Blue Crab Bowl Spectator Guidelines and Behavioral Expectations

Blue Crab Bowl promotes and expects sportsmanship and model behavior from all attendees -- competitors and spectators alike.

Spectator Policy and Guidelines

Classmates, teachers and parents are encouraged to support their school team. There are, however, space limitations in some competition venues and activities. Please note: It may be necessary for the BCB Venue Coordinator to limit the number of spectators/supporters that accompany a competing team.

Space permitting, spectators are welcome in competition rooms, but...

• May not enter or leave a room during a match;
• May not take pictures, notes or audio recordings in competition rooms (NOSB rules #35,36);
• May not communicate verbally or non-verbally (via signaling or electronic devices) with contestants during matches.
• May not cause distraction from the competition proceedings (NOSB Rule# 69).
• May not answer competition questions or raise a challenge to a judge’s ruling (NOSB rule #61).
• May not disturb competition rooms during matches by talking in the hallways outside.

In the event that spectators disturb a competition, the clock will be stopped and the person(s) will be asked to leave. Judges' rulings are final on these matters.

BCB expects spectators to model the same sportsmanship expected of competing teams and coaches by practicing self-discipline and by demonstrating respect and courtesy toward competitors and Bowl officials. Bowl competition is an ideal venue for the development of maturity and professionalism.

Special note: While questions are being read and teams are responding, players, alternates and coaches are cautioned to avoid ANY gestures or use of electronic devices that may be interpreted (or even misinterpreted) as sending messages or signaling. This includes head nodding or fiddling with earrings, neckties, hair or eyeglasses. In the case of questionable gestures or use of electronic devices, the clock will be stopped, a warning will be issued and/or the individual will be asked to leave the room. The Rules Judges' decisions are final on these matters. If cheating occurs, the entire team will be eliminated from further competition.

Remember: During competition, coaches, team members and audience members are NOT allowed to use calculators, notes or references (with the exception of the event program). No electronic devices - including cell phones, smart watches, cameras, tablets or recording devices – may be used by students, coaches or audience members once a match is in session. Officials will issue warnings, confiscate any such materials/devices, as necessary, or ask individuals to leave the room.

See NOSB Rule #74: If an audience member receives two (2) official warnings they will not be permitted to observe or participate in the competition activities for the remainder of the event.

Please respect the integrity of the competition and the considerable effort made by all teams and officials in preparing for this event.
Spectator Participation in BCB Activities

As dictated by NOSB guidelines and BCB budget limitations, BCB can assure food and lodging support only for the competing teams’ competing members. Spectators, including additional chaperones, school administrators, parents, and classmates, are asked to be responsible for their own food, lodging and transportation. Similarly, the BCB field experience on Friday is an award designed for the competing teams in recognition of their efforts in preparing for competition. Additional supporters may attend on a space-available basis only and will be responsible for any fees associated with activities.

There are expectations for spectator behavior during other Bowl activities, including but not limited to, field experiences and hotel stays. Your teams are representing the Blue Crab Bowl and its sponsors, Old Dominion University and Virginia Institute of Marine Science. We expect that team supporters will show model behavior at the hotel, during field experiences and other BCB-associated activities. We expect that coaches and additional chaperones will provide guidance, reminding team supporters of appropriate and responsible behavior. We have some specific rules that apply to all event attendees:

- At the hotel, supporters who are students should be in their assigned rooms between 10-11:00 pm and all quiet by 11:00 pm.
- Our program is zero-tolerance re: smoking, alcohol and drugs.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact the BCB Co-Coordinators via the website at: www.vims.edu/bcb.