



Spiritline

CONDUCT GUIDE

Spiritline Rules and Regulations for State Football

AIA Spiritline Tournament Coordinator

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Football Game Conduct
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The AIA State High School Football Championship Games are fast approaching and your squad has been given the exciting opportunity to cheer for your team at the non high school stadium venue. In addition to providing you with specific information in regards to your squad performing at the Stadium, the Arizona Interscholastic Association would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize the important role spiritlines play in promoting school spirit, appropriate behavior, and good sportsmanship during the regular season and at State Tournament games.

The following sheets provide you with information for this year's AIA State High School Football Championships. Please work with your school's Athletic Director regarding information specific to your school including transportation, etc. Information regarding activities at the Stadium (what time to arrive, where to report, etc.) is attached as well.

Members of spirit groups have a strong influence in guiding student and fan conduct at games and have the opportunity to be of real service to their school and community by:

- Serving as examples of exemplary conduct.
- Demonstrating the importance of accepting the decisions of officials and discouraging disagreement of fans by initiating positive chants or cheers.
- Promoting good sportsmanship. Being some of the most visible and respected members of their student bodies, members of spiritlines have the opportunity to be proponents and advocates of good sportsmanship. Examples include:
 - Spirit squads should always cheer in a positive manner. Your squad also plays an important role in discouraging crowds from yelling or cheering in response to an opposing player's mistake or while an opponent is shooting free throws.
 - Participants and fans should treat opposing players, officials, and fans with respect and dignity. Obnoxious behavior should not be encouraged or permitted under the guise of school spirit. Squads should divert the crowd's attention by starting a popular cheer should booing or other unsportsmanlike conduct develop.

On behalf of the AIA Executive Board and staff, I would like to thank you for the time and hard work you continue to put into your program. Arizona is fortunate to have dedicated individuals such as you working with the many outstanding young people who are involved in cheerleading activities across the state.

Keep it up--your efforts are recognized and truly appreciated!

If you have any questions, contact David Hines at 602-385-3823.

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SPIRITLINE/CHEER COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

- For safety reasons and to ensure adequate supervision, the squad's sponsor or member of the school administration willing to assume responsibility for the squad should arrive at the Stadium with the squad, and must accompany squad members to the Stadium dressing room, practice area, etc.
- For safety reasons and to ensure adequate supervision, the squad's coach or member of the school administration willing to assume responsibility for the squad must be present (i.e., must sit in the area designated for cheerleaders during the game) or the squad will not be permitted to perform. **NOTE: This cannot be a friend, parent, etc., as these individuals may not be designated as legally responsible for the safety of your students.**
- For safety reasons and in accordance with National Federation and the Stadium rules, **No children are permitted on the ground level of the Stadium (i.e. Dressing/Practice Areas) or on the playing floor.** This includes children dressed as cheerleaders or as school mascots.
- For safety reasons and in accordance with National Federation rules, please review the following with your squad.
 - Earphones or wireless microphones are not permitted, as they constitute a safety hazard to the participant.
 - Spotter – An inactive person is not considered a spotter. You are not a spotter if your hand position includes grabbing the sole of the top foot of the top person or grabbing the hand(s) of the base(s) beneath the top person's foot.
 - **BASKET TOSSES** and other similar multi-base tosses are **permitted only on appropriate mats or grass (real or artificial).**
 - **DISMOUNTS:** A twist to a cradle involving **one or more rotations** is **permitted only on appropriate mats or grass (real or artificial).**
 - **FINGERNAILS** must be kept at an appropriate length: nails are not visible beyond the end of the fingers when viewed from the palm side of the hands. (**Participants MUST trim nails to appropriate length to participate**)
 - **WEARING ANY JEWELRY IS PROHIBITED** except religious or medical medals which must be taped to the body under the apparel). **THIS INCLUDES BODY PIERCING OF NAVELS, NOSES, EYEBROWS, TONGUES, OR ELSEWHERE ON THE BODY.** (Spacers are NOT allowed. **Participants MUST remove all jewelry to participate**)
 - For safety reasons and in accordance to the NFHS Spirit Rules Book, proper attire and footwear will be required for all Spiritline members who perform during the game and/or at halftime.
 - Hair devices must be safe and secure. Hair must be worn in a manner to ensure safety while performing. All members of a squad that stunts must wear their hair away from the face and off the shoulders.
 - **GLITTER IS PROHIBITED on any part of the body (including hair) or uniform.** (**Participants MUST remove ALL GLITTER to participate**). **GLITTER MAY BE USED ON SIGNS IF LAMINATED OR SEALED.**

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE.
STUDENTS IN VIOLATION WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PERFORM.

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WHEN TO ARRIVE AT THE STADIUM

- Check with your Athletic Director as to the time your game will start so you know what time to arrive at the Stadium. Any last-minute updates to the timeline will be told to you verbally when you arrive.
- Thirty minutes have been allocated for stretching and practicing immediately prior to the time your squad will report to the sideline.
- If you do not arrive at the Stadium on time, you will not have time to dress and/or warm up. To ensure the safety of your students, the warm-up is very important and must be done prior to performing.

ARRIVAL AND PARKING AT THE STADIUM

- Squads should arrive together, in uniform, and enter the Stadium, accompanied by their coach, at the designated entrance. Coaches or squad members who enter the Stadium at any other location must purchase a ticket. You will be met at the entrance and escorted to the dressing/practice area and later to the sideline.
- Please plan to arrive at the Stadium in sufficient time to permit compliance with the timeline. Spiritlines are scheduled to arrive at the same time as members of their school's football team.
- School buses/vans will need to display a parking pass to gain entry to the designated parking area. **The parking passes will be distributed to each school's Athletic Director.**
- After dropping off the squad, school buses/vans with designated parking pass will park in the designated parking lot.
- If you arrive in private vehicles, you are responsible for finding a parking space.
- Should a member of your squad require pre-game taping/wrapping, please make your own arrangements to see that this is accomplished. The trainer on duty is responsible solely for the game.
- Squad members who arrive at the team gate with their coach, in uniform, will be admitted free of charge to the Stadium.
- Coaches of spiritlines must have a sideline pass, which can be obtained by the school's Athletic Director. The Spiritline coaches' sideline passes are included in the (75) sideline passes that are given to the Athletic Director.

DRESS/DRESSING FACILITIES

- It is anticipated that squads will arrive in uniform; in the event this is not possible, facilities will be available in which to dress. However, this will take time away from your warm-up and practice time.
- During the game, your squad may leave their belongings in a designated area. Although security is provided at the Stadium, neither the Stadium nor the AIA can accept responsibility for the safety of belongs left in the designated area, etc. Please plan accordingly and **do not bring valuables.**

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SEATING IN THE STADIUM

- To ensure adequate supervision and participant safety, coaches must remain with their squads during the game. **Squads whose coach is not present will not be permitted to perform.**

ENTERING PRACTICE FLOOR/PERFORMING DURING GAME

- Just before your team is introduced, at your discretion, you may wish to create a tunnel through which your team will run to enter the playing field.
- Once squad members have entered the Stadium and proceeded to your assigned performance area, they will not be permitted to return to the dressing room area unless the coach or an AIA representative accompanies them.
- Once the game is over, squads must remove their things as soon as possible as the squads from the next game will be escorted to the area soon.
- Both squads will exit through the designated exit. The squad must wait together as a group to exit the Stadium with their coach.
- During the game, a squad will perform in their designated area. You will be told which side is available to you prior to the start of the game.
- Squads are permitted to cheer in their sideline area at time-outs and quarters if they wish.

PRE-GAME/HALF-TIME PERFORMANCES

- **NOTE: It is the responsibility of the spiritline coach to coincide the pre-game/half-time performance with the BAND director.** The pre-game/half-time performances are primarily intended for the BAND to perform. However, if the band chooses, they can split their time allotted with the spiritline team so the spiritline can perform AFTER their school band's performance, if time allows **(If the band approves for your spiritline to share the performance time then you will need to contact Ron Halbach at rhalbach@aiaonline.org so he is aware of the situation).**
- Twelve (12) minutes have been set aside for BAND performances during pre-game or half-time (This includes entering and exiting the field).
 - VISITOR team BAND will perform during PRE-GAME.
 - HOME team BAND will perform during HALF-TIME.
- Should you plan to use music to accompany your pre-game/half-time performance instead of the band's music, you will be shown where the sound booth is located. Either the coach or a representative should go with the AIA Spiritline representative to the sound booth immediately prior to your performance to let the sound technician know when to cue the music and when the presentation is over. As mentioned below, it is recommended that you bring two CDs in the event that one is defective.
- In the event one school does not wish to utilize their time, it cannot be allocated to the other squad.

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- Both squads are expected to stay within their allotted time limit. This is especially important during the championship games at the Stadium, as the honoring of reunion teams will also take place.
- It is anticipated that both squads will demonstrate respect and good sportsmanship by not disrupting the performance of their competitor.

MUSIC

- To prevent problems, please bring two copies of your music CD. In addition, it is recommended that you bring a CD player.
- Both CDs must be marked with your school's name and be ready to play at the appropriate place on the CD.
- CDs will be taken to the Stadium sound technician prior to your pre-game/half-time performance. A representative of the squad will be required to sit with the technician during the pre-game/half-time performance and will retrieve the school's CD at the end of the performance.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- Only official members of the school's squad (including the school's official mascot) are permitted to enter the squad's dressing room area or to be present on the playing surface during the game. **No children are permitted on the ground level of the Stadium (i.e. Dressing/Practice Areas) or on the playing field.**
- The National Federation Spirit Rules Book regulates Spiritline activities. All routines must be planned in accordance with the safety rules.
- For safety reasons and in accordance to the NFHS Spirit Rules Book, proper attire and footwear will be required for all Spiritline members who perform during the game and/or at halftime.
- Spiritlines are permitted to practice and/or perform only in designated areas. Practice is not permitted on the concourse.
- For security reasons, coaches and members of spiritlines must remain in designated areas.
- To guard against dehydration, Gatorade product and water will be available next to the dressing/warm-up area.

NOISEMAKERS/BALLOONS/SIGNS

- Noisemakers are **not** allowed at high school sites or the Stadium.
- Megaphones **are** allowed for Spiritline teams.
- Boxes or other items used to perform on are **not** permitted.
- Signs **are** allowed but must be a maximum of 2 ft. by 3 ft. in size.
- Banners for the football team to run through **are** permitted (NO GLITTER).
- Balloons are **not** permitted.

CAMERAS/VIDEO CAMERAS

- Cameras are permitted but you cannot take flash pictures at the Stadium.
- Hand-held video cameras are permitted in the Stadium seating area.
- Video cameras on tripods are permitted in designated videotaping areas.

Any questions, contact David Hines at 602-385-3823 or dhines@aiaonline.org.