



DATE: May 11, 2015

TO: CCCAA Member Colleges
Conference Commissioners
Sport Coach Association Presidents
Sport Official Assignors

FROM: Carlyle Carter (on Behalf of the CCCAA Board of Directors)
CEO/President CCCAA

RE: Decorum, Sportsmanship and Professionalism

I am writing at the request of the CCCAA Board of Directors to call your attention to a troubling issue. While it may involve a relatively small number of member college staff and coaches, the unfortunate use of profane and vulgar language casts a negative view on all of us within the California Community College intercollegiate athletics arena. While we recognize that the overwhelming majority of staff and students conduct themselves in positive ways, these lapses in sportsmanship and professionalism are unacceptable and are clearly not isolated incidences reserved just for intercollegiate contests. This is especially troubling when educators address students in a manner that would not be acceptable in other settings within our educational environment.

We would not tolerate it if one professional were to address another professional in this manner. These inappropriate forms of communication begin at “home” in practices and interactions between faculty/coaches and students and student-to-student and it is where attempts to curtail this behavior must begin. Some have indicated that this form of communication is just a product of today’s youth and the way that they choose to interact with each other; however, as professionals and caretakers of California community college athletics, we must set the standard.

It is in the best interests of all involved to hold students and coaches to a standard reflective of an educational environment. Further, as educators, we are held to a higher expectation which is to prepare the next generation of responsible adults with the ability to exercise good judgment and express themselves without the need to espouse vulgarity in every sentence. It is even less acceptable when the educators expected to provide positive examples of common decency engage in the very behaviors we are duty-bound to prevent.

There have been far too many incidences in which coaches have engaged in displays of behavior directed toward sport officials specifically to insight spectators in a negative way. These acts of unsportsmanlike behavior have no place in athletics and it is the responsibility of every College to ensure their personnel represent their institutions in a manner befitting the mission and core values of the institution.

As a result, we are announcing a **zero tolerance policy toward audible profanity, displays of unsportsmanlike conduct and expressions of vulgarity.** It is anticipated that conference commissioners, member colleges, administrators and sport officials (when applicable to violations of sport rules), will work together to address each incident swiftly and without exception or reservation. We must hold each other accountable. All incidents will be reviewed by the College administration, Conference Commissioner and the CCCAA Executive Director to determine the level of violation and the appropriate level of sanction in accordance with Article 7.4.12 of the CCCAA Constitution.

It is only through consistency and perseverance that these unacceptable displays and practices will be eventually eliminated.