



SPORTSMANSHIP & STUDENT SECTIONS

Another school year is well underway, and that means another year of IHSAA competition. If you have thought or heard someone say, “I want our student section to be the best in the state, but I don’t know how to get started.” You are in luck. Below are some helpful tips for students and schools to help build the kind of student-fan support that could lead to an outstanding student section. So check out these tips, and get started!

Tips To Help You Get Started

#1 - Work With Your Athletic Director or Designee

Schedule meetings, set expectations early on

#2 - Organize and Communicate

Form a team, check with your video department, yearbook and/or newspaper staff
Use Facebook, twitter, group texts, and other appropriate ‘connections’

#3 - Create Theme Nights

Be creative on dress-up decisions, cheers, music, etc.
Make sure everyone knows the words

#4 - Stay Positive

Cheer for your team, not against the other team, cheerleaders, band, etc.
Do not berate the officials or referees
Be courteous to the visiting parents, media, and fans

#5 Be Loud- Stay Loud and Be Proud

From the opening of the contest to the final horn
Have a cheer for every situation, teach your student section
Be together in perfect unison

#6 - Be the extra “man”

You are an extension of your team in the stands
Look for appropriate ways to interact with the team and the entire student body

#7 - Be Original

Try out new things or do old things in a new and creative way

#8 - $M + D = F$

Music plus Dance equals Fun

DJ? Pep Band?

Play “your song” at key sections of the contest

#9 - Include Everyone

Especially underclassmen

Parents

Community members

Middle or Elementary Students

#10 - Big or Small, Doesn't Matter

If you have a large student body, stay together

If you are a small school, recruit, and get louder

#11 - Police Yourself

Earn the trust of Administration, Faculty and Staff by taking care of problems that might arise

Put students that are respected in charge of your fan base

#12 - Represent Your School & Community

Take this contest and raising spirit, sportsmanship seriously – the athletic community needs you to set a positive example