



RUNGE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Yellowjacket Nation,

The past few days have been stressful for Coach Bode and me, as we have been working through an unfortunate situation involving our football program. Following our game on Thursday, October 2, the Texas Sports Officials Association informed us that, due to alleged behaviors from some of our fans, they would no longer assign officials to Runge football games because of concerns for their safety.

I was not present at the game as I was attending a superintendent conference, so I only know what has been reported to me. Nevertheless, over the past two days, I have been in constant communication with the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and the Texas Sports Officials Association. Through these conversations, we were able to reach an agreement that allows officials to return to Runge, so our students can play.

At the end of the day, I am in the business of kids—and our students deserve to play. However, I must be very clear: we cannot and will not go through another situation like this again. I understand that there are individuals outside our community who do not want to see Runge ISD succeed. We cannot give them a reason to question our integrity or sportsmanship.

You are always encouraged to cheer for your child and their teammates—but you cannot make comments toward the officials, regardless of the calls they make. If an issue arises, please trust that Coach Bode and I will address it through the proper channels after the game. Yelling at officials or questioning their calls from the stands does not help our student-athletes; it hurts them and reflects poorly on our school and community.

From this point forward, no warnings will be given. If any fan gets out of line, they will be asked to leave the premises once. Additionally, please be aware that under Texas law, school administrators now have the authority to issue bans against individuals who cause disturbances at school events. The Texas Legislature has made it very clear that schools are not required to tolerate any behavior that disrupts the educational or extracurricular environment.

I would like to close by reiterating what I shared with the UIL and the officials association: I have been your superintendent for five years, and during that time, I have seen firsthand how passionate and proud our fans are. In all those years, we have never had to remove a fan from a game, nor have officials ever raised safety concerns about Runge ISD. This letter comes from a place of genuine affection—our kids deserve to play, and I will always fight for them and for our school's success.

Thank you for your understanding, your cooperation, and your continued support of our students. Let's represent Runge ISD with class, pride, and respect at all times.

Thank you for your partnership as we move forward together.

Educationally Yours,

Hector O. Dominguez, Jr.
Superintendent