



# K-12 Sports

## DEALING WITH ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

StandWithUs SAID OFF  
**LAW**

# K-12 Sports

## DEALING WITH ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS

An antisemitic incident in an athletics setting—like a game, meet, tournament—poses a unique challenge to Jewish or Zionist players, teams, and fans alike. Players have to balance their reactions, consider their safety and well-being, and still operate within the rules of the game, and all at the same time! Spectators, including your family and friends, play a crucial role in providing the players with support and guidance. Here are some guidelines to help if you experience antisemitism in or around a game.



### Don't Get Riled Up or Retaliate

Antisemitism, like any discrimination, can stir up emotions, so the best thing you can do is to stay calm. How you respond to a bad actor can make it harder for those in charge to see the harms of the initial incident or to assess who is responsible. Do your best not to react either physically or verbally. Players reacting to antisemitic taunts can prompt an in-game response from the game's referee/umpire, suspension by the league, and even discipline from your school. Even spectators reacting can escalate tensions and provoke sanctioning from the team or school. That especially applies to your friends and siblings!



### Document the Incident

One way of standing up for yourself in a such a situation is to remember your opponent's jersey number, what they look like, where it occurred on the field/court or in the stands, and when the incident happened (like the quarter, inning, or period). If you're playing, you won't have a way to record or write down information, but there might be a video for the team to watch at practice or spectators taking photos or video of the incident.



## Report it Immediately

As soon as an antisemitic incident occurs, whether you're a player or spectator, at the earliest possible moment, tell the referee or officials and tell your team's coach. Spectators should also seek out a school official. Share exactly what happened, with specific information like who said or did what, where, and when. Give them as much detail as possible. Show evidence if you have it, like a video. After the game or if there is an appropriate time during stoppage of play, you can go one step farther and tell them why what was said or done was antisemitic. Unfortunately, many people have a hard time understanding what does or does not constitute antisemitism or even why it caused you harm.

## Speak Up, Seek Support, and Educate

Tell your parents. Tell your friends. Tell your favorite teacher. You might feel alone, but you aren't. Let your support systems be there for you. This includes your support network at StandWithUs. Situations like these can be especially upsetting if you have to explain to your friends and/or teammates why the incident was antisemitic to begin with, but you have an important opportunity to take on the role of educator as you advocate for yourself. After all, the person in the best position to tell people how you were impacted by an incident is *you*. One example is taking it to social media. Posting photos, videos, or a writeup of the incident online can not only expose what happened to a broader audience but also bring in more voices of support to the conversation who can share why it was antisemitic and how this impacts Jewish individuals.

StandWithUs SAIDOFF  
**LAW**

## Follow Up and Apply Pressure

If you don't feel satisfied that the incident was handled appropriately in the moment, the story does not end there. Even if the offender(s) received the right consequences during the game, there is still an opportunity for them to learn from their actions. Find out if any action was taken in the aftermath and keep talking to school leaders to get the right people to pay attention. Report it to the league and cite their specific rules on player conduct, demonstrating exactly what standards were violated. Reach out to the principal or director of the offending player's school. Check to see if you play this team again later in the season, or if your school does in another sport. StandWithUs can help review the league's and competitor school's rules and whether any were violated. Sometimes those in positions of power might simply be ignorant of what the right thing to do is or the incident was never brought to their attention by those below them, so it might be your job to ensure you are heard and there is a resolution.

