


PROMOTING SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Greet and be courteous to opponents' coaches and players.
2. Know the rules of your sport; teach them to your team
 - Respect officials and their decisions.
 - Demand that your athletes abide by official's decisions without emotional display.
3. Compete vigorously and hard; be gracious to your opponent when he/she does the same.
4. Display concern for the physical well-being of our team and for the opponent.
5. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity.
6. Encourage your team to interact with the opponent. Provide opportunities for pregame and postgame interaction. Be helpful.
7. Offer your assistance and that of your staff and players to the opponent and officials.
8. Designate team hosts/hostesses for each home contest.
9. Do not accept unruly behavior. Set standards of conduct.
10. Maintain self-control.

Sportsmanship

**Is the
cooperation of
people as a unit
showing common
courtesy, patience,
pride, and
respect**



Sportsmanship Takes Teamwork!

Sportsmanship Characteristics

1. Golden Rule
2. Eat your pride
3. Don't have negative reactions
4. Do your best
5. Winning isn't everything
6. Try to have fun
7. Play of the game is only game
8. Can't antagonize fans
9. Welcome the opposition
10. Respect officials
11. Play by the rules, don't bend them
12. Applaud when injured player gets up
13. Congratulate opposing team—win or lose after the game
14. Help opponent up after fall
15. Tolerance
16. Respect
17. Leadership
18. Enthusiasm



19. Understanding
20. Controlled temper
21. Friendship
22. Politeness
23. Working together—teamwork
24. Pride
25. Patience
26. Motivation
27. Positive attitude—right mental attitude
28. Compromise
29. Spirit
30. Friendly rivalry
31. Control
32. Cooperation
33. Courteous
34. Responsibility (for actions)
35. Consideration for others
36. Complimenting

***Sportsmanship
Takes
Teamwork!***

Sportsmanship's
10 Commandments

1. “Golden Rule” — Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.
2. Enjoy yourself and promote enjoyment for others.
3. Be responsible for your actions.
4. Have an open mind to others’ weaknesses and have a forgiving attitude.
5. Have pride in one’s performance and one’s school.
6. Be a friend, not an enemy, and create a positive environment.
7. Encourage others to do or be their best.
8. Sportsmanship should be contagious.
9. Remember it is a privilege to participate.
10. Practice sportsmanship in all situations at all costs.

Sportsmanship Takes Teamwork!

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

This year the OHSAA and its member schools will be emphasizing the importance of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. The one thing we need to realize is that many people have not had GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP explained to them. Hopefully the following will help everyone to understand their responsibilities at an athletic contest.

1. GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RULES OF THE CONTEST.

The necessity to be well informed is essential. Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on the officials, coaches, or administrative decisions. The spirit of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP depends on conformance to a rules intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.

2. EXERCISE REPRESENTATIVE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES.

A prerequisite to GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP requires one to understand his/her own prejudices that may become a factor in his/her behavior. The true value of interscholastic competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior which is representative of a sound value base. A proper perspective must be maintained if the educational values are to be realized. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.

3. RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE SKILLED PERFORMANCES REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION.

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

4. EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS.

The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game. We should not rationalize our own poor or unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on an official. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the decision made. This value is critical for students to learn for later application in life.

5. DISPLAY OPENLY A RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.

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

6. DISPLAY PRIDE IN YOUR ACTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

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

Sport A Winning Attitude!!!

WHAT IS SPORTSMANSHIP?

Sportsmanship is . . .

Sportsmanship is a demonstration of generosity and genuine concern for others. It is a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.

Sportsmanship is blending of cheers for “your team” and applause for the “opponents,” observing the letter and spirit of the rules and showing consideration for others.

Sportsmanship is respect. Respect for others and for one’s self.

Sportsmanship is all this and much more.

For a coach, sportsmanship may be accepting a “questionable” call without protest.

For an athlete, it may be extending a helping hand to an opponent who is down.

For a spectator, it may be cheering for his team when it loses, and applauding the opponent when it wins.

For an official, it may be showing restraint when verbally assaulted by coaches, athletes and spectators.

Sportsmanship encompasses all that which is good in human nature.

Sportsmanship is citizenship in action.

Sportsmanship is the practice of playing fair, of taking defeat without complaint or victory without gloating and treating opponents with respect, generosity, courtesy, etc.

SPORTSMANSHIP TRAITS

Courage is having the determination to do the right thing even when others don't; the strength to exhibit fairness, to be courteous, to gracefully accept the result of the contest, to attempt difficult things that are worthwhile.

Good Judgment is choosing worthy goals; setting priorities in accordance with team, county, state and national rules; leading others to follow these rules.

Integrity is having the inner strength to be fair and courteous during athletic events, to play according to the rules, acting positively and honorably not only to your team, but to your opponent.

Kindness is being considerate, courteous, and generous in spirit to the opposing team; showing care, compassion and friendship in victory or defeat; treating others as you would like to be treated.

Perseverance is being persistent in pursuit of worthy objectives in spite of opposition, difficulty, injuries, handicaps or discouragement, and exhibiting patience and the fortitude to try again when confronted with mistakes or failures.

Respect is showing high regard for coaches, officials, opponents, fans, administrators, self, team, and the school you are representing.

Responsibility is being dependable in carrying out obligations and duties, showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct, and being accountable for your actions.

Self-discipline is demonstrating hard work and commitment to purpose, regulating yourself for improvement and refraining from inappropriate behaviors, maintaining self-control at all times, and doing your best in all situations.

Top Ten Reasons that Sportsmanship is for Everyone

10. Because taunting, trash talk and intimidating behavior have no place in high school sports — or any level of sports.
9. Your admission is to watch the performances of highly-impressionable 15 to 18-year-old kids — not a license to abuse coaches, officials, players and other spectators.
8. You want others to treat you the way you want to be treated — and how many of us want to be treated with disrespect?
7. We need more positive role models for our kids.
6. People don't always remember the final score — but they always remember the fan in Section Three who made a fool out of him or herself.
5. Because coaches and officials are also teachers. Why would you harass them in their classroom?
4. A national survey indicates kids play high school sports to have fun — not to be number one!
3. It's how you play the game that counts.
2. It's simply the right thing to do.
1. Because sportsmanship begins with you!

SPORTSMANSHIP FROM A TO Z

Accept and abide by the decisions of the contest officials.

Be a good host to opponents and treat them as guests.

Cooperate with the coach, players and cheerleaders in trying to promote good sportsmanship.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Encourage your players to play hard and fair.

Follow the rules of the contest at all times.

Good sportsmanship is the “Golden Rule” in action.

Hold assemblies before a contest to encourage students to display proper conduct.

Intervene to let others know the ethnic, disability or sexist jokes, racial or religious slurs, taunting, trash talk and intimidating behavior will not be tolerated at events sponsored at your school.

Judgment calls on the part of the officials are not subject to question or discussion.

Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.

Lose without excuses; win without boasting.

Model language and behavior that is non-biased and is inclusive of individuals regardless of ethnicity, race, sex or disability.

Never criticize players or coaches for the loss of a game.

Opposing coaches, participants, cheerleaders and fans must be respected at all times.

Provide opportunities for informing student and adult spectators of their responsibility to uphold the standards of sportsmanship.

Questioning an official’s call or making negative comments about an official is unacceptable behavior.

Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play.

Shake hands with opponents prior to the contest and wish them good sports.

Teach sportsmanship and demand that your players be good sports.

Use cheerleaders, pep groups, and other student leaders to help develop a sportsmanship programs.

Victory celebrations and unscheduled game rallies should not be permitted at events sponsored at your school.

Work cooperatively with officials and other contest personnel for an efficient contest.

eXercise self-control and be a good example for players and spectators.

Yelling, booing or heckling an official’s decision is unacceptable behavior.

Zero isn’t in sportsmanship — it’s priority
NUMBER ONE.

THE SEVEN CARDINAL VIRTUES OF SIDELINE BEHAVIOR

CHEER AND PRAISE Positive reinforcement will help your child's self-esteem and "elevate" their play. They want to believe in themselves and you can help them; there is simply no place for negative comments or criticism.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN! Don't yell out instructions to your child during the game. It is a distraction and your child probably cannot hear you anyway.

WALK AWAY if you feel the urge to yell at the referee, coach or player. Remember that we are looking to make the experience enjoyable for all children. Chances are, anything you say in the "heat of battle" will only embarrass you—or your child.

SMILE your child is having fun and wants to see you having fun, too! Kids always respond better to smiles than to scowls.

If you **BLAME**, soon comes **SHAME!** When your child's team loses a game, don't blame it on a bad call, a teammate's error or anything else. Your child needs to learn to accept (not defer) responsibility.

LOSE GRACIOUSLY! Everyone knows how to act after a victory. How you handle defeat is much more important; remember it is just a game. Your child needs to learn how to handle one of life's harshest realities—they will lose more than they win.

PRACTICE what you **PREACH!** Leave your stress and frustration at the office where it belongs. Make sure your sportsmanship is flawless; you are the most important role model your child has!

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR . . .

- Applaud during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Shaking hands with an opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize the performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in positive cheers, and in a positive manner.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applaud at the end of the contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR . . .

- Taunting, trash talk and other intimidating actions.
- Not admonishing those sitting around you who engage in practice of poor sportsmanship.
- Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free throw attempt.
- Disrespectful or derogatory cheers, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Cheers that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Doing own cheers instead of following lead of cheerleaders.
- Wearing extreme/unusual clothing or excessive face or body painting which detracts from the action on the playing surface.

SPORTSMANSHIP — NO. 1 PRIORITY

TOTAL TEAM EFFORT IS NEEDED

COACHES

- Always set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the No. 1 priority.
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the event and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect. Shake hands with officials, opposing coach in public.
- Develop and enforce penalties for participants who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

- Treat opponents with respect; shake hands prior to and after contests.
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the contest and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Cooperate with officials, coaches and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing school and community; display positive public action at all times.
- Live up to the high standard of sportsmanship established by the coach.

PARENTS, OTHER FANS

- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- Respect fans, coaches and participants.
- BE A FAN . . . NOT A FANATIC!

SPIRIT GROUPS

- Stimulate desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents.
- Treat opposing spirit groups and fans with respect.
- Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing field or court.
- Know rules and strategies of the contest in order to cheer at proper times.
- Maintain enthusiasm and composure, serving as a role model.

OFFICIALS

- Accept role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and overofficiating are not acceptable.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling contest from start to finish.
- Know rules thoroughly and abide by established Code of Ethics.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before contest.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school, the league/conference and state.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Support participants, coaches and fans who teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible.

Parents:

Your Role In Interscholastic Athletics

Communicating With Your Children

- ◆ Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- ◆ Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- ◆ Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- ◆ Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- ◆ Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. You were frightened, backed off at times and were not always heroic. Athletic children need their parents, so do not withdraw. There is a thinking, feeling, sensitive, free spirit in that uniform who needs a lot of understanding, especially when their world turns bad. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- ◆ Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- ◆ Don't compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- ◆ Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- ◆ Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.
- ◆ Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Some of us climb mountains and are afraid to fly. Some of us will fly but turn to jelly if a bee approaches. Everyone is frightened in certain areas. Explain that courage is not the absence of fear, but a means of doing something in spite of fear and discomfort.

Communicating With The Coach

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

- ◆ Philosophy of the coach
- ◆ Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad
- ◆ Locations and times of all practices and contests
- ◆ Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
- ◆ Procedure should your child be injured
- ◆ Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

- ◆ Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- ◆ Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- ◆ Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

- ◆ The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- ◆ Ways to help your child improve
- ◆ Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

- ◆ Playing time
- ◆ Team strategy
- ◆ Play calling
- ◆ Other student-athletes

Appropriate Procedure For Discussing Concerns With Coaches

- ◆ Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the athletic administrator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the coach)
- ◆ Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)

If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution

- ◆ Call to set up an appointment with the athletic administrator or activities director
- ◆ Determine the appropriate next step at this meeting

PARENTS' CHECKLIST IN SPORTS

1. Maintain a "Fun is #1" attitude.
2. Treat others as you wish to be treated
3. Praise athletes for just participating, regardless of their athletic skills.
4. Look for positives in athletes; avoid ridicule or sarcasm.
5. Remain calm when mistakes are made, and help athletes learn from mistakes.
6. Help athletes from getting down on themselves when things don't go well.
7. Don't be obsessed with your involvement in sports. There is life after sports.
8. Maintain a sense of humor.
9. Emphasize teamwork in team sports; teach them to think "we" instead of "me."
10. Lead by setting a good example in sportsmanship: winning without gloating and losing without complaining.

ROLE OF A COACH

The Coach must demonstrate and apply leadership, integrity, responsibility, self-control, knowledge of sport rules and regulations, honesty and sportsmanship at all times on and off the playing field/court. It is necessary and important that the coach acts in a responsible and professional manner at all times because he/she represents the school, community, profession, faculty and student body leaders in this area. The coach must set a good example for those participants.

Coaches must always keep in mind that essentially the game belongs to the participants. The primary justification for including the athletic programs in the total school curriculum is based on the fact that athletics provides both physical and character values for those who participate in them. Student attainment of these values rests largely with the profession.

Leadership in this area is an extension of the educational process. It is necessary for all individuals involved in any interscholastic activity to relate and “communicate” when there are concerns about a rule, a regulation, or any matter concerning the welfare of all concerned. The interscholastic leader must show respect and maintain proper bench conduct before, during and after the athletic contest, thereby assuring common courtesy and honesty if a problem arises. The coach is probably the most influential person at an event and his/her actions will be reflected in the behavior of others.

Responsibility of the Coach . . .

- 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 and 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 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.
- Treat opposing coaches, athletic directors, participants and fans with respect. Shake hands with officials, opposing coach in public.

Good Sports Are Winners!

ROLE OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

Another essential role in the development and maintenance of sportsmanship is that of the student-athlete. Because student-athletes are admired and respected, their behavior significantly influences the actions and behavior of spectators of all ages.

Responsibility of the Student-Athlete . . .

- 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 judgment 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 standards 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.

ROLE OF THE CHEERLEADERS

Cheerleaders are the chosen representatives of the student body; they have the opportunity and specific responsibility for promoting good sportsmanship. They should be selected based on respect from the student body they would serve. The most aggressive and vocal voice does not always make the best cheerleader. By setting a good example, cheerleaders can influence and help control the reaction of student and adult spectators.

Responsibility of the Cheerleaders . . .

- Try to understand the seriousness and responsibility of your role, 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 both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opposing cheerleaders the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the training and team effort that goes into a cheerleading squad?
- Wish opposing cheerleaders good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- Establish standards of desirable behavior for the squad and attempt in a cheerful manner to transfer that to your spectators.
- Select positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
- Encourage a positive crowd alternative when booing or an inappropriate chant begins by starting a popular cheer.
- Use discretion in selecting the times to cheer. Give the opposing school the same amount of time your squad would want in performing cheers, and treat opposing players like you would treat your own team.
- Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances for both teams.
- 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 team and the community in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.

Suggested Activities

Welcome the visiting cheerleaders as they arrive on your campus. Listed below are several ideas to help you make them feel comfortable and to assist you in establishing a hospitable climate before the game.

- Decide who will cheer first during timeouts and at quarters to eliminate confusion.
- Work up a combined “yell” for both schools to be done by both squads before the game.
- Do a welcome yell for the opposing side.
- Set up a dressing facility for the visiting cheerleaders.
- Offer assistance to make their stay more enjoyable.
- Stay positive, have fun, and remember that winning on the scoreboard isn’t everything.
- Promote good sportsmanship. Use appropriate cheers and chants at all times.

ROLE OF THE STUDENT GROUPS (pep clubs, band)

All support organizations share the responsibility for promoting sportsmanship at games and events. Their intended purpose is to provide support, despite the outcome, in a positive manner. They have an enormous influence on behavior and are important parts of the educational process.

Responsibility of other student groups (pep clubs, band, etc.) . . .

- 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.

ROLE OF THE SPECTATORS

Athletic events are learning experiences for students. A spectator's ticket is a privilege to observe athletic tests of skill, not a license to verbally assault others or be obnoxious. Audiences may forget that high school athletes have not reached mature physical performance, so errors can be expected. Moreover, audiences who learn the rules of the sport are less likely to criticize officials, players or coaches.

Responsibility of the Spectators . . .

- Remember that you are at a contest to support and yell for your team and to 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.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- 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.
- 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.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games, and afterwards on or near the site of the event.
- Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and league administrators for their efforts in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the role of good sportsmanship to that end.
- Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events whose behavior is unbecoming.

Responsibility of the Local School Board . . .

- Adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) which reflect that community's educational objectives and that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.
- Remain a policy-making body and allow the administration to do its job. The Board's role is to develop policies which are interpreted and administered by other school officials.
- Establish standards for athletic participation which reinforce that activities are a privilege, not a right.
- Attend and enjoy school activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches and other school personnel.
- Support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators and fans who display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize the value of school activities as a vital part of education.

Responsibility of the School Administrators . . .

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school, the league/conference and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. This program should stress that disrespectful behavior, especially taunting, trash talking and intimidation, will not be tolerated.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Support participants, coaches and fans who teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible and function as a model of good sportsmanship. This includes communicating with spectators during an event, what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

The Administration Should . . .

- Never allow an activity to supersede or interfere with the educational objectives of the school. Victory celebrations, pep rallies and unscheduled bursts of mass enthusiasm should not be permitted to interfere with the school program.
- Establish definite eligibility policies and procedures, and be sure that they are thoroughly understood.
- Prevent outside influences from exerting undue pressure upon the athletic program.
- Be sure the parents thoroughly understand what the school expects of its athletes.
- Take an active role in the development of athletic policies.
- Be sure that all students have a definite understanding of the kinds of behavior expected of them.
- Support and encourage school programs designed to enhance the understanding of sportsmanship.
- Recommend to the school board the employment of athletic coaches who are concerned primarily with educational objectives and the well-being of the students.
- Establish good rapport with the media relative to its obligation for promoting good sportsmanship.

The Athletic Director Should . . .

- Being less visible than the coaching staff, but nevertheless of great importance to the overall program of sportsmanship, is the athletic director.
- The numerous details which are essential for a smoothly functioning educational contest require the efforts of an individual dedicated to the true purpose of school athletics.
- The philosophy which this person holds is reflected in the policies and procedures which he/she initiates, the behavior of the coaches and athletes and in the conduct of all athletic contests.
- This person must subscribe to and promote the ideal of sportsmanship.
- A responsible athletic director will . . . Secure competent officials who will be satisfactory to both teams, and provide adequate compensation to assure quality officiating.
- Enlist the support of student leaders in the development of sportsmanship programs.
- Work closely with the cheerleaders in the techniques of spectator management.
- Maintain a good relationship with the media; keep them well-informed of the activities and the objectives of the program.

Responsibility of the Public Address Announcer . . .

- Be impartial. Announce the contest with no show of favoritism.
- Remember that your job is to inform — not to entertain.
- Use proper language at all times.
- Be enthusiastic but calm.
- Do not attempt to “talk over the crowd.”
- Do not anticipate or second guess calls by the officials or criticize officials’ decisions, directly or indirectly.
- Be aware of the entire venue so that calm directions can be given in an emergency. Serious situations can be avoided if the announcer will caution the crowd against coming onto the playing surface, throwing things and the like.
- Permit no one to use the microphone (especially coaches during the game), except those in charge of the event and/or by design of those in charge of the event. The announcer is responsible for whatever is said over the P.A. system.
- Announce convenient routes for spectators to leave the venue and caution the crowd to drive safely on its way home.
- Be aware that good sportsmanship is a very important part of interscholastic activities; reading a sportsmanship statement prior to the beginning of an event, and at key times during breaks in the action contributes to a positive, educational atmosphere.

Responsibility of the Media . . .

- Promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship; which includes acknowledging that disrespectful behavior, such as taunting, trash talk and intimidation, has no place in school athletics.
- Report acts of sportsmanshiplike behavior without giving undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Refrain from making negative comments towards participants, coaches or officials. After all, the interscholastic athletic arena is a classroom. Would you make negative comments about teachers teaching students and students trying to learn?
- Recognize efforts of all who participate in the contest.
- Report facts without demonstrating partiality to either team.

Sportsmanship Takes Teamwork