

Sportsmanship

is

EVERYONE'S

Responsibility!



The Role of Parents

Athletic events are learning experiences for student-athletes. A ticket to a contest is a privilege to observe athletic tests of skills, not 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.

- 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 interscholastic 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 an interscholastic 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, fans 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.
- Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events where behavior is unbecoming.

**SPORTSMANSHIP
FOR PARENTS**



**A Quick Guide To
Assist In
Sporting Behavior**

A Message From The OHSAA Commissioner

Dear Parents:

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the interscholastic athletic programs of Ohio High School Athletic Association member schools as well as for the individuals who participate. People involved in all facets of the interscholastic athletic programs are expected to demonstrate respect for others and display good sportsmanship.

It is essential that student-athletes, coaches, parents, student groups and fans in general are constantly reminded that **Good Sports Are Winners!** People seriously believe sportsmanship to be an important issue of concern in interscholastic athletics. Positive experiences do not occur by chance, rather they are a result of the educational structure, the right perspective, the right leadership and the true understanding of sportsmanship.

Good sportsmanship is not merely a campaign — it is the essence of what educational athletics is about. Let all of us who have the opportunity promote the ideals of sportsmanship so that today's students and tomorrow's citizens may build a better society.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee trust that you will do your part in promoting good sportsmanship within your school and community. Remember, **Sportsmanship is EVERYONE's responsibility!**

Sincerely,



Daniel Ross, Commissioner
Ohio High School
Athletic Association

Acceptable and Unacceptable Behavior

1. Remember that young people play sports for THEIR enjoyment, not to entertain you.
2. Do not have unrealistic expectations and understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. Understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
3. Respect the official's decisions and encourage all participants to do the same.
4. Respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
5. Encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. Show respect for my team's opponents and realize there would be no game without them.
7. Do not use bad language and harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
8. Always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

Sportsmanship Pledge

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

We need good sportsmanship

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

You can make proper behavioral choices while viewing your school's athletic events.

Those who pledge agree

- To be a proper role model for our student-athletes.
- To inform our students that we have taken the pledge and why.
- To be clear and firm about rules concerning our conduct and behavior while viewing and participating in an athletic contest.

The Parent Pledge

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Date _____

Sport _____

New Pledge Renewal Pledge

You may publish my name along with other parents who support "The Parent Pledge."

Yes No