**To:** Ed Wallace, President of Officials Coordinating Committee

**From:** Section VIII Athletics

**Date:** Friday, 1/31/2025

**RE:** Inappropriate Language at Section VIII Events

After receiving numerous reports of inappropriate language used at Section VIII Sporting Events, Section VIII would like to remind all officials and their respective associations of our current policies. If an official hears any language that directly does not follow our Sportsmanship Policies, it is imperative that the person responsible be removed from the contest. This applies to all coaches, athletes, spectators and any other person on site of the contest.

If the language is not reported to the Section VIII Office by the official and we received alternative reports from schools, the official(s) will be subject to consequence determined the by Executive Directors Office.

Please remind all officials associations of this policy, which is stated below:

“In the event a racial, ethnic, or gender slur is heard by an Administrator, Coach, Official, or Supervisor at any Section VIII competition the event will be stopped. Every effort must be made to identify the person(s) responsible for the slur. The person(s) must be immediately removed from the contest. In the event the person (s) responsible for the slur cannot be identified the responsible staff are expected to remove as many spectators as deemed necessary to ensure that the person(s) has/have been removed from the event. The ejection(s) and name(s) of the ejected must be reported to Section VIII and include carryover suspension from attendance at the next competition.”

All resources are available on the Section VIII Website, secviii.org

Thank you for your consideration and the hard work your associations do for all Section VIII stakeholders.