

## UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

The NCHSAA is committed to sportsmanship as a point of emphasis and a strategy for fair play. Officials must be prepared to recognize fouls and enforce them properly. The following guidelines will help officials make proper decisions regarding unsporting acts.

- (a) Do not be overly technical in applying unsporting penalties
- (b) Do allow for brief, spontaneous, emotional reactions at the end of a play
- (c) Beyond brief and spontaneous displays of energy, officials must flag acts that are clearly prolonged, self-congratulatory, self-glorifying, excessive, demeaning and taunting to opponents, and/or that make a mockery of the game

The following list is intended to assist officials with making their decision regarding the legality or illegality of player actions. It is not possible to comprehensively be exact in writing what should and should not be called/allowed. Remember, the key is judgment and that's what good officials have.

### **LEGAL ACTS**

- Cross the goal line and point to the sky
- Cross the goal line and pray for a short time
- Diving directly towards the pylon when pursued by defender
- High fives with teammates
- Jump and chest bumping with teammates
- Spontaneous celebration shared with teammates
- Celebration done in the team box area
- Cross the goal line and raise teammate in the air
- Raising the ball over the head when crossing the goal line

### **ILLEGAL ACTS**

- One or more back or forward flips
- Dive into the end zone or alter stride as they approach goal line with no opponents nearby
- Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language and/or gestures
- Celebrating by dancing in the end zone
- Spike the football into the ground after score or good play
- Dunk or attempt to dunk the football over the cross bar
- Kick, throw, spin or carry the football any distance that requires an official to retrieve it
- Make hand gestures such as choking, throat slashing, pounding one's chest or pointing a finger like a gun
- Go into the stands to interact with spectators
- Point back or wave at an opponent
- Teammates engaged in a choreographed display of celebration
- Derogatory remarks directed at officials

- Stand over player just tackled and gesture/point/taunt to intimidate or bring attention to yourself
- Intentionally fail to place the football on the ground or immediately return it to a nearby official
- Use gestures to encourage the crowd when they begin booing officials
- Hand the football or throw the football at an opponent
- Repeatedly punch the goal post pad with the opponents school name on it
- Runner turns and taunts an opponent while he crosses the goal line
- Bow at the waist after a good play
- Kick the football other than a legal kick