
SPECIAL OPERATIONS

POLICE RESPONSE AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for officers for police action during athletic events.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the North Little Rock Police Department to provide appropriate protection to life and property at athletic events where members of the police department are assigned or called upon in the course of their duties. Many athletic events by nature require hard physical contact between participants accompanied sometimes by emotional responses. Only when game officials lose control of a situation should there be police intervention on the sporting platform. The spectator sections of the forum are subject to the same police supervision as other public gatherings. Officers must take into consideration the nature of the event and the acceptable behavior in making decisions to the appropriateness of spectator conduct.

Summary of Changes: New format

Procedures

1 Scholastic Sporting Events

- 1.1 School athletic events such as football and basketball games as well as other large; spectator athletic events shall be attended by the School Resource Officer (SRO) whenever applicable.
- 1.2 The SRO will coordinate with school officials and the Special Events Coordinator to determine security needs and the number of officers, either off-duty or on-duty that are needed for the event.
- 1.3 The SRO will contact the Special Events Coordinator and will assist the Coordinator with compiling a roster of officers for the event, including a supervisor position.
- 1.4 The SRO will advise the designated supervisor of any special needs information.

2 Supervisor Responsibilities

- 2.1 The designated police supervisor will be in command of all police personnel at the event and will provide officers with their work assignments.
- 2.2 The police supervisor will contact the shift commander prior to the scheduled event to coordinate with and to develop contingency plans in the event additional manpower is needed.
- 2.3 The designated supervisor will ensure that each officer is properly equipped for the event to include the proper o/c canister used by the officers, Refer to P.D. 11-7.
- 2.4 In the event of a large disturbance, the police supervisor will request additional units.
 - 2.4.1 The supervisor will designate a staging area and the most advantageous route of ingress for responding officers.
 - 2.4.2 The event supervisor will be the designated incident commander until relieved per P.D. 40-4.
- 2.5 Athletic event officers will utilize the appropriate radio channel, which will be designated by the event supervisor.
- 2.6 The event supervisor will be responsible for making sure all school officials, referees and any other authorized official are aware of North Little Rock Police Department's policies regarding police intervention on the playing field.

3 Field of Play

- 3.1 Officers shall take reasonable steps to ensure that spectators do not become involved with event management.
- 3.2 Disturbances on the field should be addressed by athletic officials or athletic staff whenever possible. In all events, prior coordination with school officials is essential.
- 3.3 Officers will not intervene with field of play disturbances unless directed to do so by the event supervisor or weapon(s) have been deployed or used.
- 3.4 In the event the disturbance should involve spectators on the field of play; officers will take the appropriate action.
 - 3.4.1 Officers will address incidents that involve participants of the athletic event that have left the field of play and have engaged spectators.
- 3.5 Any authorized school official who requests assistance from the police to intervene in a disturbance on the field of play will make contact with the event supervisor who will then make the final determination whether officers shall intervene.
 - 3.5.1 The event supervisor shall determine the size and scope of the intervention based on the facts available at the time.

3.6 The event supervisor will obtain a school radio prior to the beginning of an event to facilitate coordination with school officials.

3.7 Only uniformed officers will intervene in a disturbance on the field of play or in spectator areas.

4 Sporting Events

4.1 The Special Events Coordinator will determine if a non-scholastic sporting event meets the criteria requiring police presence. If the criteria is met, a supervisor will be in command of all NLRPD officers working the event.

4.2 If the sporting venue is maintained by the City of North Little Rock, (Burns Park, Recreation Centers, baseball fields etc.) the NLRPD will enforce all state laws and have complete jurisdiction regarding any matter involving public safety or the prevention of criminal activity, whether the event is privately or publicly sponsored.

4.3 Once police intervention on the playing field is commenced, the game and game rules are suspended. The playing field will be under the control of the police department until order is restored and control is returned to the officials by the ranking officer present.

4.4 Officers will ensure order in the spectator areas as with any other public gatherings giving consideration to the type of event and the generally accepted conduct at such events.

4.5 Control of the playing field is left to game officials until such control is clearly lost.

4.6 Police intervention of the playing field will be instituted when:

4.6.1 The game official calls for police intervention.

4.6.2 The game official comes under violent attack.

4.6.3 Spectators enter the playing field unauthorized.

4.6.4 A person comes under violent attack with a deadly weapon.

4.6.5 Participants enter the spectator area and engage in assaultive behavior.

4.6.6 The game officials have clearly lost control of the playing field, and persons are engaged in violence.



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