

## **NCAA DII Game Environment Best Practices**

Objective: The Game Environment Initiative (GEI) is a high priority for the NCAA Division II membership. This initiative is set forth at [www.diicommunity.org/gameenvironment](http://www.diicommunity.org/gameenvironment). The following best practices are offered to the Division II membership to assist in fostering a positive game environment at all events.

Directions: Please consider the following ideas as you work to promote a positive game environment. Member schools are encouraged to discuss these ideas and implement those that they believe will help create a more positive game environment at campus events.

### **Administration & Faculty**

Our administration does the following:

- Signs the DII Game Environment Pledge
- Engages in peer-to-peer communication with conference colleagues in regard to promotion of a positive game environment
- Discusses the initiative and the three elements of a positive game environment with all staff during in-service training sessions
- Sends a letter to each student-athlete regarding expectations consistent with the GEI (Game Environment Initiative)
- Identifies a game environment administrator for all home events who is the point of contact for officials, coaches, and visiting school administrator(s)
- Sends a letter to parents/guardians explaining the GEI and its significance
- Requests that each coach includes a section addressing GEI in his/her team code of conduct and pre-season meetings
- Communicates the GEI with student support groups throughout the academic year
- Selects and meets with public address announcers and discusses their role in the GEI
- Provides a script for the public address announcers
- Provides signage and other promotional activities to raise awareness of GEI
- Includes information concerning GEI expectations of students at pep rallies and other student functions
- Provides a hospitable and safe atmosphere for visiting schools and officials (i.e. lively, comfortable and civil)
- Promotes the GEI message within university and athletics department publications, such as the school paper, media guides, athletic programs, etc.

### **Coaches**

Our coaches do the following:

- Establish a coaching and support staff (i.e., ATCs, managers) code of conduct
- Establish a student-athlete code of conduct
- Support host school's game environment official and/or athletics administration in dealing with issues rather than taking it on as their responsibility, i.e., crowd control
- Ensure student-athletes are aware of the GEI and the expectations of the university
- Teach, enforce, advocate and model behaviors consistent with the GEI (Game Environment Initiative)
- Consistently show respect for the integrity and judgment of officials
- Consistently treat student-athletes, fellow coaches, opponents, and administrators with respect

- Actively participate and promote programs designed to facilitate student-athletes becoming community leaders and model citizens
- Publicly shake hands with opposing student-athletes and coaches before and after contests
- Participate in preseason in-service training to address GEI as provided by the athletics administration

### **Student-athletes**

Our student–athletes do the following:

- Sign codes of conduct
- Shake hands with opponents and opposition coaches following contests
- Serve as positive role models and leaders to the general student body
- Actively participate in community service activities in the community
- Provide support to all sports within the university
- Behave in ways consistent with the GEI (Game Environment Initiative) at all athletics contests and events
- Consistently treat teammates, opponents, coaches, administrators, and officials with respect
- Consistently exercise self-control in accepting decisions by officials and playing with integrity

### **Cheerleaders and Bands**

Our cheerleaders and bands do the following:

- Sign a code of conduct
- Educate and encourage spectators to cheer at appropriate times in a positive manner
- Function as models of citizenship/leadership
- Promote an atmosphere at events that is consistent with GEI (Game Environment Initiative), specifically respecting visiting student-athletes, coaches, administrators, spectators and cheerleaders
- Consistently respect the integrity and judgment of contest officials
- Display only signs that welcome opponents and that are positive toward our own university
- Maintain common courtesy and respect in the timing of performances
- Select appropriate performances with the family-oriented crowd in mind
- Play music that is lively and entertaining and not offensive

### **Spectators/ Student support Groups/Alumni**

Our spectators/student support groups do the following:

- Respect all players, coaches and officials
- Recognize outstanding performances by either team with applause
- Cheer for our own team and not against the opponent
- Take part in positive cheers and follow the directions of the cheerleaders
- Stay off the playing area at all times
- Consistently treat visiting universities, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators with respect