities is not permitted.
4. Per MSHSAA Board Policy #10, Drones are not permitted to be used at any MSHSAA postseason contests.
5. Spectators/Fans Gathering at Sidelines: There have been instances where fans have been permitted to gather and stand along the sidelines or end lines of playing fields and courts during athletic contests, and a number of instances have been reported in which fans have approached the sidelines near the end of the game. Generally, this is for the purpose of rushing onto the field or court to express jubilation over winning. In other instances, fans have cast disparaging remarks toward opposing players and officials. In either case, it creates a situation conducive to crowd control problems. Under these conditions, the Board of Directors has adopted a policy authorizing and urging game officials to stop the game when this occurs, send the teams to the benches, and request the host school administration (or tournament manager) to have the fans return to their seats or leave the gymnasium or field before play is continued. The game shall not continue until the fans comply. The primary responsibility for compliance with the game officials request falls on the host school, or tournament manager, but the visiting school (both schools in a tournament) is also responsible for seeing that their fans remain in their seats. All schools should take steps to educate their students and fans to refrain from moving onto the court or playing field following games. The practice of entering these areas following games does not contribute anything toward the most worthwhile objectives of interscholastics and can contribute toward misconduct.



6. Spectator/Fan Support Items and Restrictions: In the chart below, ONLY those items marked "Yes" will be allowed as fan/ spectator support items at all MSHSAA District and State Series Championships. Schools are encouraged to follow these guidelines during the regular season. Sportsmanlike vocal cheering and support from the team bench area are encouraged. The items indicated on this page are for use by all fans/spectators.

Items not allowed at postseason football contests:

- Confetti/shredded paper/powder
- Laser light/ pointer/ flashing objects
- Megaphones
- Compressed air horns/sirens
- Whistles
- Drones/UAV/UAS
- Cannons/muskets/guns/fireworks
- Animals/pets (other than service animals with proper credentials)