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# SPORTS

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## OVC attempts to legislate 'fair play' with strict new policy

Associated Press

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — Fighting, baiting and taunting no longer will be tolerated by the Ohio Valley Conference under a sportsmanship policy announced yesterday. In addition, public address announcers will be required to express equal excitement for both teams.

According to the policy, coaches must stress the importance of sportsmanship

over winning and remove players from the game who violate conduct codes. Cheerleaders, pep groups and band members will be prohibited from disrupting or confronting groups of the visiting team.

Fans will be encouraged to applaud the efforts of both teams while supporting their own. Adults will be reminded to treat the young players as if they were their own children. Fans who taunt players, coaches or officials will be removed from the arena.

"We believe this ... shows the OVC's commitment to proper conduct and fair play," OVC commissioner Dan Beebe said.

The policy, which was unanimously passed last week by the league's nine presidents, calls for referees to issue a warning to team captains and coaches before the start of each game.

After the game begins, warnings will not be given. Penalties will be assessed to those who do not follow the guidelines. Coaches

who protest a conduct call will be ejected from the game. Officials who do not read the warning before the game will be subject to suspension.

Also, school administrators are to welcome visiting coaches, teams and fans and instruct security officers to protect visitors from home-crowd abuse.

Athletic directors, faculty representatives and coaches helped devise the plan that took more than a year to formulate.