

Coaches And Officials – Keys To Good Sportsmanship

One of the goals of interscholastic competition is to teach important values while enriching the educational experience of the young men and women who participate. Good sportsmanship is certainly one of those important values, and as a result, promoting good sportsmanship is clearly one of our highest priorities.

We also believe coaches and officials play key roles in teaching and promoting good sportsmanship. This brochure contains a brief summary of sportsmanship expectations for both coaches and officials. By following these guidelines coaches and officials can enhance the lifelong lessons that are being taught in the interscholastic classroom. We urge you to read it carefully and hope you will remember **THE IDEALS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** when coaching or officiating interscholastic contests in WIAA member schools.

An Open Letter

A beloved president once said that the world would soon forget his words, but remember the actions of his soldiers.

As the years pass, the score of a contest becomes relatively unimportant, sometimes forgotten. But your conduct remains ingrained forever in the minds of those who were most affected.

Will they be proud or ashamed?

The choice is yours!

– North Dakota High School Athletic Association

IF THE SHOE FITS . . .

Please don't curse that boy down there;
He is my son, you see.
He's only just a boy you know,
He means the world to me.

I did not raise my son, dear fan,
For you to call him names.
He may not be a superstar
And these are high school games.

So, please don't knock those boys down there,
They do the best they can.
They've never tried to lose a game,
They're boys, and you're a man.

This game belongs to them, you see
You're really just a guest;
They do not need a fan that gripes.
They need the very best.

If you have nothing nice to say,
Please leave the boys alone.
And, if you've forgotten your manners,
Why don't you stay at home!

So, please don't curse those boys down there,
Each one his parent's son.
And win or lose or tie, you see,
To us, they're Number One!

–Mary Brill Ephrata, Pa.



SPORTSMANSHIP

FOR

COACHES, ATHLETES,

PARENTS & FANS

Reproduced from a pamphlet by:
Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association

Expectations of 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.

Expectations of 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 high standard of sportsmanship established by coach.

Expectations of Parents, Students and 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

Expectations of 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.

Expectations Of Media

- ◆ Promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- ◆ Report acts of sportsmanlike behavior without giving undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- ◆ Refrain from making negative comments toward participants, coaches or officials.
- ◆ Recognize efforts of all who participate in the contest.
- ◆ Report facts without demonstrating partiality to either team.

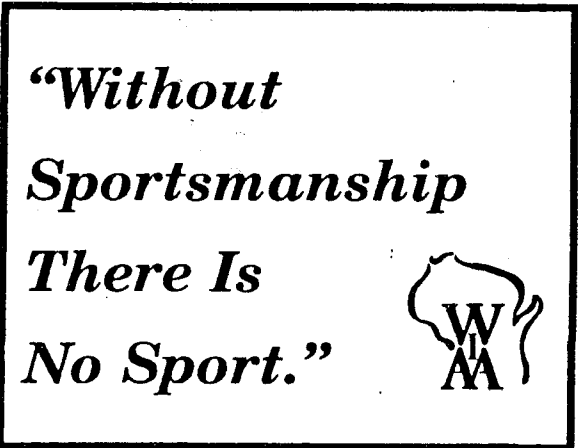
Expectations Of Officials

- ◆ Accept role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and overofficialing 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.

Expectations of 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.



Expectations of Boards of Education

- ◆ Adopt policies that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.
- ◆ Serve as a positive role model and expect the same for parents, fans, participants, coaches and other school personnel.
- ◆ Support participants, coaches, school administrators and fans who display good sportsmanship.
- ◆ Recognize the value of school activities as a vital part of education.
- ◆ Attend and enjoy school activities.