

September 2, 2020

Parents and fans,

The District Administration has been contacted by other schools and our own community members concerned with how some of our fans are behaving toward other schools concerning their spectator policies. Please know that every Columbus Schools official is frustrated as well. We want to support our students, too. However, we need to urge our parents and fans to act appropriately toward other school officials. Many of the tournaments that we are invited to at the junior high and high school level as well as all middle school events and every track meet and cross country meet is by invitation only. Schools upset by the behavior of our fans can result in us not being invited to events and less opportunities for our students. Likewise, any Columbus fan or group of Columbus fans deciding to refuse to abide by the guidelines at our home events or away events will put our teams in jeopardy. Referees and the home team's school officials have the ability to allow a team not to participate at any event they host, and the game will be forfeited. We have been getting some of the same treatment from visiting fans upset with our policy. We worry that the only recourse will be for the state to cease athletic events if adults cannot abide by the guidelines and if school officials continue to be abused for something outside of their control. School officials are not in control of this situation. We have to answer to our respective County Health Departments. Please work with our school and the schools we compete against to ensure that our kids don't lose their games. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bermes, Superintendent