



**Monroe County Public School Athletic  
Conference, Inc.**  
*www.mcpsac.org*

**February 15, 2011**

**Taking a Position in support of Respectful Speech and Behaviors  
in, at and around Interscholastic Athletic Contests**

On behalf of its member schools, the Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference, Inc. is committed to the promotion of high-spirited competition, fair play, and good sportsmanship at all interscholastic events and to the healthy communities that these qualities promote. Coaches, student-athletes, school staffs, and spectators are expected to pursue these goals in positive ways, with unqualified respect for the dignity and humanity of all people. While encouraging high-spirited engagement at athletic events, the Conference and its member schools stand firmly against any mean-spirited speech or behaviors that convey insult, intolerance, or disrespect. Slurs, taunting, ridicule, discrimination, abuse, and other such behaviors hurt individuals, poison the atmosphere of the athletic arena, and bring shame on us all.

Accordingly, the Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference, Inc. is developing a number of initiatives designed to promote a culture of respect for all people at all athletic events. Through educational programs, media, and the leadership of school administrators and coaches, the initiatives will establish and actively disseminate standards for behavior and speech at interscholastic athletic events. The programs will strengthen the understanding of all coaches, players, and spectators of what is and what is not acceptable, and will establish consequences for occasions where reasonable expectations are not met. When fully implemented, these programs will assure that incidents of abuse or disrespect do not tarnish healthy sporting events in our schools and will support essential educational elements of interscholastic athletics: the development of character, integrity, and respect for all.

*“Be loud, be proud, be positive”*  
*(Section V sportsmanship motto)*