

**GRANBURY ISD
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
PIRATE ATHLETICS**



**217 NORTH JONES STREET
GRANBURY, TX 76048
817.408.4080**

Attention Granbury Sports Fans, Parents, Players, and Coaches:

Please read the enclosed release from Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO) in regards to conduct towards and the treatment of officials. Every High School and Middle School sport and campus administration will share this via parent communication. We will also share via the Granbury ISD Public Information Officer and the Granbury ISD Security Department, so all are aware.

The bottom line is that there is an extreme shortage of officials. We need to be professional and positive towards all officials. Their job is very tough and one that is significant. Without officials, we would have no games, contests, or competitions.

All the information in regard to this new initiative can be found on the both the TASO and UIL website. We have awesome fans in Granbury! Let's be the standard of excellence in regard to how Pirate Nation treats officials and let's understand the important role they have to ensure games can be played.

Thank you!

**DWIGHT BUTLER, CMAA
GRANBURY ISD ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

ABUSE OF OFFICIALS POLICY

It is the desire of the Texas Association of Sports Officials (TASO) Board of Directors to collaborate with schools where excessive verbal and/or any physical abuse or threat of physical abuse of officials has occurred to provide a safe and more positive climate for all participants.

The TASO Board has adopted the following policy to combat the drastically increasing rate of excessive verbal and physical abuse (any level) of our members officiating junior/middle and high school athletic contests:

SECTION I

At any point during a school year, if an individual school has three (3) submitted Incident Reports, indicating excessive verbal abuse and/or physical abuse, including threats of physical abuse, from any combination of players, coaches, or spectators:

- The TASO Staff will review every Incident Report (IR) submitted by TASO members.
- If the players, coaches, spectators, or anyone else affiliated with a school is identified as committing excessive verbal or any physical abuse including the threat of physical abuse, the IRs will be presented to the TASO Presidents Council, consisting of the presidents of the Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, and Water Polo Divisions to review the Incident Reports.
- If a majority of the Presidents Council deems that the IRs demonstrate a culture of failing to control the players, coaches, or spectators by the school:
 1. The Chair of the Presidents Council will notify the TASO Executive Director, or his/her designee, of the Council's determination.
 2. The TASO Executive Director or his/her designee will notify the school's athletic director and/or superintendent requesting that the school respond with a detailed plan to control the unruly conduct of their players, coaches, or spectators within seven (7) days from the date of the notice.
 3. The Presidents Council will review the school's response and determine:
 - If the school's plan will adequately address the issues, the TASO Executive Director or his/her designee will so advise the school and continue to monitor for additional IRs.
 - If the schools plan is not sufficient to control the unruly behavior, the TASO Executive Director, or his/her designee, will so advise the school and include recommended revisions.
 4. For schools that fail to address their negative culture of abuse, a notification will be sent indicating that effective on a certain date there will be no TASO officials, in any sport, assigned to home games for that school until the issues are satisfactorily addressed.

SECTION 2

To avoid unjustified Incident Reports filed by our members:

1. TASO will monitor the number and type of Incident Reports filed by our members.
2. If a member submits an excessive number of unjustified reports, TASO will review all reports filed by the member.
3. If it is determined the member has filed a number of unjustified Incident Reports, he/she will receive additional training on filing Incident Reports, and/or will be subject to disciplinary action.

Questions should be directed to Michael Fitch, TASO Executive Director, mfitch@taso.org.