



SPORTSMANSHIP REFERENCE GUIDE

**Wisconsin
Interscholastic
Athletic Association**



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WIAA Sportsmanship Committee

The WIAA Sportsmanship Committee, established in 1997, meets annually to advise the WIAA on establishing policies and creating initiatives to improve and promote sportsmanship at all interscholastic athletic events.

The sportsmanship committee consists of administrators from schools representing small, medium and large school districts from around the state. A term of three years is served by committee members with an option for a maximum of two successive terms.

Announcements regarding committee vacancies and procedural information for anyone willing to serve on the committee will be printed in the Bulletin.

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***THE OFFICIAL VIDEO
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Sportsmanship Guide Introduction

Dear Member Schools,

Interscholastic athletics continues to play an important role in the development of all those involved, including student-athletes, coaches, parents, administrators and the entire student body and community.

The life-long skills, attitudes and positive experiences developed from participation in athletics are immeasurable. For this reason, the role of interscholastic activities continues to function as an important aspect of the overall educational experience, and is widely considered an extension of the traditional classroom.

One of the most important benefits of athletic competition is the building of character in individuals, either as participants or as spectators. Sportsmanship encompasses all the positive characteristics of interscholastic athletics including integrity, honesty, citizenship, fairness, respect and adhering to prescribed regulations.

As an Association, we embrace the need to instill positive influences upon students in our schools. The importance of teaching the positive qualities of good sportsmanship cannot be understated. The qualities of sportsmanship developed through interscholastic athletics is enriching and can be extended to all walks of life.

It is imperative to emphasize the importance of sportsmanship to all involved in interscholastic activities. It is expected that all schools develop a directive to require good sportsmanship during school activities.

An emphasis on sportsmanship is derived from Article II of the WIAA Constitution which identifies sportsmanship as one of the threefold purposes of the Association. The WIAA places as much pride and emphasis on its State Tournament Sportsmanship Awards as it does crowning the State champions of its Tournament Series.

Success in sportsmanship is much like success with any program. It doesn't just happen. It takes understanding, leadership, commitment and a willingness to take action when necessary unsportsmanlike behavior arises. It is also important to have support for sportsmanship efforts from all levels of administration.

The WIAA and the Sportsmanship Committee produced this reference guide to assist its membership with their sportsmanship efforts in the schools and communities. If you have any questions, please contact the WIAA or any of the members on the committee.

Thank you,

Todd C. Clark, WIAA Director of Communications & Advanced Media



Fundamentals of Sportsmanship

A. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.

Being well informed is essential. Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on decisions made by officials, coaches and administrators.

B. Exercise representative behavior at all times.

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

C. Exhibit respect for the officials.

The officials of any contest are trained, impartial arbitrators who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved are a part of every contest. We should not rationalize our own poor or unsuccessful behavior by placing responsibility on an official. A rule of good sportsmanship is to accept and abide by the decision made.

D. Openly display 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 of your school, team or family.

E. 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.



The Keys To
Sportsmanship

Know the rules
of the game.

Recognize good play
by both teams.

Respect your opponent
and its spectators.

View the game with
your head instead
of your heart.

Realize that bad plays
lose more games
than bad calls.

Practice the Golden Rule.

Sportsmanship Reveals Character – regardless of the final outcome.



Sportsmanship Expectations

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. Establish standards for athletic participation which reinforce that activities are a privilege, not a right.

The Board's role is to develop policies which are interpreted and administered by other school officials. Remain a policy-making body and allow the administration to do its job. Give support to school officials when difficult disciplinary sportsmanship policies are enforced.

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.

School Administrators

Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school, the district and the Wisconsin Interscholastic 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.

Coaches

Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards.

Practicing good citizenship is practicing good sportsmanship!

Respect the integrity and personality of the individual participant.

Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.

Describe and define respectful and disrespectful behavior. Stress that disrespectful behavior (i.e. taunting, trash talking, intimidation and excessive individual celebrations) will not be tolerated.

Set a good example for players and spectators to follow – please refrain from arguments in front of participants and spectators; no gestures which indicate disrespect to an official, judge or opposing coach; no throwing of any object in disgust. Shake hands with officials, judges and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public. Demand the same of your players/team.

Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and judges doing their best to help promote interscholastic activities and the student/participant. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team.

Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting/talking with the media. Please limit your comments to game statistics and to the performance of your team without disrespecting the performance of the opponent.

Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the top priority.

Develop a program that rewards participants for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

Student-Athlete/Participants

Be no party to the use of profanity, obscene language or gestures or inappropriate actions. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing your school and community.

Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.



Sportsmanship Expectations

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 opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or acquaintance. Who better than yourselves can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?

Refrain from taunting, trash talking or making any kind of derogatory remarks to our opponents during the game/contest, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating behavior and drawing attention to yourself. Extend greetings before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted following either a victory or defeat. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity.

Respect the integrity and judgment of game/contest officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your activity. 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.

Cheerleaders

Understand the seriousness and responsibility of your role, and the privilege of representing your school and 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 acquaintance. Who better than yourselves can understand all the training and team effort that goes into being a member of the cheerleading squad?

Extend best wishes to opposing cheerleaders before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either a victory or defeat.

Establish standards of desirable behavior for the squad and attempt to transfer that to your spectators in a cheerful manner.

Select positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing opponents.

Begin popular, positive cheers when booing or an inappropriate chants begin.

Use discretion in selecting the time 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 community.

Student Groups (Pep Clubs, Band, Etc.)

Be leaders in positive conduct before, during and after contests and events. Always provide positive support for your team, rather than intimidating or ridiculing the other team.

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.

Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.

Conduct yourselves in an exemplary manner. Remember, you represent your school both home and away.

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 community.

Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.



Sportsmanship Expectations

All Spectators

Support and cheer for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition without intimidating or ridiculing the other team and its fans.

School activities are learning experiences for students and mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student participants in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as participants and as people just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

Remember that a ticket to a school interscholastic event is a privilege to observe the contest/event, not a license or right to verbally assault others or be 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, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.

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.

Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during and after games on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).

Participate only in 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.

Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events whose behavior is unbecoming and inappropriate.

Public Address Announcer

Be impartial. Announce the contest with no show of favoritism.

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 officials or criticize official's 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 public address 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 education atmosphere.

Media

Promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship, which include acknowledging that disrespectful behavior, such as taunting, trash talk, excessive celebration and intimidation, has no place in school athletics.

Report acts of sportsmanlike 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.



Spectator/Crowd Conduct Policies

The pursuit of good sportsmanship is a priority of the WIAA and its member schools. Coaches, administrators, athletes, cheerleaders, support groups and fans are expected to display good sportsmanship at all regular season and tournament contests. The WIAA Board of Control has established the following guidelines for certain matters during WIAA tournament competition. Schools are encouraged to have policies that promote good sportsmanship on a local and conference level for regular-season events. Schools are reminded that they may be requested to submit a written report to the WIAA if problems with conduct occur during a game or meet as specified in the WIAA Bylaws (Article IX, Game Control).

The manager of each tournament site will be expected to notify the WIAA office by telephone no later than the following school day of any serious problem or situation in the area of spectator control, crowd sportsmanship, etc. Managers should contact each competing school if host school policies are more restrictive than WIAA policies listed in this section.

WIAA Tournament Policies

Note: The WIAA membership-sponsored tournaments are the collective property of the Association and not of any individual member. The Association reserves the right to promote and advance the membership's interests with publication information; exclusive arrangements to create recognition and exposure for school-sponsored activities; restrictive policies prohibiting exploitation and commercialization of membership-sponsored tournaments; appropriate proprietary interests; and the use of images or transmissions identifying students, administrative personnel and member school marks.

Locker Room

State Law (175.22) prohibits use of cell phones (and other image-recording devices) in locker rooms except in emergency situations.

Use of Public Address System

At all WIAA tournament sites, the public address system is only to be used for announcements necessary for the administration of the contest.

Sportsmanship Announcement

One of the following announcements is required to be read prior to player introductions of Tournament Series contests.

“The WIAA requires good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators at education-based, interscholastic events. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity; racial; sexist; or ethnic comments; or other intimidating or taunting actions or chants will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. Please enjoy the game in a positive manner.”

or

“ *(Insert School Name)*, *(Insert School Name)*, and the WIAA require good sportsmanship at education-based sporting events. Attendance at interscholastic activities is a privilege with the expectation to exhibit positive and respectful behavior. For the enjoyment and respect of all in attendance, your cooperation in demonstrating the high ideals of sportsmanship is expected and greatly appreciated.”

Protocol for Presentation of Colors and National Anthem

Respect the American flag and National Anthem. For additional information and protocol for the flag and anthem, please visit these websites for details: www.legion.org/national/americanflag/flagcode and www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/36/301.html. The following script may be used as an introduction to the National Anthem.

“To honor America and those defending our freedom, we ask those who are able, to stand, remove your hats, and place your hand over your heart for the playing/singing of our National Anthem.”

Bands

Participating schools will be allowed to bring their band and/or have a support group perform at halftime. Bands will be permitted to play only before and after competition, during time-outs and between periods when not in conflict with other scheduled events. Bands must receive permission from tournament managers prior to using amplifying devices.

Spectators may not bring audio and related radio equipment into facilities hosting games or meets.



Spectator/Crowd Conduct Policies

Recorded Music

All audible music used before, during and following a contest must be reviewed and have school administration approval. Lyrics may not be lewd, offensive or profane and must be appropriate for an educational setting. Recorded music is allowed before and after contests, during warm-ups, between periods or during time-outs. It is not allowed during playing action or brief pauses during playing action (between pitches, plays, assessing penalties/fouls/infractions).

Nonschool facilities such as hockey rinks should be advised about the restrictions on recorded music in advance. It is understood that State events may have separate and/or different restrictions on noisemakers and recorded music.

Banners and Signs

For indoor events, temporary banners are allowed, with some restrictions. Banners and signs must be hand held and stationary. These banners may NOT have offensive language, be used to disrupt players or officials, interfere with spectators' view, used in an inappropriate manner or be carried around the facility during an event. Banners may not be hung from balconies, ceilings, etc. Permanent banners of the host school are allowed, such as those hanging in a gymnasium depicting conference schools, sportsmanship themes or with welcoming messages. At outdoor tournament events, banners may be displayed and/or hung with the approval of the tournament manager.

Pennants for spectators, cheerleaders and pom pon squads are allowed, even if attached to wooden/plastic sticks. "Homer hankies," towels, "hands" with "No. 1 fingers" are permitted, but are subject to the following restrictions: (a) They may contain no printing except school name, team nickname and/or school mascot; (b) Tournament and meet managers have the authority to prohibit items if they are deemed to cause crowd control problems.

Dress

All spectators are required to dress appropriately.

Noisemakers

Air horns, vuvuzela horns, whistles and devices that simulate gunfire are not allowed (canons, cap pistols, etc.). The WIAA Tournament Series policy on noisemakers is in accordance with NFHS rules. Please refer to NFHS sport Rule Books for sport regulations on noisemakers. Tournament and meet managers have the authority to prohibit noisemakers if they are deemed to cause crowd control problems.

Laser Pens

Laser pens are prohibited at all WIAA regular season and tournament contests. Violators shall be removed from the contest and laser pen(s) confiscated.

Photo/Video/Audio

Any non-editorial, commercial or other unauthorized use of any transmission, internet stream, photo, image, film, videotape, audio tape, play-by-play depiction or description of any competition and/or game action; and/or any non-editorial or commercial use of any team school name or logo is strictly prohibited without written consent of the WIAA.

A license to commercialize on the sale of images captured or transmissions originated at WIAA regional and sectional tournament events, or levels 1-4 for football, may be purchased and granted through the WIAA executive office. Commercialization and/or sale of images taken or transmissions originated at the WIAA State Tournaments is strictly prohibited without written consent of the WIAA.

Spectators are permitted to take photos for personal, non-commercial purposes and to record audio and/or video for personal, non-commercial and/or non-transmittable purposes.

Spectators attending WIAA State Tournament events may also be subject to restrictions on the electronic devices, sizes of cameras and/or camera lenses according to venue policies.

School Video Taping/Photographers

Spectators are allowed to use hand held "camcorders" from their seats. Tripods and power cables are not allowed. Tournament managers may designate areas from which school photographers may videotape if space is available. Any commercial use of video is prohibited without written consent of the WIAA Executive Staff.

Cheerleading Guidelines

Shakers and pennants for spectators, cheerleaders and pom pon squads are allowed, even if attached to wooden/plastic sticks. "Homer hankies", towels, and "hands" with "No. 1 fingers" are permitted, but are subject to the following restrictions: (a) They may contain no printing except school name, team nickname and/or school mascot; (b) Tournament and meet managers have the authority to prohibit them if they cause crowd control problems.



Spectator/Crowd Conduct Policies

Only organized and authorized cheerleaders will be permitted to lead their cheering sections. No maximum number of cheerleaders is designated but the number should not exceed a reasonable total. Schools will be prohibited from using cheers which, in the judgment of the tournament manager, ridicule or taunt an opponent or are otherwise in bad taste. Mascots which are offensive in nature and appearance are not allowed and will be asked to leave at the discretion of the tournament manager.

Each school through its administrator is responsible for the nature of cheers. Cheerleaders can be helpful for the purpose of assisting in efforts to promote good crowd behavior. Cheerleaders and others (including spectators) may not engage in such activities as dunking the basketball, dancing on the floor during breaks in play, etc. Tournament managers will decide if "break-through hoops" will be allowed.

For reasons of safety, the following provision applies at all levels of tournament competition:

- a. Mini-trampolines, other rebounding devices and related pieces of equipment are prohibited.
- b. The use of pyramids/mounts is restricted as follows: All individuals in the pyramid/mount who are not in contact with the cheering surface must be supported by one or more individuals who are in direct weight bearing contact with the cheering surface (base).

Prohibited Activities/Materials

- * Rushing the playing surface during or immediately following a contest. Incidents are required to be reported to the WIAA by the host school.
- * Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or illegal substances may not be available or present at high school events.
- * Lotteries, drawings, raffles or contests at WIAA Tournament events.
- * Confetti
- * Facemasks of any type
- * **Body paint, other than on the face, is not allowed at WIAA State Tournaments where prohibited by venue policy.**
- * Laser pens at all WIAA regular season and tournament contests. Violators shall be removed from the contest and laser pen(s) confiscated.
- * No fundraisers may be based on individual and/or team performance in competition and/or on the outcome of competition.
- * Campaigns (including but not limited to political campaigns, solicitations, petitions, etc.) and campaign materials.

Spectator Conduct Statement

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association objects to the use of activities, materials, logos, apparel, mascots or gestures that are profane, vulgar, insulting or offensive to others. The membership disapproves of any form of taunting or expression that is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, disrespect or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.

Sportsmanship Disciplinary Policy

In June of 1997, the WIAA Board of Control approved a Sportsmanship Committee recommendation that a disciplinary procedure be in place for schools that have chronic sportsmanship problems. In 2008, the Board modified the disciplinary procedure. For multiple or egregious player or coach ejections due to unsportsmanlike conduct in a specific season; for egregious or multiple reported incidents of fan/spectator misconduct taking place on school property or the contest facility; or for reports involving attacks on spectator buses or officials vehicles, the committee recommends the WIAA invoke the following penalty procedure:

1. Require offending school to submit a written report within two weeks on steps they intend to take to resolve problems, and improve and correct the conduct of the coach and/or athlete or spectator group involved. The report must meet the satisfaction of the WIAA Executive Staff.
2. Require offending school's district administrator, principal and athletic director to meet with the Executive Staff at the WIAA office to identify steps they intend to take to resolve problems, and improve and correct the conduct of the coach and/or athlete or spectator group involved. The report may involve disciplinary action and must meet the satisfaction of the WIAA Executive Staff.
3. Schools who have multiple or egregious incidents of coach/athlete ejections and/or spectator misconduct in a specific sport will have that program placed on one year's probation.
4. Subsequent violations during the probationary period will result in the loss of hosting privileges in the specific sport.
5. Additional violations will result in suspension of tournament eligibility for the offending school in the specific sport for one year.



Defining Sportsmanship

The WIAA defines Sportsmanship as “Playing by the established rules of the contest; competing with one’s best efforts without drawing attention to one’s self with celebratory displays; losing without excuse or complaint; winning without gloating; cheering in a positive manner that does not disrespect, taunt, ridicule or attempt to intimidate anyone; and respecting the game, event and others by not drawing attention to one’s self.”

With any large group of spectators, there is an opportunity to have random and isolated instances of inappropriate behavior. However, peer pressure is a powerful thing among teen-aged students and adults. Identifying individuals who display poor sportsmanship and instructing them on good sportsmanship and outlining the consequences of continued inappropriate behavior can assist in sportsmanship efforts. The examples provided below can help schools, students, parents, competitors, coaches and support groups identify inappropriate sportsmanship.

Cheers/Chants (*Sportsmanship Infraction*)

1. Booring of any kind
Disrespectful to officials, players, team. If errors in judgment are made, all are human and we must accept that. Individuals do the best to execute in a way they’ve been trained.
2. “Over-rated” chant
Directed in a taunting, disrespectful manner at opponents and their fans.
3. “Scoreboard” cheer
Directed in a taunting, disrespectful manner at opponents and their fans.
4. “Air ball” chant
Directed in a taunting, disrespectful manner at opponent.
5. “Nuts n’ Bolts...” chant
Directed in a disrespectful manner at an official and is inappropriate innuendo.
6. “You, You, You” chant
Directed in a taunting and disrespectful manner at an opponent.
7. “You can’t do that,” “fund-a-mentals,” “We can’t hear you,” “Warm up the bus” chants
Directed in a taunting and disrespectful manner at an opponent and/or their fans.
8. “Sieve, sieve, sieve” chant
Directed in a taunting and disrespectful manner at an opponent’s goal keeper.
9. “Nah, nah, hah, nah...hey-eyy goodbye” song; “Season’s Over” chant
Directed in a taunting and disrespectful manner at an opponent and their fans.
10. “Push it, push it, push it” chant
Directed in a disrespectful manner at an official and is inappropriate innuendo.
11. “U-S-A, U-S-A, U-S-A” or any acronym of derogatory language or innuendo
Directed in a disrespectful and inappropriate manner disrespectful or at officials, opponents, etc.
12. Any chants/comments that are disrespectful to an opponent or official, including school mascot, school nickname, school population, opponent’s town or community or that is derogatory to an individual because of race, gender, creed, body type or ability
Directed in a disrespectful and inappropriate manner at officials, opponents or anyone.
13. Holding up papers or props during opponent introductions
Directed in a taunting and disrespectful manner at an opponent.



Defining Sportsmanship

14. Turning backs to court/field during opponent introductions
Directed in a taunting and disrespectful manner at an opponent.
15. Dressing in attire that is not associated with school spirit or is inappropriate
Directed at drawing attention to one's self and disrespecting the game, those competing and those depicted.
16. Waving arms or making movements or sudden noises in an attempt to distract an opponent
Directed in an intimidating and disrespectful manner at an opponent without regard for fair play.
17. Fan participation activities while the game is actually being played (i.e. roller coaster, the wave, etc.)
Disrespectful to the game/event and the competitors by drawing attention away from the activity.
18. Competitors not shaking hands after a contest
Directed in a disrespectful manner at an opponent.
19. Competitors "trash-talking" before, during or after a contest
Directed in a disrespectful or intimidating manner at an opponent.
20. Competitors celebrating a play excessively by beating on chest; pointing to the crowd; dancing; or any voluntary, unnecessary movement perceived to be drawing attention to one's self
Directed in a gloating manner and drawing attention one's self, which disrespects the efforts of other teammates on the play and is often perceived as taunting opponents and their fans.
21. Competitors celebrating a play by prolonged staring at an opponent, or standing over an opponent
Directed in a disrespectful or intimidating manner at an opponent.
22. Criticizing or diminishing the efforts or abilities of an opponent or official in the media before during or after a contest
Directed in a disrespectful or intimidating manner at an opponent or official.
23. Criticizing teammates or coaches
Directed in a disrespectful manner at those individuals.
24. Not standing at attention during the National Anthem or excessive talking, chanting, yelling or movement during the playing/singing of the anthem
Directed in a disrespectful manner to the country and to the performers of the anthem.
25. Throwing of any object by fans or competitors throwing/hitting equipment (pucks, balls, bats, helmets, etc.)
Disrespectful, dangerous and may be considered a criminal act.
26. Body passing
Disrespectful, dangerous and may be considered a criminal act.
27. Damaging any property (bleachers, hotel rooms, locker rooms, etc.) associated with a sporting event
Disrespectful, dangerous and a criminal act.
28. Attending an event inebriated or under the influence of mood altering substances
Disrespectful to the event, those around you and one's self, and illegal if underage.
29. Bare-chested fans and body paint at indoor events
Disrespectful to the event and others by drawing attention to one's self and the inappropriateness of it in an education-based setting.

Sportsmanship

Campaign





Sportsmanship: Get it Going in Your School and Community

1. Develop a Code of Good Sportsmanship approved by all levels of administration 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, cheerleaders and band members.
3. Begin a column of 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 teams' 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 demonstrate good sportsmanship. Your cooperation is expected."
6. Post "Welcome" signs in each team's locker room.
7. Have the P.A. announcer welcome guests.
8. Organize a good sportsmanship board or committee to create good feelings between the two schools and communities.
9. Use pregame announcements to help promote good sportsmanship throughout the contest.

Goal Setting

OVERALL GOAL

Responsible behavior by athletes, coaches, fans, parents, cheerleaders and others connected with athletics as a result of clearly stated goals and objectives approved by all levels of school administration placed into practice.

Mission Statement

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity are respected in our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by respect and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness of the impact an individual's influence has on the behavior of others is valuable. Good sportsmanship is viewed by **(name of school)** as a defined measure of understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, respect and integrity.

Define The Goals

Are sportsmanship behavior and unsportsmanlike behavior clearly stated? (See *Defining Sportsmanship* section)

School Board Statement

Are the philosophy and goals of the interscholastic activities program adopted by the Board of Education? Is sportsmanship emphasized as part of **educational** activities?

Athletic Policy Manual

Is sportsmanship emphasized in the coaching manual and materials distributed to student-athletes?

Administrative Support

Does the district administrator, principal and athletic director support and emphasize common sportsmanship goals?

Emphasis

Do staff, school and league meetings emphasize the importance of educationally-sound athletic experiences?

Shape

Are desirable behaviors articulated and reinforced? Potential vehicles are through game programs, flyers, tickets, pre-season meetings, assemblies, contests and parent meetings?

Quantify

Are the goals measurable?

Rewards

Are positive behaviors acknowledged?

Contingency Plan

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

Goal

Responsible behavior by student-athletes, school personnel and fans, respecting the opponent and game officials and accepting the results of interscholastic competition. Keep athletics in perspective.



Spectator Behavior Expectations

Purpose of Sportsmanship Education

The purpose is to make students and fans 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 Board of Education, school administration, parents and students.
- Programs that foster continued poor behavior may be dropped.
- After-school programs are an extension of the regular school day with all school rules and regulations in effect.
- The school's and community's reputation should not be placed in jeopardy because of unsportsmanlike behavior.
- School administrators are present to inform all spectators of the school's expectations at all interscholastic activities.

What Is Expected In General

- Students in attendance at interscholastic activities are expected to have fun by demonstrating positive enthusiasm without causing harm or embarrassment to others or to the school.
- Students are to follow all rules that are in effect during the school day at interscholastic activities.
- Students are to demonstrate respect toward fellow students, opponents, players, coaches and officials.
- Students are to police their peers 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, refrain from talking, and remain respectful until the end of the anthem.
- Proper language is to be used. No swearing or offensive/derogatory language will be tolerated. High school events are a family activity. Individual and group vulgarity is unacceptable, as is taunting, trash talking and other verbal forms of harassment and booing of players, coaches and officials.
- Obscene gestures are unacceptable.
- Dangerous and boisterous behavior – 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 and 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.
- Be modest and humble in victory or defeat. It is easy to be a good winner and difficult to show class when you lose.
- 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 cheers and avoid obscene, degrading or elitist cheers – when you participate in an elitist cheer, you give support to an elitist image.
- At half-time, 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 cordial and gracious to everyone, regardless of your emotions.

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.

Consequences, In Effect For All Games

- All regular school rules are in effect.
- Violation of rules may cause: being evicted from the game/premises; receiving in-school suspension or suspension from school; a required parental conference before readmittance to regular class; prohibition from attending future events; possible cancellation of all spectators from attending a sport; possible cancellation of sports; or prescribed WIAA sanctions on the school.



Sportsmanship Campaign Implementation Timetable

August

- Distribute letters with a sportsmanship focus to various publics
- Discuss the value of sportsmanship with fall coaches and athletes
- Create a committee made up of school administrators, coaches, student-athletes, parents, etc., to discuss and monitor the sportsmanship efforts in your school
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of fall sports teams, using school team members, coaches and local officials to emphasize rule interpretations and changes for the coming season
- Talk with your crowd control event staff and public address announcers about their role during events
- Launch a year-round program, such as sportsmanship pledge program, where administrators, coaches, athletes, students and non-school spectators participate in a pledge-card signing program, stating they will work to promote good sportsmanship.

September

- Distribute brochures and display posters promoting the sportsmanship campaign
- Send press release to local media outlets announcing the school's involvement in program
- Address sportsmanship in homerooms at school, stressing value of good sportsmanship
- Utilize sportsmanship slicks/logos in printed materials produced at school
- Send fall public service announcements to local radio stations
- Discuss the possibility of a league/conference meeting, addressing sportsmanship and rating the sportsmanship at each school

October

- Plan a competition between student organizations, utilizing a sportsmanship theme (poster contest, slogan contest, etc.)
- Discuss sportsmanship, ethics and integrity being used as topics in the classroom with selected instructors
- Emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements as fall tournaments approach
- Plan an activity around National Sportsmanship Day during High School Activities Week
- Conduct a league/conference meeting on sportsmanship, addressing immediate concerns and plans for remainder of school year

November

- If teams advance to the State Tournament, identify winning the WIAA Sportsmanship Award as a priority.
- Discuss the value of sportsmanship with winter coaches and athletes
- Develop an editorial for the school newsletter to the public addressing positive sportsmanship efforts
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of winter sports teams, using school team members, coaches and local officials to emphasize rule interpretations and changes for the coming season

December-January

- Send out winter public service announcement to local radio stations
- Compile league/conference sportsmanship ratings for fall sports

February

- If teams advance to the State Tournament, identify winning the WIAA Sportsmanship Award as a priority.
- Contact an editorial writer at a local newspaper or host of a local radio or television talk show about an editorial or special program on sportsmanship in society and your school's role in promoting it
- Emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements as winter tournaments approach
- Develop a school-wide essay or cartoon contest for students to have them communicate their thoughts on sportsmanship

March

- Discuss value of sportsmanship with spring coaches and athletes
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of spring sports teams, using school team members, coaches and local officials to emphasize rule interpretations and changes for the coming season

April

- Send out spring public service announcement to local radio stations
- Compile league/conference sportsmanship ratings for winter sports
- Evaluate, recognize and reward those who participated in sportsmanship efforts

May

- Present your evaluation of sportsmanship program to the community through letters, newsletters that reach into homes
- Emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements as spring tournaments approach
- Conduct a follow-up league/conference sportsmanship meeting, evaluating efforts made during the past year and setting goals for the coming year

June

- If teams advance to the State Tournament, identify winning the WIAA Sportsmanship Award as a priority.
- Compile league/conference sportsmanship ratings for spring sports
- Begin planning sportsmanship program for the next school year



Crowd Control Planning

Although there are no magical secrets to crowd control, the following suggestions need emphasis by administrators and event managers in crowd control.

1. Establish written behavioral standards and expectations for coaches, players, students, parents, cheerleaders, spectators, songs, chants and cheers, and management personnel that is approved and supported by all levels of school administration. Communicate them in a variety of ways; expect them to be followed; and don't be afraid to do something when they aren't.
2. Establish/communicate policies and emergency procedures regarding: a) fire; b) drinking and possession of alcoholic beverages; c) possession, use or sale of drugs; d) medical emergencies; e) lost and found articles; f) bringing food, beverages, radios, video cameras and tape decks into the gym or stadium; g) bomb threats; h) alternatives in case of score clocks, light or other facility failures; and i) transportation problems. Written emergency procedures should be clearly understood by the public address announcer.
3. Identify supervisors and ushers by use of jackets, distinguishable shirts or sweaters, arm bands, or badges, and expect them to be active and visible to discourage problems quickly identified.
4. Expect/encourage management personnel, supervisors and crowd control people to avoid becoming too involved in watching the event and to be observant, active, and consistent in applying rules and procedures.
5. Be consistent in applying policies and rules; be supportive of your management and supervisory personnel.
6. Avoid seating bands or spectators near the visiting team bench and the visiting team spectator seating area.
7. When someone is behaving in an inappropriate way, or violating rules of good sportsmanship, do something about it. Actions speak louder than words. Inaction allows the establishment of unacceptable examples and habits that can mushroom, lead to more serious problems and result in negative learning.
8. Have admissions, ticket sales and parking lot personnel observe and screen people for possession of alcoholic beverages, intoxication, and abnormal or suspicious behavior. Alert crowd control supervisors to observe behavior and whereabouts of potential problem people.
9. Supervise the rest rooms and secure facility utility boxes and areas.
10. Establish precise job descriptions, expectations and authority of all working personnel and inform them of all rules, regulations and emergency procedures.
11. Have a sportsmanship message announced before each contest, and repeated throughout if necessary, addressing sportsmanship expectations and possible sanctions if sportsmanship standards are not met.



Crowd Control Checklist

The WIAA is aware of the desire and need for preventative measures to overcome crowd control behavior problems.

Good crowd control consists of sound preventative planning and organization and a willingness to take action to stop undesirable behavior once it begins. While most interscholastic contests are conducted without incident, it is necessary to plan for all contests in advance and to explore every possible avenue.

Listed for your considerations are some guidelines which may assist those responsible for planning adequate crowd control.

- Develop a pre-contest checklist listing items and work requiring completion prior to the event.
- Provide a well-ordered, carefully maintained facility.
- Notify opponent in writing of all necessary details such as time, location, dressing facilities, pre-contest procedures and specific information that applies to particular sports.
- Appoint a "greeting committee" to meet the opponents and serve as their host/hostess through their stay at your school.
- Select supportive personnel (ticket takers/sellers, supervisors, etc.) carefully, and discuss their assignments thoroughly prior to the contest.
- Select experienced scorers, timers and public address system personnel, and see that they are properly informed.
- Provide security for officials, and see that they are equipped with a dressing room located away from spectator and player dressing areas. Officials should be paid before the contest.
- Hire off-duty police and/or seek the help of state or local police as contest conditions warrant in controlling the crowd during the contest and the flow of traffic to and from the contest.
- Start the event on time.
- Ban artificial noisemakers that disrupt or interfere with playing action, confetti, laser pens, etc., from the facility.
- Avoid overcrowded seating accommodations. In cases where seating is at a premium, reserve in advance an adequate number of seats for the visiting school.
- Make sure cheerleaders and pep groups have adequate seating.
- Provide adequate space and organization of concession areas to prevent overcrowding and possible pushing and jostling.
- Prohibit free entry to contests.
- Limit re-entry and have gates supervised throughout entire contest.
- Pay special attention to elementary school students unless accompanied by an adult.
- Discourage attendance of elementary school students unless accompanied by an adult.
- Keep playing area and a sufficient sized area around the playing surface clear of spectators.
- Use ropes to set aside areas.
- Provide surveillance before, during and after the contest for spectators arriving by bus.
- Continual surveillance should be maintained at all facilities pertaining to crowd convenience such as concession areas, drinking fountains, first-aid stations, rest rooms and aiseways.
- Before leaving the facility, check with the police to determine whether any unforeseen incidents transpired.
- Establish good communications with all connected to the event.
- Secure all areas of the facility not necessary for the administration of the event, including offices, classrooms, closets, and utility boxes and areas.



Letter to Student-Athletes

Dear Student-Athletes,

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. You, in turn, experience additional educational and leadership benefits that come from participation in sports.

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.

As an athlete at our school, your sportsmanship goals should include:

- * Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances
- * Respecting the rules of the games, the officials who administer the rules and their decisions
- * Respecting opponents as fellow students and acknowledging them for striving to do their best while you seek your best at the same time
- * Looking at athletic participation as a potentially beneficial learning experience whether you win or lose
- * Educating other students and fans to understand the rules of the game, and the value of sportsmanship

These are the expectations that give us a roadmap to follow toward a more educational atmosphere for interscholastic athletics.

You are the spokesperson for our school when you represent us in athletic competition. Your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Your display of good sportsmanship will show the most positive things about you and our school; and hopefully, remind us all that in the end, sport is meant to be fun.

We hope the upcoming season is a rewarding one for you.



Letter to Student Body

Dear Student Body,

A new school year brings with it new opportunities. Opportunities to learn from the textbook and to learn about life. With the variety of activities available to you at our school, we hope you will become involved in those that interest you.

Athletic events are always among the most popular activities for participants and spectators, and these games provide another learning experience. Integrity, fairness, respect and the principles of good sportsmanship are lifetime values taught through athletics. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

A good sport is a true leader within the school and the community. As a member of our school, your sportsmanship goals should include:

- * Realizing that athletics are part of the educational experience and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game
- * Participating in positive cheers that encourage our athletes and discouraging any cheers that would redirect that focus
- * Learning, understanding and respecting the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions
- * Respecting our opponents as fellow students and acknowledging them for striving to do their best
- * Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances

These expectations are the roadmap to follow toward a more educational atmosphere for interscholastic athletics.

You are a spokesperson for our school when you attend an athletics event or any school activity. Your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Your display of good sportsmanship will show the most positive things about you and our school; and hopefully, remind us all that sport is meant to be fun.

We hope the upcoming year is a rewarding one for you.



Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

The role of the parent in the education of a youngster is important. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school, in the classroom and through school activities.

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

A good sport, whether a student or a parent, is a true leader in the community. As a parent of a student at our school, your sportsmanship goals should include:

- * Realizing that athletics are part of the total educational experience and the benefits of involvement go far beyond the final score of a game
- * Encouraging our students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their classwork, knowing that others will always turn in better or lesser performances
- * Participating in positive cheers that encourage our youngsters and discouraging any cheers that would redirect that focus
- * Learning, understanding and respecting the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions
- * Respecting the task our coaches face as teachers and supporting them as they strive to educate our youth
- * Respecting our opponents as students and acknowledging them for striving to do their best
- * Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances
- * Be a fan . . . not a fanatic! Don't embarrass your child with emotional outbursts at events

These expectations are the roadmap to follow toward a more educational atmosphere for interscholastic athletics.

You can have a major influence on your child's attitude about academics, athletics and sportsmanship. The leadership role you take in sportsmanship will help influence your child and our community for years to come.

We look forward to serving you in the year ahead, and appreciate your continued support.



Sport Parent Code of Conduct

The essential elements of character and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and its principles, including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, modesty and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these characteristics.

I therefore agree:

1. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
2. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
3. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
4. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
5. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
7. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
8. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.
9. I will not ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
10. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
11. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
12. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by school game management personnel
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved

Parent/Guardian Signature



Letter to Student Groups

Dear Student Groups,

Being a member of the **(name of group)**, you have assumed a role of leadership, not only within our school, but our community as well. Your organization is seen by other students as one which helps build a positive atmosphere in our building.

Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than when your group attends athletic events. You benefit from your association with competition much in the same way as the athletes, acquiring skills and values that will last a lifetime. Integrity, fairness and respect are the principles of good sportsmanship, and with them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

As a member of the **(name of group)**, and a school leader, your sportsmanship goals should be structured around:

- * Realizing that athletics are part of the educational experience and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game
- * Participating in positive cheers that encourage our athlete; and discouraging any cheers that would redirect that focus
- * Learning, understanding and respecting the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions
- * Respecting our opponents as fellow students and acknowledging them for striving to do their best
- * Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances
- * Educating other students and fans to understand the rules of the game and the value of sportsmanship

These expectations are the roadmap to follow on a journey toward a more education-based atmosphere for interscholastic athletics.

You are a spokesperson for our school when you represent us with your group. Your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Your display of good sportsmanship will show the most positive things about you and our school; and hopefully, remind us that sport is meant to be fun.

We hope the upcoming year is a rewarding one for you.



Letter to Cheerleaders

Dear Cheerleaders,

Your role as a cheerleader for our athletic teams is an important one. The support you provide can help shape the positive atmosphere of our contests.

As a student-leader, the benefits of athletic involvement are the same for you as for those participating on the playing surface. Integrity, fairness, respect and the principles of sportsmanship are lifetime values. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

A cheerleader who is a good sport is a true leader within the school and the community. A good sport knows that athletic competition builds character and shapes lifetime attitudes.

As a cheerleader at our school your sportsmanship goals should include:

- * Realizing that athletics are part of the educational experience and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game
- * Leading our spectators in positive cheers that encourage our athletes and discouraging any cheers that would redirect that focus
- * Learning, understanding and respecting the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions
- * Respecting cheerleaders and athletes from opposing schools as fellow students and acknowledging them for striving to do their best
- * Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances
- * Educating other students and fans to understand the rules of the game and the value of sportsmanship

These expectations are the roadmap to follow on a journey toward a more educational atmosphere for interscholastic athletics.

You are a spokesperson for our school when you represent us as a cheerleader. Your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Your actions should remind us that sport is meant to be fun. Your display of good sportsmanship will show the most positive things about you and our school.

We hope the upcoming year is a rewarding one for you.



Letter to Parents/Adult Spectators Just Prior to Tournament Play

Dear Parents and Adult Spectators,

As we prepare for the upcoming state tournament, it is an appropriate time to review the goals of our program as they relate to sportsmanship. As an educational institution, our school is committed to teaching our young people to set goals, strive for excellence and to properly handle whatever adversity they encounter along the way. This aim is the same in the classroom as it is on the playing field.

The greatest challenge to good sportsmanship is adversity. When things are not going well, the easy response is to shift the blame. In particular, to shift it away from ourselves or our team to our opponents, and often, to the officials. When this is done, the focus is away from the positive “to play harder or better,” to the negative “how can we possibly overcome the bad calls.” As teacher and coaches we feel it is essential that our student-athletes maintain a positive approach to handling adversity. We need the support of our parents as role models if we are to accomplish this.

At times this year some parents may have become quite vocal at games and loudly criticized both game officials and opposing players. This type of abusive behavior is counter-productive to what we are trying to teach. In addition, it creates a very uncomfortable environment for the fans who come out to support their team and wish to enjoy the game. Finally, it is an embarrassment to our school and to the young people on the playing field. We are asking all our fans to keep comments positive and upbeat.

As a school, we hire the game officials during the regular season. All of our officials are deemed competent by our coaching staff and athletic administration. They are not perfect, and their interpretation of the action may be different from yours. However, they are an essential part of the game, and they are doing the best they can. Let's strive to pay less attention to their performance and more to the superb skills of our young athletes. Let's come out in the next few weeks and cheer on our teams to success in the tournament.

WIAA
Rural Insurance
Team Tournament
Award Program





WIAA State Tournament Award Program

An important part of our emphasis on sportsmanship is the WIAA/Rural Mutual Insurance State Tournament Sportsmanship Award program. At each of the WIAA State Team Tournaments, one school and community is selected to receive the Rural Mutual Insurance State Sportsmanship Award, with honorable mention recognition also given to schools who are under consideration for the overall award. State events where the award is given include football, soccer, team tennis, volleyball, girls & boys basketball, gymnastics, hockey, team wrestling, baseball & softball.

The selection process for the State Tournament Sportsmanship Awards includes input from contest officials, tournament management, police and security personnel, crowd control and ushers, and WIAA Staff members. These observers judge the conduct and sportsmanship of coaches and athletes, cheer and support groups, mascots, bands, student groups and adult spectators. Also measured is the effort by school administrators and chaperones during the tournament to keep the support for their teams and student-athletes positive and enthusiastic.

We also solicit input from hotels, restaurants and business people in the city where WIAA State events take place in order to make appropriate measurements. relative to the sportsmanship of communities and teams as they attend State Tournament competition. Sportsmanship by coaches and fans at regional and sectional contests prior to the State Tournament is also taken into consideration.

The WIAA considers the Rural Mutual Insurance State Tournament Sportsmanship Award a prestigious honor. It's truly a community award and one that grows in stature and importance as the years pass. The key to good sportsmanship at WIAA State events is preparation. Just as the athletes and coaches prepare for their competition, school administrators can lay the groundwork with fans and students prior to their State Tournament appearance at pep rallies, parents meetings, booster club gatherings, etc.

Taking part in a WIAA State Tournament is a unique and memorable experience. When fans and participants emphasize good sportsmanship, we enhance that experience for everyone involved.





Sportsmanship Award

The WIAA and Rural Mutual Insurance Companies will select one school in each team tournament as recipients of the Sportsmanship Award. All schools are eligible for the award, regardless of the number of games played. The WIAA will also give honorable mention recognition to schools under consideration for the top award. Judging will be done by game officials, scoring personnel, WIAA tournament management, security personnel, parking personnel, hotel personnel, and regional and sectional tournament managers.

Judges will evaluate and rate the cheerleaders, spectator sections (students and adults), coaches, players, etc., of each school during the total tournament.

The judging criteria includes evaluations in the following categories:

Be Respectful to All

Desirable Behavior

Opposing coaches and players shaking hands after the game; players shaking hand of opponent fouling out and all showing concern for injured player; **respectfully addressing officials** during competition and thanking them for their performance, regardless of agreement with calls.

Unacceptable Behavior

Fans reading newspapers, turning their backs, making disrespectful actions, etc., during the introductions of opponents; yelling, waving, etc., during opponent's free throws; derogatory/disrespectful yells, chants, songs and gestures, including **“goodbye,” “air ball,” “you, you, you,” “what's the score?,” “sieve,” “warm up the bus,” “fundamentals,” “you can’t do that”** and other such expressions.

Know the Rules, Abide by and Respect the Official's Decisions

Desirable Behavior

Utilize every opportunity to promote understanding of the rules of a contest within the school and community; players use the team captain or coach for clarification of a call; accept the decisions of the officials; cheerleaders lead fans in positive school yells in a favorable manner; cooperate with the news media in interpretation and clarification of rules.

Unacceptable Behavior

Booing or heckling an official's decision; criticizing the merits of officiating; displays of temper and arguing with an official's call; derogatory remarks toward officials.

Win with Character and Lose with Dignity

Desirable Behavior

Handshakes between opposing players and coaches at end of a contest, regardless of outcome; opposing players, coaches, and fans engaging in friendly conversation before and following contest; treating competition as a game, not a war; applause at end of contest for performance of all players.

Unacceptable Behavior

Actions that antagonize opponents when you feel you have won the game; refusing to shake hands or give recognition to winner or good performance; blaming a loss on officials, coaching, individual player's performance or other rationalizations; or self-centered victory celebrations on the playing surface.



Sportsmanship Award

Display Appreciation for Good Performance Regardless of the Team

Desirable Behavior

Coach/players seek out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching; all fans recognize an outstanding participant's performance by applause, regardless of its impact on the contest; discuss outstanding performance of opponent with visiting and home fans.

Unacceptable Behavior

Laughing, pointing finger, name calling, etc., at opponents in an attempt to distract or disrespect.

Exercise Self-Control and Reflect Positively upon Yourself, Team and School

Desirable Behavior

Support the activity by learning yells of cheerleaders and displaying unity as fans in following their lead.

Unacceptable Behavior

Displays of anger, boasting, use of profanity, bouncing beach balls, inappropriate dress and apparel not consistent with school pride, or other antics that draws attention to you instead of the contest; doing own chants instead of following the lead of cheerleaders; doing unsportsmanlike yells/gestures.

Permit Only Positive Sportsmanlike Behavior to Reflect on Your School or Its Activities

Desirable Behavior

Encourage those around you to display only positive sportsmanlike conduct; report poor sportsmanship to school officials; insist that sportsmanship be a priority at interscholastic events; administrators help coaches to teach, model, and reinforce sportsmanship; recognize coaches for sportsmanlike conduct; coaches will only play those who exhibit positive sportsmanship; administrators will take appropriate action to ensure sportsmanlike behavior.

Unacceptable Behavior

Fans, players, coaches, administrators or schools unwillingness to get involved and take a stand to defend one of the main tenets of school activities--teaching and promoting good sportsmanship and citizenship .



State Team WIAA/Rural Insurance Sportsmanship Award Evaluation



Please rate the sportsmanship of participating teams, coaches and fans at the WIAA State Tournament you are observing in the following categories.

(Rating Guide: 1=Worst 5=Best)

	Team	Team
	Rating	Rating
School Administration		
Effort Displayed to Promote Sportsmanship	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Any "3" ranking or below, indicate specific actions _____

Coaches

Respect Toward Officials	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Handling of Players and Respect for Opposing Team	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Courtside Demeanor	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Respect for Game Management Personnel	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Any "3" ranking or below, indicate specific actions _____

Players

Respect Toward Officials	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Respect Toward Opposing Players (i.e., taunting, etc.)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Court Demeanor (i.e., showboating)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Respect for Game Management Personnel	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Any "3" ranking or below, indicate specific actions _____

Spectators/Support Groups

Respect Toward Officials	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Respect Toward Opposing Team (i.e., taunting, etc.)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Spirit Demeanor (i.e., behavior, attitude, negative chants)	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Respect for Game Management Personnel	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Any "3" ranking or below, indicate specific actions _____

Hosting Facilities (Applicable for Hotel/Restaurant Only)

Behavior of Team and Coaches at Hotel/Restaurant	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Behavior of School Support Groups at Hotel/Restaurant	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Should be Considered for Award _____

Should NOT be Considered for Award *(please comment)* _____

Comments _____

Evaluation by: _____

Thank You.



Parental Guide to Sportsmanship

Introduction

This guide was designed to assist parents to evaluate their attitudes about their son's and daughter's participation and put them in proper perspective. By doing this, parents can better understand and support the sportsmanship initiatives and guidelines. Our assumption is that we all want what's best for our children.

Role of Parents

As a parent and role model for your student-athlete, you have a significant influence on the education and personal growth of your son or daughter.

Whether you realize it or not, the support and environment at home, as well as your conduct at interscholastic activities, assists your child to accept the opportunities and challenges presented in the classroom and during athletic competition with dignity.

It is your obligation as a parent to nurture and educate your son or daughter and equip them with the knowledge, wisdom and inner strength to succeed in their lifelong endeavors. That includes setting an appropriate example of how to react in pressure- and stress-filled situations resulting in either positive (win) or negative (loss) outcomes.

Your son's or daughter's participation in interscholastic athletics is testimony to your belief that high school activities provide benefits to those who participate.

It is important to understand that participation in and attendance at interscholastic athletic activities are a privilege and not a Constitutional right.

Chip off the Old Block

Your attitude and behavior has a major impact on your son's or daughter's outlook about academics, athletics and sportsmanship. The sportsmanship you practice will influence them now and throughout their lives.

Be Involved; Not Obsessed

Parents often take an active role in their son's or daughter's athletic participation. An active interest in their child's development and activities is commendable and encouraged, but when parental involvement becomes too demanding and critical, a child's enjoyment in participating is diminished.

A U.S. Department of Education report reveals the number one reason boys and girls participate in high school sports is to have fun. In addition, skill development was actually considered a more important aspect of fun than winning, even among the best athletes.

The purpose of your involvement with your son's or daughter's participation in athletics should be for their well-being, not as an attempt to live vicariously through your child or to fulfill an unfulfilled dream of yours.

Exercising Self-Control

Parents in control of their emotions and attitudes toward their son's or daughter's participation and the circumstances involving that participation are considered ideal program supporters and leaders. Their good sportsmanship reveals character and self-discipline. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true. That may be of no consequence to you, but your actions and behavior reflect back on your son or daughter participating and those associated with you.

Are You a Good Sport?

Forget about peer pressure; forget about your own biases; and forget about what you have seen at other events.

No excuses. Nobody is responsible for your actions but you -- not the officials, not the coach, not the opponents or their fans, not even the weather. Nor is ignorance to what sportsmanship is an excuse, because we can define it for you now.

Sportsmanship is defined as "playing by the established rules of a contest; competing and accepting the result without complaining, gloating or taunting; and cheering in only an enthusiastic and supportive manner that does not disrespect, taunt, distract, ridicule, or attempt to intimidate an opponent, its fans or game officials."

A good sport is a true leader. As a parent of a student-athlete at our school, your sportsmanship goals and objectives must include:

* Athletics are part of the educational experience, and its benefits of participation and involvement go beyond the final score or outcome of a game.

* Encourage student-athletes to perform to the best of their abilities and efforts, just as we urge them with their classwork, realizing someone may turn in better or lesser performances.

* Participate in positive cheers that encourage our team, and discourage any actions that would redirect that focus in a negative or disrespectful nature to anyone.

* Learn, understand and respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions.

* Respect the efforts and tasks our coaches face as teachers; and support them as they work to educate our children.

* Respect our opponents and acknowledge them for striving to do their best with positive cheers or by simply refraining from any negative cheers, actions or disrespect toward them.

* Maintain a sense of dignity and character under all circumstances.

* Enjoy your son's or daughter's participation

What is Expected of Me as a Parent?

Essential elements of character and ethics are embodied in sportsmanship principles, including loyalty, respect, modesty, honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, self-control and discipline, and good citizenship.

To be a supportive and valued parent fan, we ask you to review and abide by the following sportsmanship goals and guidelines.

* Realize that athletics is part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond results and standings.

* Encourage your son/daughter and other student-athletes to give their best effort, just as you would expect them to do in their classwork, with the realization others will often perform better or worse.

* Extend respect to all those involved with your child's participation in interscholastic activities including game officials, coaches, opposing team and opposing team supporters.

* Maintain your dignity under any circumstance. Participate in only positive cheers encouraging our teams, discourage cheers or outbursts that redirect that focus and confront those who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior.

Parental Oath of Sportsmanship

I agree to practice and promote good sportsmanship. I also agree that if I fail to abide by the following guidelines and goals, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but not limited to: verbal warning by school personnel, written warning, removal and/or suspension from game(s), or legal prosecution or action with record of incident kept on file.

* I will learn and understand the rules of the game and the policies of the conference and WIAA.

* I will be responsible for my actions and the actions of my guests as a positive role model for my student-athlete and will encourage sportsmanship by showing respect, courtesy and positive support for players, coaches, officials and all other spectators.

* I will not engage in any unsportsmanlike actions directed at any official, coach, player or other spectators to include booing, taunting, using profane or rude language or gestures.

* I will discourage any behaviors or actions that would endanger the health of all spectators and athletes.

* I will teach my child to play within the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to violence or hos-

tility. In addition, I will demand that he/she treat other players, coaches and officials with respect.

* I will teach my child to perform to the best of his/her ability and, although winning is rewarding, it is not more important than the effort extended or the maintaining of one's dignity.

* I will compliment my child for playing fair and to the best of his/her ability.

* I will not ridicule or yell at my child or other members of the team for making a mistake or losing a competition.

* I will put what is best for the athletes and team above my personal desires for my child to gain acclaim or win.

* I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will not question, discuss or confront

coaches or officials at the competition site. I will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

* I will demand an educational sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all high school events.

In addition, I will accept and abide by the enforcement of all penalties for school athletic code violations imposed on my son/daughter for their failure to abide by the code.

Parent/Guardian Signature



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BEST at **YOUR GAME**
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