



THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules.

Know the rules. The spirit of good sportsmanship depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of the rule.

2. Exercise representative behavior.

The true value of interscholastic competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior that is representative of a sound value base. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.

3. Recognize and appreciate skilled performances, regardless of affiliation.

Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should regularly be practiced. This not only represents good sportsmanship but also reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.

4. Display respect for officials.

The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. The rule of good sportsmanship is to accept and abide by the decision made. This value is critical for students to learn for later application in life.

5. Display respect for your opponent.

Opponents are guests and should be treated cordially, provided with the best accommodations and accorded respect at all times. Be a positive representative of your school, team or family. This fundamental is the Golden Rule in action.

6. Display pride in your actions.

Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment or your responsibility as a school representative. Regardless of whether you are an adult, student, player, coach, or official, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

SPORTSMANSHIP

RESPECT - INTEGRITY – ETHICS

PLAYERS

Responsibilities

1. Accept and take seriously your responsibility as a player and role model and also recognize your privilege of representing your school and community. Practice good sportsmanship at all times - on or off the playing field or court.
2. Cooperate with your coaches and follow school and team rules of conduct as outlined in your student and athletic handbooks.

Preventative Measures

BEFORE

1. Shake hands with opponents and express your best wishes for success.
2. Exhibit a positive and enthusiastic attitude about the contest.

DURING

1. Assist players who are down in getting to their feet.
2. Shake hands after an aggressive exchange.
3. Never gesture to officials, players, coaches or fans in a negative manner.
4. Never disagree openly with an official or coach's decision. Carry on ethically and maturely.
5. Shake the opponent's hand if he/she fouls out, or extend congratulations when he/she is leaving the contest.

AFTER

1. Extend a congratulatory handshake to your opponent immediately at the game's conclusion.
2. Never debate something that occurred during the game with anyone, as it is in the past.
3. Be objective when communicating to the media about the contest.
4. Show concern for injured opponents and teammates.
5. Promote sportsmanship and your athletic experience positively whenever and wherever the opportunity arises.

PARENTS

The role of the parent in the education of a student is vital. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school and in life.

There is a value system – established in the home, nurtured in the school – which young people are developing. Their involvement in the classroom and other activities contributes to that development. Trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics and activities. These are the principles of good sportsmanship and character. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

As a parent of a student-athlete(s), your goals should include:

- Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game;
- Encourage students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their classwork;
- Participate in positive cheers that encourage our student-athletes; and discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus – including those that taunt and intimidate opponents, their fans and officials;
- Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions;
- Respect the tasks our coaches face as teachers and support them as they strive to educate our youth;
- Respect our opponents as student-athletes, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best;
- Develop a sense of dignity and civility under all circumstances.

Parents can have a major influence on students' attitudes about academics and athletics. The leadership role parents take will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come.

We look forward to a strong and supportive partnership that encourages fair play and sportsmanship at all times.

SPORTSMANSHIP

RESPECT - INTEGRITY – ETHICS