



October 31, 2013

To the Principals of the Big North Conference:

The Big North is undertaking a new initiative concerning how the Sportsmanship Summits will be held in the future. The sportsmanship committee listened to many coaches and Athletic Directors regarding their displeasure with how the previous summits were conducted. The sportsmanship committee felt that having only two representatives of a sport attend the summits was not enough to get the message of how important the topic of sportsmanship is to our Conference. An effort needs to be made to get this message to every interscholastic athletic participant at all levels in each sport at all of the Conference member schools.

Starting with the upcoming winter season these Conference sportsmanship meetings (no longer called summits) will be held at each high school. There will be three meetings each year to coincide with the athletic seasons; fall, winter and spring. The Athletic Director at each high school will be responsible for running these meetings each season. The Big North Conference will provide each Athletic Director with an agenda to guide their meetings and to cover all important and pertinent topics related to sportsmanship in that season. These agendas can be adjusted as needed by each school.

By requiring each school in the Conference to host these seasonal sportsmanship meetings every student-athlete will receive the message of how important good sportsmanship is while competing. At these meetings it is permissible to have the school's H.I. B. coordinator present or to hire a motivational speaker. At these presentations the school could also choose to have the school nurse discuss physicals or have your athletic trainer speak about concussions and related policies. Having these meetings in your school affords the Athletic Department the opportunity to discuss sportsmanship topics relevant to your school.

Each school will receive a seasonal checklist (attached) regarding the required Conference sportsmanship meeting that the coaches must sign along with the Athletic Director and Principal. These checklists will be sent back to the sportsmanship committee. If a school neglects to hold the seasonal sportsmanship meetings that Conference member will not be eligible for a sportsmanship banner for that school year.

If you have any questions regarding this new procedure, members of the sportsmanship committee listed below can be reached for further discussion and explanation.

Sincerely,

Sportsmanship Committee Members of the Big North Conference:

Don Roll (Paramus High School-chairperson)

Ron Anello (Ramapo High School),

Lorenzo Baratta (Indian Hills High School)

Scott Langan (Paramus Catholic High School)

Brian McAler (Don Bosco High School)

Michael Raftery (Fort Lee High School)

John Yost (Lakeland High School)

