

Please see the message below from Mr. Gebhart. Hope you all have a great season!

God Bless America!

Dave Wright

From: Pat Gebhart [mailto:pgebhart@piaa.org]

Listed below is a statement that officials should use when questioned about the behavior of persons with regard to the National Anthem.

Please share this with district and/or chapter interpreters under your sport.

The PIAA statement:

Interscholastic athletics is considered an extension of the classroom and if players choose to kneel during the National Anthem, it is a local school matter between the player and their school.

Although we believe that standing for the National Anthem is intended to honor and respect those men and women that came before us and those that continue to provide for the opportunity to play a game, it is not our purpose to legislate the actions of the players or coaches during the Anthem. That is between the participants and their school.

While officials are under the same premise, we would hope that officials would honor the flag but no penalty will result if an official takes a different stance.

Any questions should be directed to the PIAA officials department.

Sincerely,

Pat Gebhart

PIAA