

# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214-3069

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WEB SITE: [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

To: OHSAA MEMBER SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

FROM: DUANE WARNS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AND  
CHAIRMAN OF THE OHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS  
AND INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

RE: SPORTSMANSHIP INFORMATION

Attached is the Harold A. Meyer application for the upcoming school year. I trust that the OHSAA sportsmanship resource guide is providing information that your school is finding useful this year. Some of that material can be helpful in developing a program that would qualify your school for the Harold A. Meyer Award.

Despite busy schedules, it is incumbent upon all of us charged with the responsibility of leading young people to work within our local schools to promote the values of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We encourage you to have your school consider earning the Harold A. Meyer Award.

Thank you for all of your efforts in promoting sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in your school. Your students are the beneficiaries of your leadership in this regard and, hopefully, will become better citizens as a result.

Yea Ohio!!!

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
4080 ROSELEA PLACE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

APPLICATION  
HAROLD A. MEYER AWARD  
FOR SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY  
SCHOOL YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTIONS: Complete the appropriate blanks on this application and include as the application cover. It is preferred that the application and all materials be bound in some type of binder. The requirements are listed. Please use the appropriate lines as a checklist to be sure that all required materials are included.

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City, Zip Code)

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code)

Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director \_\_\_\_\_

Is the school a member of the OHSAA? \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIREMENTS**

Please answer all questions as completely as possible. Whenever possible, cite examples. Where appropriate, provide documentation including sample policies, letters, minutes of meetings, agendas, handbooks, etc. The application and all supporting documentation must be filed at the same time and received by the OHSAA no later than July 1.

Applicant  
Check Items  
Attached

\_\_\_\_\_ **1. A written board of education policy on sportsmanship ethics and integrity in extracurricular activities. Please include a copy of the policy.**

- A. The policy must include an adoption date.
- B. The policy must address all areas of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity; i.e., student participants, coaches, administration, fans, cheerleaders, booster groups and parents. Explain how the policy emphasizes that extracurricular activities are a part of the total educational process and the same level of responsibility and behavior is expected at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom.
- C. Explain how the school administration supports the policy.
- D. Is the policy distributed to the community? And, if so, how?

\_\_\_\_\_ **2. A broad-based sportsmanship, ethics and integrity committee to coordinate the planning and implementation of a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity program.**

- A. The committee may be independent of other organizations, or a subcommittee of an existing organization, but must have as a primary focus the planning and implementation of a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity program.
- B. The committee **must** consist of administrators and students, at a minimum. It is recommended that it have representatives from the athletes, coaches, students, administration, support groups and fans.
- C. The committee should meet at least four times during the school year. Attach copies of minutes from four meetings.
- D. Explain the programs that have been implemented to promote sportsmanship, ethics and integrity and provide examples or pictures of literature, posters, program inserts, banners, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ **3. Presentations throughout the school year to coaches, athletes, parents, fans and support groups emphasizing the school's philosophy on sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.**

- A. A presentation should be made at least twice each school year, in the fall and spring. Please provide the schedule for such presentations, the agenda and a description of the location and program.
- B. Is student and faculty attendance required at these presentations?
- C. Who is involved in planning and making the presentations?
- D. What groups (students, fans, parents, etc.) attended the most recent presentation?
- E. Are materials provided to those attending the presentations?
- F. Are the presentations evaluated for effectiveness?

\_\_\_\_\_ **4. An ongoing campaign that promotes sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.**

- A. Describe the activities involved in this campaign during the past school year. Include copies or pictures of written materials, posters, program inserts, banners, etc.
- B. Describe, with examples, one or two of the more unique or exceptionally successful campaign programs.
- C. Who is involved in planning and executing the campaign?
- D. Who are the targets of the campaign? This should include all areas: i.e., athletes, coaches, administration, parents, support groups and fans.

\_\_\_\_\_ **5. An annual evaluation of all coaches in the areas of instruction and demonstration of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.**

- A. Include a sample of the evaluation form used.
- B. Who performs the evaluations?
- C. How are coaches encouraged to promote sportsmanship, ethics and integrity?
- D. Does your school have a coach's handbook?

- E. What are the guidelines on sportsmanship, ethics and integrity that are included in a coach, athletic or student handbook?
- F. Cite one or two examples of how a coach or coaches have demonstrated sportsmanship, ethics and integrity during the past school year.

\_\_\_\_\_ **6. A procedure for receiving, investigating, and acting upon complaints regarding sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.**

- A. Is there a written procedure in place? If so, please attach a copy.
- B. Whether written or unwritten, describe the general guidelines of the procedure.
- C. Who is responsible for handling complaints in the area of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity?
- D. Cite one or two examples of how such a complaint has been satisfactorily handled during the past school year.

\_\_\_\_\_ **7. A plan for dealing with critical situations such as heated rivalries, overflow crowds or unruly spectators.**

- A. Is there a written plan? If so, please attach a copy.
- B. Who is responsible for implementing such a plan?
- C. Are administrators and members of visiting schools especially students involved in formulating and implementing the plan?
- D. Cite one or two examples of a critical, or potentially critical, situation and how your school reacted. If none, so indicate.

\_\_\_\_\_ **8. A program for acknowledging/rewarding examples of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.**

- A. Does your school or league sponsor any sportsmanship awards? If so, please describe the award, the criteria for selection, and the persons making the selection.
- B. How does your administration or board of education recognize good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity?
- C. How do you publicize examples of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity? Provide copies or pictures of the methods used.

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that I am authorized to sign this application and that the documents attached represent the sportsmanship, ethics and integrity program at \_\_\_\_\_ School.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

**This application and all supporting documentation must be received in the OHSAA office no later than July 1.**

# **SUGGESTED TIMELINE FOR SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY CAMPAIGN**

## August

- organize your committee to promote SEI
- send out letters to athletes, parents and fans expressing sportsmanship expectations
- organize a preseason meeting promoting sportsmanship
- get SEI materials to the printers of your athletic program

## September

- add an SEI presentation to one of your school's pep rallies
- meet to plan the year's major SEI activity
- make sure sportsmanship announcements are a part of all pregame activities

## October

- be sure that SEI awards are a prominent part of fall athletes' sports banquets
- send stories to the media highlighting sportsmanship

## November

- repeat fall procedures for winter sports

## December

- finalize details for the year's major SEI campaign

## February

- make sure SEI awards are a major part of your winter sports award ceremonies

## March

- repeat SEI meetings for spring sports

## April

- present major SEI campaign for the year with emphasis on next year's leadership

## May

- make SEI a big part of spring sports award ceremonies and year-end award ceremonies
- pick your school's Archie Griffin Award winner

## June

- complete your Meyer Award Application to be filed with OHSAA by July 1

## **SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR SEI COMMITTEE**

1. Use the “Be A Sport” theme to create poster, essay, or float contests.
2. Use the “Be A Sport” logo in as many ways as possible.
3. Develop a speakers bureau. Use high school athletes as speakers for grade school athletes.
4. Give awards to the best example of sportsmanship on each team.
5. Give awards to the team that you compete against that shows the best sportsmanship in each sport.
6. Send public service announcements to local media.
7. Make announcements about sportsmanship before each contest and on school public address systems.
8. Encourage teachers to incorporate sportsmanship into school assignments.
9. Put articles in your school program and newspaper about sportsmanship.
10. Send letters to athletes, parents, and fans expressing expectations about sportsmanship.
11. Place posters in areas of competition promoting sportsmanship.
12. Place posters in areas where lines form to promote sportsmanship.
13. Invite opposing teams in scrimmage situations to a postgame social.
14. Organize a student exchange with rivals.
15. Send good luck notes to rivals who advance further than you do in state tournaments.

## **SUGGESTED MEMBERS FOR YOUR SPORTSMANSHIP ETHICS AND INTEGRITY COMMITTEE**

Athletic Team Captains

Representatives from Student Council

Student Volunteers

Coaches (from Men's and Women's Programs)

Booster Club Representatives

Parent Volunteers

Service Club Members

Athletic Directors

Principals

Local News Media

Retired members of the community

Anyone interested in promoting S.E.I.

## GOAL SETTING

### **Overall Goal:**

Responsible behavior by athletes, coaches, fans, cheerleaders and others connected with athletics as a result of clearly-stated goals placed into practice.

### **Define:**

Are sportsmanship behavior and unsportsmanlike behavior clearly stated?

### **School Board Mission Statement:**

Are the philosophy and goals of the interscholastic athletic program adopted by the board of education? Is sportsmanship emphasized as part of the educational experience?

### **Athletic Policy Manual:**

Is sportsmanship emphasized in the coaching manual?

### **Administrative Support:**

Do district administrators support and emphasize common sportsmanship goals?

### **Emphasis:**

Do conference meetings emphasize the importance of educationally-sound athletic experiences?

### **Shape:**

Are desirable behaviors articulated and reinforced? Potential vehicles are through game programs, pass outs, tickets, preseason meetings, assemblies, contests, triangle of coaches-athletes-parents.

### **Rewards:**

Are positive behaviors acknowledged?

### **Contingency Plan:**

Does your district have a contingency plan to respond to critical contest situations?

### **Goal:**

Responsible behavior where youngsters play hard, play safe, and accept the results or interscholastic competition.

### **Keep athletics in perspective!**

# OHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY AWARDS PROGRAM

The following awards are presented annually by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. They are projects of the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee.

## SCHOOL AWARD

### Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award

(application sent to member schools in October)

A banner awarded to high schools and middle schools who successfully complete the school application process by fulfilling established guidelines. The award-winning schools are selected by the SEI Committee, with the banner being presented in the local school.

## STUDENT AWARDS

### Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award

(no application - certificates mailed to member schools in March)

Each member high school and middle school can present a certificate to one male and one female student who demonstrates outstanding traits of sportsmanship. The students are selected by the local schools with the certificates presented as a part of the schools' recognition programs.

## ETHICS AND INTEGRITY AWARD

### OHSAA Ethics and Integrity Award

(no application - The OHSAA staff and/or the SEI Committee will nominate)

This adult award will be presented to an Ohioan who has displayed outstanding traits of ethical behavior and integrity in the performance of duties and responsibilities. The nominee should be serving or have served in a position of responsibility in which the individual is a role model for others. The SEI Committee will recommend the individual to the Board of Control. A crystal award will be presented to the recipient at the OHSAA Scholarship Banquet.

## COACHES AND ALLIED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AWARDS

### OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award

(no application process - organization notifies the OHSAA of recipients - plaque is furnished by OHSAA)

Each of the 22 OHSAA sanctioned sports and four allied professional organizations can recognize and honor one of their members with a plaque carved in the shape of Ohio. The directors or executive committees of the respective organizations select the recipients. Individuals selected should reflect the values of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in all their professional responsibilities. These awards are to be presented at state tournaments, clinics or banquets.

## STATE/LOCAL SCHOOL AWARD

### OHSAA State Award

(no application - certificate mailed to member schools in March)

This certificate may be presented to a coach, teacher, administrator, booster, or supporter of the local school program. It is an opportunity for every high school in Ohio to honor one of their own with a prestigious state award for exemplary contribution and service. This award is to be presented in the local school at an athletic contest or an appropriate recognition program.

## **MEDIA AWARD**

### OHSAA Media Service Award

(no application - District Athletic Boards will select from their district one member of the print media and one member of the broadcast media)

The 12 media members selected will be presented a plaque carved in the shape of Ohio. It is a way for the OHSAA to say thanks to the media for their contributions to and coverage of interscholastic athletics. These awards are to be presented at a football, basketball, or tournament game in their respective districts.

## **COURAGEOUS STUDENT AWARD**

### OHSAA Courageous Student Award

(application letter by high school principal required - certificate mailed to principal)

This is a selective award and is intended to bring credit to a very special student who has been involved in, or supportive of, the interscholastic athletic program, and who deserves recognition for courage.

This award is not designed to specifically recognize special education students; however, they should not be excluded should their situation merit consideration. It is not expected that every high school will annually select a recipient.



# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



## STATE AWARD

Presented to

\_\_\_\_\_ for exemplary contribution and service

\_\_\_\_\_ HIGH SCHOOL

\_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPAL

\_\_\_\_\_ YEAR



*Clair M. Howard*  
O.H.S.A.A. COMMISSIONER

# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



## COURAGEOUS STUDENT AWARD

Presented to

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for demonstrating extraordinary courage



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HIGH SCHOOL

---

YEAR

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PRINCIPAL

*Clay Muscareo*  
O.H.S.A.A. COMMISSIONER

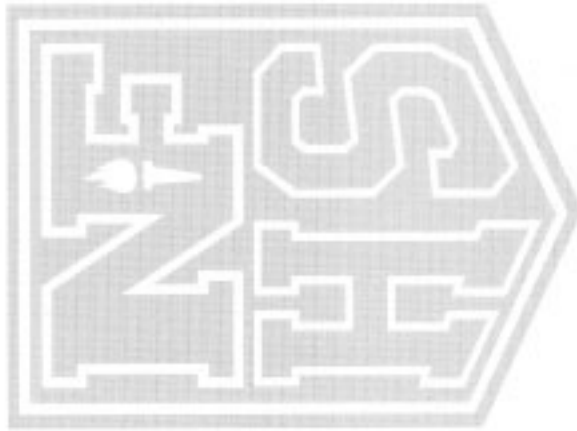
# AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

FOR EXEMPLARY DISPLAY OF  
SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS & INTEGRITY

Presented to



*Robert F. Kanaby*  
Robert F. Kanaby, Executive Director  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



A program of the  
CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTS AND FINE ARTS INITIATIVE  
of the National Federation of State High School Associations



*Clair Muscaro*  
Clair Muscaro, Commissioner  
OHIO HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Sample of Conference/League Sportsmanship, Ethics, And Integrity Policy

We believe that all people can learn; therefore, we challenge all students to excel in school and sportsmanship. Student-athletes who are good sports are positive role models within our school and the community at-large. A good sport knows that athletic competition builds character and shapes lifetime attitudes.

Integrity, fairness and respect are inherent principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

We will provide opportunities for obtaining knowledge, attitudes, experience and skills that enable our students to be individuals prepared to assume a position of responsibility in society. We believe that promoting sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in extracurricular activities should be part of that challenge to excel.

Promoting sportsmanship should be done by athletes, administrators, and coaches.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Conference/League has established guidelines to help in the promoting of good sportsmanship.

1. Treating opponents and officials with the respect that is due them as guests and fellow human beings.
2. Shaking hands with opponents.
3. Being positive with opponents, refraining from swearing or making insulting remarks to their opponents before, during, or after the contest.
4. Letting student audiences know that inappropriate behavior reflects poorly on the team.
5. Cooperating with the coaches and fellow players in trying to promote good sportsmanship.
6. Being positive with officials, without criticism for officials or coaches after the game.
7. No artificial noisemakers are permitted at indoor contests except school-approved bands.
8. No megaphones and other means of increasing the volume of the voice may be used except by the cheerleaders at indoor contests.
9. No objects such as spirit sticks may be brought to contests.
10. Visiting schools may **not** bring in any signs, posters or banners. There is to be **no** flags by either home or visiting schools at indoor events.
11. Only school-approved personnel such as mascots, players, and cheerleaders are permitted on the floor or field during the warmup periods or during the contests.
12. Seating for the visitors, both student and adult, will be together whenever possible.
13. The home school will make sure the necessary supervisor of fans is provided. This includes police and staff supervision.
14. The official representative from the visiting school should identify themselves at the ticket booth so they can be found in case of an emergency.
15. Home school signs that decorate the facilities may not be derogatory to the visiting schools.

## Sample of an Activities Association Sportsmanship Policy

We take the position that the practice of good sportsmanship is essential and that all members should adopt a common policy. Member schools are expected to implement a plan to promote responsible behavior by fans and all persons associated with athletics. The use of contest programs, the media, bulletins, and meetings are among the suggested means for promoting good sportsmanship. Member schools should also have plans for the monitoring of home and away contests and for dealing with those persons who violate the principles of responsible behavior.

It is suggested that member schools provide programs at athletic events (grades 7 through 12) and such programs include information pertaining to the promotion of good sportsmanship.

It is hoped that all schools shall adopt these standards as recommended by league athletic directors.

- The school's and league's reputation should not be placed in jeopardy because of unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Fans in attendance at afterschool events are expected to have fun by demonstrating positive enthusiasm without causing harm, danger or embarrassment to others or to the school.
- Fans are to follow all rules that are in effect during the school day at afterschool events. (i.e. use of controlled substances, swearing, fighting, etc.)
- Proper language is to be used. No swearing or language which is offensive to others will be tolerated. High school events are a family activity. Individual and group vulgarity is unacceptable, as is verbal harassment and booing of players, coaches and officials.
- Obscene gestures are unacceptable.
- Dangerous and boisterous activity, such as pushing, shoving or fighting, is not acceptable.
- The throwing of objects, even toilet paper, at fellow spectators, band members, cheerleaders, officials, players or onto the playing surface is unacceptable, and could result in injury or the team being penalized by the game officials.
- Respect is the key to good sportsmanship. Opponents should be respected. They are not enemies, but teenagers who happen to attend other schools.
- Be modest and humble in victory or defeat.
- Acknowledge good plays by both teams.
- Work together with cheerleaders for positive chants and avoid obscene, or degrading cheers.

## Sample of Conference/League Sportsmanship Guidelines

A general statement regarding sportsmanship will be inserted in our conference guidelines.

**I.** Institution of a conference sportsmanship award to be voted on annually at the May meeting by the Conference Principals. This award would be a traveling plaque with name plates.

- A. Criteria will include:
  - 1. Crowd actions
  - 2. Treatment of visitors
  - 3. Coaches actions
  - 4. Competitors actions
- B. Don't vote for your own school
- C. Vote should be based on the feelings of the administration and the coaching staff.
- D. Executive Secretary will supply the conference news media with a release when the winner is announced.

**II.** Basketball (Boys & Girls) Sportsmanship Guidelines to be inserted in the conference guidelines.

- A. Introductions
  - 1. Introduce nonstarters for both squads
  - 2. Alternate starters from both teams
  - 3. Introduce coaches
  - 4. Introduce game officials
- B. During introductions, lights will be left on and spotlighting players will not be condoned.
- C. For all conference games, the school songs of both teams will be played prior to the start of the varsity game.
- D. The national anthem will follow the playing of the school songs.
- E. No flags, banners, noisemakers or signs that might incite an opponent will be permitted in or near the gymnasium.
- F. Obscene chants will not be permitted.

**III.** Miscellaneous

- A. Always have people in positions of authority on duty working with security.
- B. Supporting game officials in their decisions.
- C. Requiring opponents to shake hands at the conclusion of the contest unless circumstances preclude doing this.
- D. Following the guidelines of the OHSAA regarding the selection of the team bench, baskets, end of the field for football warmup.
- E. Hospitality areas for school officials, team members, parents, cheerleaders and game officials.
- F. Announcements on sportsmanship over the P.A. and in the game programs.
- G. Development of the captains conference concept which will promote leadership.

## **Directions for Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Concerns Report**

- 1) Fill out the Report form
- 2) When filing a concern, please return the form to the Athletic Office or the Main Office of the High School
- 3) The report will be handled by the Athletic Director and Principal
- 4) You will receive a response to your concern within (5) days of receipt of the concern
- 5) All concerns will be handled confidentially

## Concerns Report on Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity

Nature of Concern:

This report is being filed concerning \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_

This report is being filed by \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to the Athletic Office or the Main Office

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Response:

Signature of Athletic Director or Principal \_\_\_\_\_

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

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Web site: [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

**CLAIR MUSCARO, COMMISSIONER**

TO: Athletic Administrators  
FROM: Duane Warns, Assistant Commissioner  
RE: Preseason Meetings and Sportsmanship Pledges

Thanks for all your work in promoting sportsmanship in Ohio's high schools. Your efforts are bearing fruit and we are making headway in this endeavor. This challenge continues to be a major responsibility for all of us who administer the interscholastic athletic program.

As the new school year approaches, the OHSAA wishes to share with you two ideas that have proved successful in getting out the message that "sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility."

1. Preseason Meetings — Many schools are requiring preseason meetings for their teams, coaching staffs and parents. This is the perfect opportunity to share the expectations for the upcoming season, i.e.: eligibility requirements, training/conditioning/practice regulations, the coaching staff's philosophy, and the school's expectations of proper conduct by the student-athletes, coaches and parents. This meeting can be invaluable toward understanding the purposes and values of interscholastic/educational athletics. The OHSAA strongly suggests that you consider having preseason meetings if you are not already doing so.
2. OHSAA Sample Pledges — The accompanying pledges for coaches, student-athletes, and the athlete's parents have been written to focus on proper conduct expectation for participants in interscholastic athletics. Feel free to use these pledges or you may design your own. The preseason meeting would be an excellent time for all involved to be reminded of their responsibilities regarding acceptable behavior. By signing a pledge, there are no guarantees; however, it should make all that signed "think" before acting improperly.

This is a new year and a new opportunity to make this the best year yet for good sportsmanship in Ohio's schools. Let's try to eliminate all ejections this year and have our coaches and parents be positive role models for our students.

Best wishes in your efforts! Yea Ohio!!

## The Conference/League Sportsmanship Meeting

This format has been used by conferences to discuss the issue of sportsmanship, and how an initiative could be undertaken on a conference level to address it.

- Such a meeting needs to be conducted in a time frame that assists its implementation. The beginning of the school year worked for one conference, while the end of the school year, planning for the following year, worked for another.
- Facilities — A central meeting room with several rooms available for small groups to meet would work the best.
- Each conference school sent the following individuals:
  1. The Athletic Director
  2. Four students — Two sophomores & two juniors (Prefer two females and two males)
    - a. Group breakdown
      1. Athletes (2)
      2. Cheerleader
      3. Student Council Representatives

Other school administrators are welcome.

- After a welcome to review the purpose of the meeting and a possible opening address to set the tone, the efforts of other conferences are reviewed.
- The opening segment is followed by a “brainstorming” session, where the students are broken up into four groups to address several questions related to sportsmanship. Be sure that only one student from each school is in each group, that will help promote a better flow of ideas and help the students of each school get to know each other better.
- Possible questions for discussion during the brainstorming session:
  1. Define sportsmanship.
  2. Discuss, in general, your views about sportsmanship. Explain the difference between appropriate and inappropriate sportsmanlike behavior.
  3. In general terms, make a list of who needs to improve their sportsmanship.
  4. How can our conference promote good sportsmanship (make a list of at least 10 ideas).
  5. What are ways to communicate our concerns about sportsmanship to those who behave inappropriately at our events? (List at least five ways to deal with these individuals or groups.)
  6. Our league wants to acknowledge and reward good sportsmanship. Give five suggestions for the development of a reward system that could be implemented.
- Be sure that a recorder is taking notes. You may wish to use large writing tablets that could be placed on an easel for display to the rest of the group.
- Follow the smaller group discussions with a meeting of the whole to consolidate the ideas discussed during the brainstorming session.
- Finalize the ideas of the brainstorming session and begin developing a basic plan for the conference.

Some schools take ideas back and begin the immediate implementation of a program. For some schools, it takes a little longer. Regardless, the league group should meet more than once a year for follow-up.

# IMPROVING ADULT SPECTATOR SPORTSMANSHIP

## A. EFFECTIVE PRESEASON MEETINGS

1. Make them mandatory.
2. Provide advance communication that is timely, attractive and upbeat.
3. Schedule a prominent and effective keynote speaker.
4. Schedule officials to present explanation of new or confusing rules.
5. Present videos.
6. Stress positives. Recognize past excellent sportsmanship. Make sportsmanship banner presentations and/or plaque presentations for previous season or year sportsmanship honors. Create honors programs if none exist.
7. Explain to parents that they are leaders and need to lead in the stands.
8. Explain sportsmanship ratings of schools if such is in effect for your league.
9. Explain booster club involvement in general and its responsibility for leadership in sportsmanship.
10. Distribute and explain sportsmanship expectations and consequences.
11. Have students explain at preseason meeting to parents what proper conduct is.
12. Have students and parents do sportsmanship skits.
13. Address how to *welcome* officials.
14. Share stories on how fans have been dealt with in the past.
15. Review the privileges and disciplines of athletics.
16. Have parents and students sign a code of conduct.

## B. POSTER IDEAS

1. OHSAA clipart materials.
2. "Let coaches coach, players play, and officials officiate, and let spectators enjoy the game."
3. "Your admission entitles you to . . ." (watch, enjoy, support, cheer, be positive, etc.). (Not criticize, taunt or intimidate.)
4. "Whose responsibility is good sportsmanship?"
5. "Mom and Dad: Please don't embarrass us."
6. "Do you remember the Golden Rule?"
7. "GAFUNME (keep the fun in GAME)."
8. "Students' most unnerving element and aspect of sports is the unruly parent."
9. Provide a mirror with the caption "Do you see anyone who displays good sportsmanship?"
10. Post a Spectators' Mission Statement.
11. Post one-liners (similar to current "God" billboards on highways).
12. Pass all ideas on to the middle school and perhaps to other youth activities in your district.

## **C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPPORT STAFF, BOOSTERS, TEACHERS, CHEERLEADERS . . .**

1. Cheerleaders . . .
  - a. Prepare only cheers that help set positive climate.
  - b. Have positive chants ready for whenever negative cheers begin, creating an immediate override.
  - c. Read the sportsmanship announcement before contests.
  - d. Check for unruly behavior and tell security.
2. Coaches . . .

The coach's behavior sets the tone. Educate them to create a positive, educational atmosphere by:

  - a. Shaking hands of officials in front of the crowd.
  - b. Insisting their student-athletes do the same.
3. Support Staff . . .
  - a. Have enough on hand at events.
  - b. Designees should wear identifiable apparel (vests, polo shirts, sweatshirts, etc.).
  - c. Make sure that these people have guidelines as to what their responsibilities are.
  - d. Have them act as hosts for opposing teams and fans.
  - e. Train staff to pull students aside and remind them to act appropriately.
4. Announcer . . .
  - a. Introduce all players, not just the starters.
  - b. Introduce players in an unbiased tone.
5. Booster Clubs . . .
  - a. Provide banners encouraging good sportsmanship
  - b. Encourage school-to-school booster club relationships.
6. Parents . . .
  - a. Enlist their assistance during preseason meetings.
  - b. Encourage one another at preseason meetings for proper conduct and being good role models.
  - c. Utilize a pledge sheet to encourage behavior.

## **D. EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING OFFICIALS FOR DEALING WITH UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIORS**

1. Meet and greet officials.
2. Inform them of the school's support for them.
3. Let them know the school's expectations.
4. Let them know ahead of time of any "history" with spectators present.
5. Advise them not to get in discussions or arguments with fans, but let the AD or security deal with any problem.
6. Encourage them to communicate with coaches and players, but not to attempt to become friends with players.
7. Utilize a postgame ratings checklist.

## E. PREGAME SPORTSMANSHIP SCRIPTS AND HANDSHAKE PROCEDURES

1. It's important that athletes are on the field before most sportsmanship activities take place.
2. Facilitate a handshake before the National Anthem. Involve more than captains shaking hands; spectators need to see the spirit of sportsmanship.
3. Football kickoff teams meet after anthem with officials.
4. Coaches should shake hands publicly before the game.
5. **Player reads:** "We, as athletes, pledge to play to the best of our abilities tonight. Above all, we will exhibit sportsmanship that represents our community in a favorable way. Please, as parents and loyal spectators, recognize and embrace this same spirit of fair play as you cheer for your favorite team."

OR

"On behalf of the athletes of both schools, we welcome all fans to tonight's contest. P1 - "I, (name), as quarterback for (team) plan to throw only complete passes." P2 - "I, (name), as a defensive back for (other school) plan to do everything in my power to prevent him from doing that." P1 - "Although we are opponents on the field tonight, and we both really want to win this game, we plan to do so in the spirit of fair play." P2 - "Please support us in our efforts. We may not always succeed in what we're trying to do, but when we hear praise when we succeed, we are more likely to do it again." P1 - "Try not to be critical of us or our teammates; we are all trying to do the best we can. We need to know that you support us in what we are trying to do."

6. **Parent reads:** "As a parent of a student-athlete, I'd like to welcome you here tonight and wish you good luck as you cheer for your favorite team. Please keep in mind that this contest is simply an extension of the academic classroom. Not only do I expect my child and his/her teammates to try their hardest, but I expect them to play fair and by the rules. I would also like to ask that all spectators keep the positive spirit intended for high school athletics in mind. Keep your cheers positive and refrain from criticizing officials, coaches and the participants, and recognize good performances by members of either team. Let us, as spectators, present ourselves as positive role models for the youth who are looking to us for leadership."

OR

"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, my son/daughter is # \_\_\_\_\_, and he/she is playing in tonight's game. I would like to remind everybody that these children have worked very hard for this day. I think that it is only fitting that we, as fans, demonstrate good sportsmanship and embrace the true spirit of high school athletics."

7. **Student reads:** "Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a student-athlete at \_\_\_\_\_ High School. On behalf of the student body, I would like to thank you for attending tonight's game. Please be reminded that none of the players on the (field), or the coaches or the officials are professionals. They are human beings who are trying to do their very best. Please respect their efforts by practicing good sportsmanship and embracing the true spirit of high school athletics."
8. **Community leader reads:** "The fee paid to gain admission to this high school event does not entitle you to:
  - a. berate officials;
  - b. question the coach;
  - c. make negative comments toward either team;
  - d. display inappropriate behavior.

The playing field is an extension of the classroom. Please practice good sportsmanship.

## **F. PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH UNRULY SPECTATORS**

1. Timing is critical: get to problems quickly.
2. Use halftime or postgame. Tell a person, "I thought you were getting a little carried away today" and "Try to look at our sportsmanship expectations."
3. When to go into the stands:
  - a. For abuse or foul language.
  - b. For throwing objects.
  - c. For obstruction of view.
  - d. When a spectator is ignoring the requests of others.
  - e. When game management has been informed by the official that a spectator needs to settle down or be asked to leave.
  - f. Use less crowded, less emotional lower level games as an educational opportunity to teach in the stands.
4. Sit next to them and explain their options:
  - a. Stop the behavior.
  - b. Final step is being escorted out by security.
5. At that stage, say: "I need to see you in the hallway for a few minutes." Talk with them out of the public eye.
6. If that's unsuccessful, say: "I'm going to ask you to leave, and if you don't, we may be asking you not to return for the rest of the season."

## **G. FOLLOW UP WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT**

1. Use a form letter for some situations.
2. For others, meet individually with the person to talk about the situation, philosophy of program, etc.
3. Talk to them in a nonthreatening, positive way.
4. Discuss other ways the spectator might have handled his/her disappointment or frustration.
5. Have an established procedure involving the principal and/or superintendent for problems that are severe, chronic or unresolved after the initial letter and/or meeting.
6. Write a newsletter article to explain philosophies, policies and procedures.

# Parents must attend sportsmanship lecture

The requirement in the New Albany-Plain district was prompted by incidents at athletic events last year.

By Donna Glenn

Dispatch Schools Reporter

After parents turned ugly at New Albany High School sporting events last year, district administrators decided to curtail abusive behavior by sidelining the athletes.

Beginning this fall, children can't play school sports unless their parents sign an agreement to act properly at school events.

"We had a couple of situations last year, but we haven't had any real problems here," said Max Ness, New Albany-Plain athletics director.

Last year, some New Albany teams disagreed with referees' calls, he said, and some school supporters went beyond friendly competitive rooting and harassed coaches and referees.

"We just want to be sure everyone in our community knows the proper conduct at school events."

Before signing the agreement, Ness said, all parents, players and coaches in the 2,400-student district must attend a 90-minute lecture on sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.

Although a number of districts in other states make parents promise in writing that they will act like ladies and gentlemen at sporting events, New Albany's program is believed to be a first in Ohio.

"Their approach is unique, and it's far-reaching," said Duane Warns, chairman of the sportsmanship, ethics and integrity committee of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

The first lecture, held in late August and featuring Joe Daniels, an assistant football coach at Ohio State University and a resident of the New Albany-Plain district, was videotaped and is being replayed for makeup sessions.

Children play sports to have fun, improve their skills, be with their friends, make new friends and win, Daniels told the group.

"Parents need to talk to their children about what the child wants out of the sport, not what the parent wants."

Nationwide, violence, rage and just plain bad manners have grown to crisis proportions at school and community youth-sports contests, said Fred Engh, president of the National Alliance for Youth Sports in West Palm Beach, Fla., and author of *Why Johnny Hates Sports*.

"The No. question I'm asked is, 'Why do parents behave the way they do?' And my answer is, 'because nobody told them they couldn't act that way.'"

And because children copy their parents' behavior, adult sports fans are grooming another generation of ill-mannered spectators, he said.

## Do's and don'ts for parents

- Encourage children to participate in sports, but don't force them.
- Help your children set goals, not goals to win but things they can control through hard work.
- Discipline your child but not by jumping up and down or screaming. Learning cannot take place without discipline.
- Be a role model. Telling children to do as you say, not as you do, sends mixed messages.
- Help your children build self-esteem. That's a parent's most difficult task.
- Be conscious of your conduct in the stands.
- Don't coach your children during the contest. If you want to talk about something specifically, do it at home.
- Don't disagree publicly with the coach's lineup decision. Coaches play the students they think are the best for the situation. If you have a concern, discuss it with the coach later.
- Coaches must stress to their players the relationship between sportsmanship and success.
- Don't forget to have fun.

Source: Joe Daniels, Ohio State University assistant football coach.

Among the incidents in Ohio last school year:

■ A year ago, a father in Rocky River in northeastern Ohio punched his son's soccer opponent because he thought the player was too aggressive.

■ In February, a high-school soccer goalie in northern Ohio suffered a broken cheekbone when an opponent deliberately kicked him.

Pete Liptrap, head boys basketball coach at Pickerington High School, thinks some of the problem can be traced to a broader range of sports offered to children at increasingly younger ages.

Parents, not trained coaches, typically oversee the younger teams, and they're unwilling to step away when their children join school competitions, Liptrap said.

“Today when a kid joins a team, the parent acts like they come together as a package deal.”

Competition for scholarships is likely another factor. Parents pressure coaches to win and their children to excel, thinking they’ll earn scholarships that will defray college costs and give the parents boasting rights.

“Today’s parent is motivated by ego and greed,” Engh said.

The reality, Warns said, is that less than 1 percent of the 250,000 Ohio students in sports receive college scholarships and less than 5 percent of all Ohio student-athletes participate at the college level.

“Some parents today are living through the accomplishments of their children,” Warns said. “I think that increases the pressure that their children feel.”

Shortages in both coaching and refereeing have a lot to do with poor sportsmanship in the stands and on the field or court, Ness said.

“People aren’t eager to volunteer to be abused.”

About half the school sports community attended New Albany’s first seminar, he said.

On Wednesday, 80 parents and students attended, and a third session is set for Sept. 19. A session will be held in December for families new to the district.

Parents leaving Wednesday’s makeup session appeared to support the district’s approach.

“I think just the idea that we talk about it at the beginning of the year gives the message that it’s important to this community,” said Gary Serelson, whose 15-year-old son, Shaun, is a freshman on the golf team.

It’s not a problem here. What this meeting can do is prevent some negative thing from happening.”

### **FAIR PLAY CODE/PLEDGE FOR ATHLETES**

1. I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules, and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper — fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everybody.
4. I will respect my opponents.
5. I will do my best to try to be a true team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything — that having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays/performances — those of my team and of my opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

### **FAIR PLAY CODE/PLEDGE FOR COACHES**

1. I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.
2. I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
3. I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support and opportunities.
4. I will not ridicule or yell at my athletes for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
5. I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athlete's ages and abilities.
6. I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
7. I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.

### **FAIR PLAY CODE/PLEDGE FOR OFFICIALS**

1. I will make sure that every athlete has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability, within the limits of the rules.
2. I will avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the athletes.
3. I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
4. I will not permit the intimidation of any athlete either by word or by action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward officials, athletes, spectators or myself.
5. I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings toward a team or individual athlete.
6. I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.
7. I accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
8. I will be open to discussion and contact with the athletes before and after the game.
9. I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.
10. I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my officiating skills.

## **FAIR PLAY CODE/PLEDGE FOR LEAGUE ORGANIZERS**

1. I will do my best to see that all children are given the same chance to participate, regardless of gender, ability, ethnic background.
2. I will absolutely discourage any sport program from becoming primarily an entertainment for the spectators.
3. I will make sure that all equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
4. I will make sure that the age and maturity levels of the children are considered in program development, rule enforcement and scheduling.
5. I will remember that play is done for its own sake and make sure that winning is kept in proper perspective.
6. I will distribute the fair play codes to spectators, coaches, athletes, officials, parents and media.
7. I will make sure that coaches and officials are capable of promoting fair play as well as the development of good technical skills, and I will encourage them to become certified.

## **FAIR PLAY CODE/PLEDGE FOR PARENTS**

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that my child plays sport for his or her enjoyment, not for mine.
3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
4. I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game/event.
5. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
7. I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
8. I will never question the official's judgment or honesty in public.
9. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting events.
10. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child.

## **FAIR PLAY CODE/PLEDGE FOR SPECTATORS**

1. I will remember that children play sport for THEIR enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me.
2. I will not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that child athletes are not miniature professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
3. I will respect the official's decisions and I will encourage participants to do the same.
4. I will never ridicule an athlete for making a mistake during a competition. I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
5. I will condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in an appropriate manner to coaches and league officials.
6. I will show respect for my team's opponents, because without them there would be no game.
7. I will not use bad language, nor will I harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.

## **FAIR PLAY CODE/PLEDGE FOR MEDIA**

When I cover games . . .

1. I will not judge or depict children as miniature professionals. I will respect sport programs for adults differently from those for children.
2. I will feature children who have demonstrated outstanding examples of fair play. I recognize that these children are deserving of coverage and are of as much interest to my readers as those who score points.
3. I will keep isolated incidents of unfair play in their proper perspective — neither ignoring nor glorifying them for shock or entertainment value.
4. I will give equal coverage to girls and boys and will endeavor to help the public understand the importance of this equal coverage.
5. I will remember that children in organized sports often face a lot of pressure to meet unrealistic expectations. I will promote discussion of this and other fair play issues in order to raise awareness and protect children's rights.

**OHSAA SAMPLE PLEDGES — FEEL FREE TO USE THESE  
OR YOU MAY DESIGN YOUR OWN**

**Coaches' Pledge**

As a school coach, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I know that the principles of good sportsmanship are integrity, fairness, and respect. While teaching the skills of the game, I must also teach student athletes how to win and how to lose graciously, and that sports are meant to be educational and fun. I know the behavior expectations of me by this school, this conference, and the OHSAA, and I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of ethical behavior, integrity, and good citizenship.

---

Coach

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Date

**Student-Athlete Pledge**

As a student-athlete, I know I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of my school, my conference, and the OHSAA, and I hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student-athlete.

---

Student-Athlete

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Date

**Student-Athlete's Parent Pledge**

As a parent, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics are an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, officials, and support groups. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and that good sportsmanship is expected by our school, our conference and the OHSAA. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent of a student-athlete.

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Parent(s)

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Date

## SAMPLE STUDENT-ATHLETE PARENT PLEDGE

Young people need to know that integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through good sportsmanship and athletics. Parents can help set an example by taking this pledge to exhibit good sportsmanship.

### Why Do We Need Good Sportsmanship?

- We need to prevent violent actions towards officials, opponents and other spectators which are becoming commonplace in today's society and sports
- To decrease the emphasis on just winning or losing an athletic event
- To promote ethics, respect and integrity in all walks of life
- To promote the ideal of intrinsic rewards of athletics
- To learn the attitudes necessary for responsible behavior

### Parents Agree to:

- Be a proper role model for our student-athletes.
- Inform our student-athletes that we have taken the pledge and why.
- Give our kids solid information about proper conduct and behavior while participating or viewing an athletic event.
- Be clear and firm about rules concerning our conduct and behavior while viewing and while participating in an athletic event.
- Remember that we are at a contest to support and yell for our team and enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events whose behavior is unbecoming.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.

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### THE PARENT PLEDGE

As a parent, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics are an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, officials, and support groups. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and that good sportsmanship is expected by our school, our conference and the OHSAA. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent of a student-athlete.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAMPLE PARENT PLEDGE

In the **Your League**, an annual pledge program has been developed involving parents. Everyone who **“takes the pledge”** will have their name listed in a school publication.

Young people need to know that integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics, and these are the principles of good sportsmanship.

### Why Do We Need Good Sportsmanship?

- We need to prevent violent actions towards officials, opponents and other spectators which are becoming commonplace in today’s society and sports
- To decrease the emphasis on just winning or losing an athletic event
- To promote ethics, respect and integrity in all walks of life
- To promote the ideal of intrinsic rewards of athletics
- To learn the attitudes necessary for responsible behavior

Parents can help make proper behavior choices while viewing their children’s athletic events.

### Parents Who Pledge Agree:

- We will be a proper role model for our student-athletes.
- We will inform our student-athletes that we have taken the pledge and why.
- We will give our kids solid information about proper conduct and behavior while participating or viewing an athletic event.
- We will be clear and firm about rules concerning our conduct and behavior while viewing and while participating in an athletic event.

### Take The Pledge If You . . .

- Have a child.
- Want the reassurance of having your children practice good sportsmanship.
- Want to support all people who need to feel **OK** about being good sports.

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## THE PARENT PLEDGE

**I (WE) will not allow poor sportsmanship from our families.**

**I (WE) will encourage ALL athletes to be the “BEST” at all times.**

**I (WE) will applaud acts of sportsmanship whether from our team or our opponent.**

**I (WE) will praise all “GREAT” plays, whether by our team or our opponent.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

New Pledge

Renewal Pledge

Please feel free to publish my name along with other parents who support  
“The Parent Pledge” \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

## SAMPLE COACHES' PLEDGE

Young people need to know that integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through good sportsmanship and athletics. Coaches can help set an example by taking this pledge to exhibit good sportsmanship.

### Why Do We Need Good Sportsmanship?

- We need to prevent violent actions towards officials, opponents and other spectators which are becoming commonplace in today's society and sports
- To decrease the emphasis on just winning or losing an athletic event
- To promote ethics, respect and integrity in all walks of life
- To promote the ideal of intrinsic rewards of athletics
- To learn the attitudes necessary for responsible behavior

### Coaches Agree to:

- Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards.
- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow — please refrain from arguments in front of players as spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing or talking about; no throwing of any object in disgust. Shake hands with the officials and the opposing coaches talking before and after the contest in full view of the public.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote athletics and the student-athlete. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of all people at the event.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting/talking with the media. Please confine your remarks to game statistics and to the performance of your team.
- Teach sportsmanship and reward your players that are good sports.
- Be no party to the use of profanity or obscene language, or improper actions.
- Describe and define respectful and disrespectful behavior. Stress that disrespectful behavior, especially taunting, trash talking and intimidation, will not be tolerated.
- Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the No. 1 priority.

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### THE COACHES' PLEDGE

As a school coach, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I know that the principles of good sportsmanship are integrity, fairness, and respect. While teaching the skills of the game, I must also teach student-athletes how to win and how to lose graciously, and that sports are meant to be educational and fun. I know the behavior expectations of me by this school, this conference, and the OHSAA, and I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of ethical behavior, integrity, and good citizenship.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAMPLE STUDENT-ATHLETE PLEDGE

Young people need to know that integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through good sportsmanship and athletics. Student-athletes can help set an example by taking this pledge to exhibit good sportsmanship.

### Why Do We Need Good Sportsmanship?

- We need to prevent violent actions towards officials, opponents and other spectators which are becoming commonplace in today's society and sports
- To decrease the emphasis on just winning or losing an athletic event
- To promote ethics, respect and integrity in all walks of life
- To promote the ideal of intrinsic rewards of athletics
- To learn the attitudes necessary for responsible behavior

### Student-Athletes Agree to:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing the school and the community.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist them in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport? Never direct remarks at opponents in a taunting manner.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgement of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
- Live up to the standard of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Refrain from taunting, trash talking or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
- Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid **excessive** celebrating after a play or end of game.

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### STUDENT-ATHLETE PLEDGE

As a student-athlete, I know I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of my school, our conference, and the OHSAA, and I hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing **Your School** and community as a student-athlete.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SAMPLE STUDENT-PEP GROUP PLEDGE**

Young people need to know that integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through good sportsmanship and athletics. Student-Pep group members can help set an example by taking this pledge to exhibit good sportsmanship.

### **Why Do We Need Good Sportsmanship?**

- We need to prevent violent actions towards officials, opponents and other spectators which are becoming commonplace in today's society and sports
- To decrease the emphasis on just winning or losing an athletic event
- To promote ethics, respect and integrity in all walks of life
- To promote the ideal of intrinsic rewards of athletics
- To learn the attitudes necessary for responsible behavior

### **Student-Pep Groups Pledge to:**

- Establish themselves as leaders in their conduct before, during and after contests and events. Always provide positive support.
- Assist cheerleaders with yells, chants, etc., and be a working part of pep assemblies with preparation, organization, and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups with respect and enthusiasm.
- Conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. Remember, you represent your school both home and away.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of your group, your team and the community, in the eyes of all people at the event.
- Only use positive cheers in support of your team.
- Work within the guidelines established by the administration and cooperatively contribute to the coach's efforts whenever possible.

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### **THE STUDENT-PEP GROUP PLEDGE**

As a Student-Pep Group Member, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the student-athlete. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, and other support groups. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected by our school, our conference and the OHSAA. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being a member of the Student-Pep Group.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

## **THE PARENT SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGE**

I will cheer for all good plays or players whether by/for an opponent of **Your School** athlete.

I will not direct profanity or cursing toward officials, players, or coaches.

I will respect the abilities and sensitivities of our opponent, the officials, and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.

I will accept responsibility for all my actions.

I will learn the rules of the game, so that I may understand and appreciate participants' actions during a contest.

### **Tips for Parents**

Tell your kids you have made the pledge and why. Explain why it is important to be a good sport.

Communicate openly with your kids about being a good sport. Provide solid information and clear rules to follow.

Support officials' and coaches' decisions regarding game conduct and encourage appropriate measures in dealing with offenders.

Remember that appropriate and consistent discipline indicates love and concern.

Be a role model. You can set an example for your kids.

## **PROMOTING SPORTSMANSHIP IN OUR SCHOOL OR LEAGUE**

1. Be polite to officials
2. Control temper
3. Be respectful to players and officials
4. Forgive and forget
5. Respect all school property
6. Don't throw objects
7. Try your hardest
8. Obey other schools' rules
9. All clubs combine to promote sportsmanship
10. Have a pep rally to promote sportsmanship
11. Structure cheers and chants more towards supporting your teams, instead of putting down opposing teams
12. Promote pride
13. Talk up your school instead of putting it down
14. Motivate all fans to cheer
15. Put commandments in a sports program/bulletin
16. Reward for best sportsmanship
17. Read sportsmanship commandments over the morning announcements
18. Start a Spirit Club
19. School dances
20. Talk with parents and peers about sportsmanship
21. Get to know the coaches
22. Become active in school activities

## **SPORTSMANSHIP: 10 WAYS TO GET IT GOING IN YOUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY**

1. Develop a Code of Good Sportsmanship and print a copy of it in event programs, on signs, banners and posters.
2. Review the Code of Good Sportsmanship with the student body, coaches, teams, and cheerleaders.
3. Begin a column or Sportsmanship Hall of Fame in your school newspaper that identifies and recognizes groups and/or individuals who demonstrate good sportsmanship.
4. Send a letter to the visiting team's principal, athletic director, coach, and cheerleading squad welcoming them to your school.
5. Prepare and give to adult fans a sheet stating the following: "The (name of school) High School student body extends an invitation to our adult fans to help us in demonstrating good sportsmanship."
6. Have your school's cheerleaders perform a special welcome cheer for the cheerleaders of the visiting team.
7. Post "Welcome" signs in each team's locker room.
8. Have the P.A. announcer welcome guests and request the home team's fans to stand and applaud when guests are introduced.
9. Organize a good sportsmanship board or committee to create good feelings between the two schools and communities.
10. Use pregame announcements to help promote good sportsmanship throughout the contest.

# THE HOMEROOM PRESENTATION ON SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR AND SPORTSMANSHIP

## **Purpose of the Presentation**

The purpose is to make students aware that:

- The unacceptable behavior witnessed at various sporting events at all levels must be altered.
- Concern over unacceptable fan behavior is shared by the superintendent, board of education, teachers, parents and many students.
- Afterschool programs are an extension of the regular school day with all school rules and regulations in effect.
- The school's reputation should not be placed in jeopardy because of unsportsmanlike behavior.
- School administrators are present to inform all students of the school's expectations of spectators at all future afterschool events.

## **What is Expected in General**

- Students in attendance at afterschool events are expected to have fun by demonstrating positive enthusiasm without causing harm, danger or embarrassment to others or to the school.
- Students are to follow all rules that are in effect during the school day at afterschool events. (Use of controlled substances, swearing, fighting, etc.)
- Students are to demonstrate common sense—respect toward fellow students, opponents, players, coaches and officials.
- Students are to police their own ranks and demand proper behavior from fellow students. One's individual behavior can affect the total group.
- Students are expected to demonstrate respect and pride for the school.

## **What is Specifically Expected**

- During the National Anthem, students are to face the flag, not to talk, listen to the public address announcer for instructions to sing or not, and to remain still until the end of the anthem.
- Proper language is to be used. No swearing or language which is offensive to others will be tolerated. High school events are a family activity. Individuals and group vulgarity is unacceptable, as is verbal harassment and booing of players, coaches and officials.
- Obscene gestures are unacceptable.
- Dangerous and boisterous behavior, such as pushing, shoving or fighting and passing of students, is not acceptable.
- The throwing of objects, even toilet paper, at fellow spectators, band members, cheerleaders, officials, players, or onto the playing surface is unacceptable, and could result in an injury or the team being penalized by the game official.
- Respect is the key to good sportsmanship. Opponents should be respected. They are not enemies, but fellow teenagers who happen to attend other schools.
- Acknowledge good plays by both teams.
- Be concerned with anyone who is injured. Give concerned applause when an injured athlete is aided from the field.
- Work together with cheerleaders for positive chants and avoid obscene, degrading or elitist cheers—when you participate in an elitist cheer, you give support to an elitist image.
- At halftime, watch any performance or presentation if possible, acknowledge the hard work, preparation and performance of those involved, and do not in any way detract from the performance.
- After the game, do not tease or belittle the opponent in any way and be pleasant and gracious to everyone.

## **What the School Wants Most**

- A large student turnout at events
- Exemplary sportsmanship from players and fans
- To be proud of its teams and fans at contests

## SAMPLE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR USE AT HOME ATHLETIC CONTEST

GOOD EVENING (name of school) WELCOMES YOU TO (name of stadium/gymnasium) FOR TONIGHT'S GAME. WE REMIND YOU THAT INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS ARE AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM, AND THAT LESSONS ARE BEST LEARNED WHEN THE PROPER RESPECT IS ACCORDED TO ALL. PLEASE, LET YOUR GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP SHOW DURING THE GAME, AND NOW LET'S MEET THE STARTING LINEUPS.

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GOOD EVENING (name of school) WELCOMES YOU TO (name of stadium/gymnasium) FOR TONIGHT'S GAME. ONE OF THE GOALS OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS IS LEARNING LIFETIME VALUES. SPORTSMANSHIP IS ONE SUCH VALUE THAT MAKES THESE GAMES AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. REMEMBER TO SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! AND NOW LET'S MEET THE STARTING LINEUPS . . .

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**(For use during breaks in the action)**

ADMISSION TO AN INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENT IS A PRIVILEGE, AND WITH THAT PRIVILEGE COMES RESPONSIBILITY — RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT ONESELF IN A MANNER WHERE THE GAME IS ENJOYABLE FOR OTHER FANS AND PARTICIPANTS. (name of school) REMINDS YOU THAT GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS FOR EVERYONE ON THE COURT AND IN THE STANDS.

**(Sportsmanship: Pregame Announcements)**

THIS GAME IS BEING PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. THESE RULES PROVIDE FOR FAIR COMPETITION AMONG PLAYERS. SPECTATORS CAN HELP PROMOTE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP ALSO BY OBSERVING THE RULE OF FAIR PLAY. EACH ONE IS REQUESTED TO TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEEPING THIS GAME AT A HIGH LEVEL OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU THIS EVENING TO (name of school) HIGH SCHOOL. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM. OUR ATHLETES RECOGNIZE THAT JUDGMENT CALLS ARE MADE IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT THEY MUST ABIDE BY THE DECISIONS OF THE OFFICIALS. SPECTATORS CAN SUPPORT THEIR HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC PROGRAM BY REFRAINING FROM DEROGATORY OR INTEMPERATE REMARKS OR CHEERS. WE HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THE GAME AND SUPPORT YOUR ATHLETES IN A POSITIVE AND SPORTSMANLIKE MANNER.

## SAMPLE CONFERENCE/LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

AT THIS TIME WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE MEMBERS OF THE \_\_\_\_\_CONFERENCE/LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEES. IN THE SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND A SYMBOL OF COMMITMENT, THESE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE DEDICATED THEIR TIME AND ENERGY TO PROMOTE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL OF OUR SPORTING EVENTS.

REPRESENTING \_\_\_\_\_HIGH SCHOOL ARE:

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REPRESENTING THE (nickname of home team):

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PLEASE JOIN US IN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE, AS WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE THESE STUDENT-ATHLETES IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.

THE \_\_\_\_\_CONFERENCE/LEAGUE DEVELOPED A SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE THAT HAS 4 OR 5 STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FROM EACH MEMBER SCHOOL. ONE OF OUR WAYS TO DEVELOP BETTER SPORTSMANSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOLS IS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON THE FIELD OR COURT TO SHAKE HANDS AND EXCHANGE SMALL GIFTS.

## SAMPLE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT

**GOOD EVENING, WE HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING THE GAME TONIGHT WITH OUR OWN (name of school and mascot). I AM** (Sportsmanship Committee Member), **ALONG WITH** (Sportsmanship Committee Member), (Sportsmanship Committee Member), **AND** (Sportsmanship Committee Member) **WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN BUCKEYE LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE.**

**SECOND SPEAKER:** SPORTSMANSHIP INVOLVES RESPECTING COACHES AND OPPONENTS WHILE FIERCELY COMPETING TO WIN. THE CONCEPT OF KNOCKING YOUR OPPONENT DOWN AND HELPING THEM BACK UP SHOULD BE EVIDENT.

**THIRD SPEAKER:** EVERYONE PARTICIPATING, INCLUDING COACHES AND FANS SHOULD MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. THE CROWD IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE GAME AND SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE PLAYERS THROUGH POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT.

**FOURTH SPEAKER:** AS SPORTSMANSHIP MEMBERS WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT CHAMPIONING A LESSENING OF SINCERE, RESPECTFUL, AND SPONTANEOUS ENTHUSIASM IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES, BUT ARE CALLING FOR AN ADHERENCE TO SPORTSMANSHIP WHICH IN TURN WILL LEAD TO OTHER POSITIVE RESULTS. SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE ETHICS AND INTEGRITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE TEAM.

## **SAMPLE SPORTSMANSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

WELCOME TO (Home team) HIGH SCHOOL. (Home team) RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, BUT IT'S ONLY WHEN WE PLAY THE GAME AND SUPPORT THE TEAMS WITH WORTHY INTENTIONS THAT WE ACHIEVE THESE VALUES. PARTICIPANTS AND RESPONSIBLE FANS ALIKE ARE EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE A HIGH LEVEL OF SPORTSMANSHIP. SO, WE ASK EACH OF YOU TO SUPPORT US IN CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS PRACTICED. "YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE."

(Home team) AND (opponent) ARE BOTH COMMITTED TO PRACTICING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. ALL WHO ARE PART OF THIS GAME ARE EXPECTED TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN A MANNER THAT SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS. WE'RE COUNTING ON YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE SPORTSMANSHIP YOUR #1 PRIORITY TONIGHT/TODAY AND EVERY GAME.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY, NOT JUST THE COACHES AND PLAYERS. EACH OF US HAS AN EFFECT ON CREATING THE GAME'S ENVIRONMENT. MAKE SURE YOU SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR THOSE AROUND YOU.

THE COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD OF THEIR TEAMS PLAYING HERE TONIGHT/TODAY. MAY BOTH THE WINNER AND LOSER REPRESENT THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL AS CHAMPIONS. REMEMBER: SPORTSMANSHIP BY COOL HEADS IS THE MARK OF A TRUE CHAMPION. THIS IS WHAT ATHLETICS IS ALL ABOUT.

## **SAMPLE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR USE AT HOME EVENTS**

1. GOOD EVENING. (Name of school) WELCOMES YOU TO (name of stadium/field/gymnasium) FOR TONIGHT'S GAME. WE REMIND YOU THAT INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS ARE AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM, AND THAT LESSONS ARE BEST LEARNED WHEN THE PROPER RESPECT IS ACCORDED TO ALL. PLEASE, LET YOUR GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP SHOW DURING THE GAME. AND NOW LET'S MEET THE STARTING LINEUPS . . .
2. GOOD EVENING. (Name of school) WELCOMES YOU TO (name of school) FOR TONIGHT'S GAME. ONE OF THE GOALS OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS IS LEARNING LIFETIME VALUES. SPORTSMANSHIP IS ONE SUCH VALUE THAT MAKES THESE GAMES AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. REMEMBER TO SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! AND NOW LET'S MEET THE STARTING LINEUPS . . .

### **(After lineups are introduced—introduce officials)**

3. THE OFFICIALS FOR TONIGHT'S GAME ARE (name of official), AND (name of official). THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE REGISTERED BY THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. THEIR EXPERIENCE AND INTEGRITY QUALIFY THEM TO ADMINISTER THE RULES OF THE GAME. AN ATTITUDE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP SHOULD BE UPHOLD BY ALL SPECTATORS, PLAYERS AND COACHES, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR PERSONAL FEELINGS OR LOYALTIES MAY BE IN THIS CONTEST.

### **(For use during breaks in the action)**

4. ADMISSION TO AN INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENT IS A PRIVILEGE, AND WITH THAT PRIVILEGE COMES RESPONSIBILITY — RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT ONESELF IN A MANNER WHERE THE GAME IS ENJOYABLE FOR OTHER FANS AND PARTICIPANTS. (Name of school) REMINDS YOU TO SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! — ON THE COURT/FIELD AND IN THE STANDS.
5. WE OFTEN TAKE A TEMPER-TANTRUM BY AN ATHLETE OR COACH ON TELEVISION FOR GRANTED. THIS ACT OF POOR SPORTSMANSHIP OVERSHADOWS THE GAME BECAUSE IT SETS A LOSING EXAMPLE. (Name of school) REMINDS YOU TO SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! — ON THE COURT/FIELD AND IN THE STANDS.

### **Sportsmanship: Pregame Announcements**

6. THIS GAME IS BEING PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION. THESE RULES PROVIDE FOR FAIR COMPETITION AMONG PLAYERS. SPECTATORS CAN HELP PROMOTE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP ALSO BY OBSERVING THE RULES OF FAIR PLAY. EACH ONE IS REQUESTED TO TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEEPING THIS GAME AT A HIGH LEVEL OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.

7. WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU THIS EVENING TO (name of school) HIGH SCHOOL. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM. OUR ATHLETES RECOGNIZE THAT JUDGMENT CALLS ARE MADE IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT THEY MUST ABIDE BY THE DECISIONS OF THE OFFICIALS. SPECTATORS CAN SUPPORT THEIR HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM BY REFRAINING FROM DEROGATORY OR INTEMPERATE REMARKS OR CHEERS. WE HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THE GAME AND SUPPORT YOUR ATHLETES IN A POSITIVE AND SPORTSMANLIKE MANNER.

### **Sample Public Service Announcements to be Sent to Radio and Television Stations**

8. WHEN (name of school) SPONSORS AN ATHLETIC EVENT, IT CONSIDERS THAT HAPPENING TO BE AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM, WITH THE LESSONS TO BE LEARNED AS IMPORTANT AS THOSE COMING OUT OF A TEXTBOOK. AMONG THOSE LESSONS IS GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, A COURSE WHICH WILL SERVE EVERYONE WELL IN THE GAME OF LIFE. REMEMBER, SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school) AND (your station's call letters).
9. WHERE WOULD THE ROOTS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP BEST BE TRACED? IT ALL STARTS WITH THE SIMPLE WORD "RESPECT." RESPECT FOR AN OPPONENT, SPECTATORS, COACHES, AND THE GAME OFFICIALS. RESPECT RESULTS IN GOOD SPORTS. SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! REMEMBER TO DISPLAY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND AN ATHLETIC EVENT. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school) AND (your station's call letters).
10. WE ARE CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO THE EXAMPLES OF POOR SPORTSMANSHIP. THAT IS WHY (name of school) HAS JOINED A STATEWIDE EFFORT TO PROMOTE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IN OUR SCHOOLS CALLED "SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE!" GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP STRESSES THE POSITIVE VALUES SO IMPORTANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR LEADERS OF TOMORROW. YOU CAN SET A GOOD EXAMPLE BY DISPLAYING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND AN ATHLETIC EVENT. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school) AND (your station's call letters).
11. THE SUMMER SIGNALS THE END OF ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. BUT IT DOESN'T CALL FOR AN END TO GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. DISPLAYING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AFTER THE SCHOOL YEAR HAS ENDED, BECAUSE IT MEANS A VALUABLE LESSON HAS BEEN LEARNED WHILE PARTICIPATING IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS. SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! — AND WORK TOGETHER FOR IT YEAR-ROUND. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school) AND (your station's call letters).

12. ROLE MODELS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. YOU CAN SERVE AS A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHERS THE NEXT TIME YOU DISPLAY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT AN ATHLETIC EVENT. IT'S THE KIND OF POSITIVE VALUES PORTRAYED BY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP THAT EVERYONE APPRECIATES. SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school) AND (your station's call letters).
13. DON'T EVER CONFUSE A GOOD SPORT WITH THE NICE GUYS WHO SUPPOSEDLY FINISH LAST. SPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AN ATHLETE'S OR SPECTATOR'S COMPETITIVE SPIRIT. AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, A DISPLAY OF POOR SPORTSMANSHIP LEADS TO A LOSING PERFORMANCE. SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE, REGARDLESS OF THE FINAL SCORE. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school) AND (your station's call letters).
14. IN OUR SOCIETY, WINNING HAS COME BEFORE EVERYTHING. BUT IF WINNING COMES AT THE EXPENSE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, THEN NOTHING IS GAINED IN THE LONG RUN. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE RESULT OF A DISCIPLINED EFFORT TO RESPECT YOURSELF, YOUR OPPONENTS AND TO PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE. SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE! A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school) AND (your station's call letters).

## **SAMPLE RADIO AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SPORTSMANSHIP**

1. ROLE MODELS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER IN TODAY’S SOCIETY. YOU CAN SERVE AS A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHERS THE NEXT TIME YOU DISPLAY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT A HIGH SCHOOL EVENT. GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS, SO THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND A SCHOOL EVENT, REMEMBER TO BE A GOOD SPORT AND ACT IN A PROPER MANNER. EVERYONE APPRECIATES THE GOOD VALUES PORTRAYED BY ACTS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
2. IN OUR SOCIETY, WINNING HAS COME TO MEAN EVERYTHING. HOWEVER, IF WINNING COMES AT THE EXPENSE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, EVERYONE IS A LOSER. NOTHING IS GAINED IN THE LONG RUN. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE RESULT OF A DISCIPLINED EFFORT TO RESPECT YOURSELF, YOUR OPPONENTS AND CONTEST OFFICIALS. REMEMBER, GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS, SO BE A GOOD SPORT AND PRACTICE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
3. DON’T EVER CONFUSE A GOOD SPORT WITH THE NICE GUYS WHO SUPPOSEDLY FINISH LAST. SPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH A CONTESTANT’S OR SPECTATOR’S COMPETITIVE SPIRIT, AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, A DISPLAY OF POOR SPORTSMANSHIP LEADS TO A LOSING PERFORMANCE. GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS, REGARDLESS OF THE FINAL SCORE. REMEMBER TO “BE A SPORT” AND PRACTICE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
4. YOUR TICKET TO AN INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENT IS A PRIVILEGE, A PRIVILEGE TO WATCH YOUNGSTERS LEARN ON THE PLAYING FIELD/COURT. A LESSON TAUGHT TO THE CONTESTANTS IS ONE SPECTATORS CAN FOLLOW AS WELL — THAT OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. UNRULY BEHAVIOR IS UNACCEPTABLE IN THE CLASSROOM, AND THE PLAYING FIELD/COURT IS A CLASSROOM. REMEMBER TO “BE A SPORT” THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND AN ATHLETIC EVENT. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
5. WINNING —THE NO. 1 SYNDROME — IS THE NO. 1 PROBLEM IN INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS. HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS ARE TRULY EDUCATIONAL IN NATURE, AND AMONG THE VALUES LEARNED ARE THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. BEING NO. 1 IN SPORTSMANSHIP IS EDUCATIONALLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING NO. 1 ON THE PLAYING FIELD/COURT. TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR TEAM BY DISPLAYING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).

6. THE SCORE OF ANY EVENT IS GENERALLY FORGOTTEN OVER TIME, BUT THE ACTIONS OF CONTESTANTS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS ARE REMEMBERED. THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND A HIGH SCHOOL EVENT, THINK OF HOW HISTORY WILL REMEMBER YOU. CHOOSE THE SIDE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP WHEN ATTENDING A HIGH SCHOOL EVENT. REMEMBER, GOOD SPORTS SHOW YOU HOW TO PLAY THE CONTEST. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
7. A POSITIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITY PROGRAMS. AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ENVIRONMENT IS PLANNING FOR GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. WITHOUT GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP THE LESSONS LEARNED LOSE THEIR VALUE. REMEMBER THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND AN INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST THAT YOU ARE REALLY INSIDE A CLASSROOM WHERE GOOD SPORTS RECEIVE THE HIGHEST GRADE. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
8. WHILE THE SCOREBOARD REVEALS THE WINNER OF A HIGH SCHOOL CONTEST, THE REAL WINNERS ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO TREAT COMPETITION AS A CONTEST AND NOT A WAR, THOSE WHO SHOW GENUINE CONCERN FOR AN INJURED CONTESTANT AND THOSE WHO ACCEPT ALL DECISIONS OF THE OFFICIALS. REMEMBER TO “BE A SPORT” WHEN YOU ATTEND A HIGH SCHOOL EVENT. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
9. ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND RESPECT ARE VALUES IMPORTANT IN OUR DAILY LIVES. ALL OF THESE IMPORTANT VALUES ARE LEARNED BY PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY PROGRAMS. DURING COMPETITION, THEY ARE TRANSLATED INTO ONE WORD — SPORTSMANSHIP. SPORTSMANSHIP IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST EDUCATIONAL LESSONS AND LIFETIME VALUES TAUGHT BY INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES. IT MAKES SENSE TO EXHIBIT GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
10. YELLING OR WAVING ARMS DURING AN OPPONENT’S FREE-THROW ATTEMPT, AS WELL AS BOOING AND HECKLING AN OFFICIAL’S DECISION, ARE EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR AT A HIGH SCHOOL SPORTING EVENT. GOOD SPORTS RESPECT THE OPPONENT AND OFFICIALS AT ALL TIMES. THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND A HIGH SCHOOL CONTEST, REMEMBER TO APPLAUD FOR THE PERFORMANCES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).

11. REMEMBER THAT A TICKET IS A PRIVILEGE TO OBSERVE A CONTEST AND SUPPORT HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, NOT A LICENSE TO VERBALLY ASSAULT OTHERS. THERE IS NO PLACE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES FOR NAME-CALLING TO DISTRACT AN OPPONENT OR THE USE OF PROFANITY FROM THE STANDS. SPORTSMANSHIP IS THE NO. 1 PRIORITY AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL, SO “BE A SPORT” THE NEXT TIME YOU WATCH A CONTEST. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
12. THE DICTIONARY DEFINES GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AS PLAYING FAIR AND BEING A GOOD WINNER OR LOSER. WE OFTEN FORGET THAT IT’S MORE IMPORTANT TO BE GRACIOUS IN VICTORY. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP GIVES US A STANDARD TO FOLLOW AT ALL TIMES. GOOD SPORTS ACT COURTEOUSLY AND MAINTAIN SELF-CONTROL IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. REMEMBER TO BE A FAN AND NOT A FANATIC WHEN WATCHING INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AND ACTIVITY PROGRAMS. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
13. A COACH ONCE WROTE, “WHEN WE LOSE WITHOUT EXCUSES AND WHEN WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BETTER TEAM, WE PLACE WINNING AND LOSING IN THEIR PROPER PERSPECTIVE. THAT’S WHEN WE FIND OUT IF WE CAN BE GOOD SPORTS.” SPORTSMANSHIP IS A GOAL TO STRIVE FOR AT ALL TIMES, IN ACTIVITIES IN OUR DAILY LIVES. REMEMBER TO ACT IN A PROPER MANNER THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND A HIGH SCHOOL EVENT. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
14. COACHES SHOULD SET A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR CONTESTANTS AND FANS, ALWAYS EXEMPLIFYING THE HIGHEST MORAL AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD TREAT OPPONENTS WITH RESPECT AND SHAKE HANDS PRIOR TO AND AFTER CONTESTS. FANS SHOULD BE FANS, NOT FANATICS. SPORTSMANSHIP. IT IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS AND FURTHER EXISTENCE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY PROGRAMS. REMEMBER TO BE A GOOD SPORT. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).
15. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS LEARNED, PRACTICED AND EXECUTED. RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT, SPECTATORS, COACHES AND OFFICIALS IS A MUST AT ALL LEVELS OF ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITY PROGRAMS. AT INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS, BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF EVERYONE SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY GENEROSITY AND GENUINE CONCERN FOR OTHERS. DISPLAY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND A HIGH SCHOOL EVENT. A PUBLIC-SERVICE MESSAGE FROM YOUR OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND (name of school).