

Sportsmanship

Sheriffs Points

By: Sheriff Byron Nogelmeier

Since School has started so have many of the sporting events. I would encourage all spectators to be good sportsman and sportswomen.

Now I am sure you are wonder why would the Sheriff be writing about sportsmanship. Lets talk about violence at sporting events.

Violence in sports involves intentional aggressive [violence](#). Competitive sports, such as [football](#), [basketball](#), and [baseball](#) may involve aggressive tactics, but actual violence in sports falls outside the boundaries of good [sportsmanship](#). Contact sports such as [American football](#), [ice hockey](#), [boxing](#) and [wrestling](#) involve certain levels of physical violence, but include **restrictions** and **penalties for excessive** and **dangerous acts of force**. Violence in sports may include threats, verbal abuse, or physical harm and may be carried out by athletes, coaches, fans, spectators, or the parents of young athletes.

Fan violence can occur in both the stands and the streets, fans may resort to violence to express loyalty to a team, to release frustration with a team's performance, or to intimidate opponents. Violence can sometimes be related to the consumption of [alcohol](#). Now in the event that a fan has started a fight or has become unruly at a sporting event, law enforcement may be asked to escort that person from the event. I am sure the last thing someone would want would be to be escorted from an event and have criminal charges filed because they got all wound up in a game and their emotions got away from them. I wonder how embarrassed your child would feel. Some criminal charges that could be brought against an unruly fan are Disorderly Conduct, Simple Assault. More serious charge could be Aggravated assault if you seriously injured someone.

There have been cases where fans have taunted or hit coaches, players, and other parents. Thank goodness this type of behavior has not happened in Turner County.

Something's that have been done to prevent violence at sporting events are:

- emphasizing [sportsmanship](#) among young players.
- promoting positive sports [role models](#).
- banning or restricting the consumption of [alcohol](#).
- imposing tougher penalties for athletes who cause or aggravate an altercation.
- banning unruly spectators from [stadiums](#).
- prosecuting both athletes and non-athletes in the [criminal](#) courts

I hope law enforcement never have to become involved. I am sure that myself and my deputies would much rather show up at a sporting event and be a spectator and enjoy the evening just like you.

I hope you as a fan, parent and coach can all be a positive influence on our young athletes and show them what sportsmanship is all about. Good luck to all the athletes in Turner County and may you have a successful season in every sport you participate in.