



XX Marks the Offense

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Educators, used to tyrannizing the young, are too often tempted to turn their powerlust to their charges' parents. Yesterday, I discussed [Michigan educators](#) keeping their curriculum secret from members of their community. Today we turn to the way officials at Bow High School in New Hampshire [have treated](#) Kyle Fellers, Anthony Foote, Nicole Foote, and Eldon Rash.

These parents and a grandparent attended a girls' soccer game while non-disruptively wearing wristbands labeled XX to protest a policy allowing a boy to play on the opposing team. The "XX" refers to the sex chromosomes of females.

Because Fellers, Foote, Foote, and Rash wore the wrong

apparel, school officials and a police officer told them to remove the wristbands or leave. When they refused, the school scolders threatened them with arrest for "trespassing."

For attending a game where their kids were playing?

The school later banned two of the wristband-wearers from school grounds and events, among other things making it harder for them to pick up their kids after a game.

"The idea that I would be censored and threatened with removal from a public event for standing by my convictions is not just a personal affront—it is an infringement of the very rights I swore to defend," says Andy Foote, who has a long career in the Army under his belt.

Now, with the help of the Institute for Free Speech, the renegade wristband-wearers are suing the school in hopes that it will, on First Amendment grounds, be enjoined from restricting "nondisruptive expression of political or social views at extracurricular events...."

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.