



GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS!

SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP KIT



MAKE THE EDUCATED CHOICE: BE A GOOD SPORT

Interscholastic athletics plays an important role in the development of all those who participate. The lifelong skills, attitudes and positive experiences produced from athletic competition are immeasurable. That is the emphasis to ensure interscholastic activities continue to be 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, coaches or spectators. Sportsmanship encompasses all the positive characteristics of interscholastic athletics including integrity, honesty, citizenship, fairness, respect and adhering to prescribed regulations.

As educators, you embrace the need to instill positive influences upon students in your schools. The importance of teaching the positive qualities of good sportsmanship cannot be understated. The qualities of sportsmanship not only reveals character in interscholastic athletics, which in most cases provide us with the stiffest of challenge to sportsmanship, but in all walks of life.

Schools must emphasize the importance of sportsmanship to everyone involved in interscholastic activities. It must be the directive of all schools to expect good sportsmanship at these activities. The appropriate behavior of spectators in the future depends on it.

It is imperative the student-athletes, coaches, parents, administrators and fans display good sportsmanship at all times. Sportsmanship is an important aspect of interscholastic activities and the mission of the MHSAA. It is a critical component in the partnership with the education received in the traditional classroom. The MHSAA places as much pride and importance on its Good Sports Are Winners! Sportsmanship Awards as its crowning of the champions in competition; and we're pleased to be working with MEEMIC Insurance Company to provide this program.

Success in sportsmanship is much like success with any program. It doesn't just happen; it is an educated choice. A choice that takes understanding, leadership and a great deal of commitment. It is very difficult to achieve perfection in the sportsmanship efforts at your school from year to year. However, if you strive for perfection, excellence will be the result.

The MHSAA and MEEMIC Insurance are pleased to provide this reference to assist schools with their sportsmanship efforts. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call on us.



John E. "Jack" Roberts
Executive Director
MHSAA



Pam Harlin
Director, Marketing and Corporate Communications
MEEMIC Insurance Company

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

WHAT IS SPORTSMANSHIP?

sports'man ship' (n.) the practice of playing fair, of taking loss or defeat without complaint or victory without gloating, and treating opponents with fairness, generosity, courtesy, etc.

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

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

Sportsmanship is the "golden rule" of athletics - treating others as you wish to be treated.

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

Sportsmanship is all this and much more.

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

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

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

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

For parents, it may be avoiding living their lives through their children's sporting activities

Sportsmanship encompasses all that which is good in human nature.

Sportsmanship is citizenship in action.

Sportsmanship is a way of life.

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FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Every year the MHSAA has been emphasizing the importance of good sportsmanship. Many people have not had good sportsmanship explained to them. The following six steps will help those people to understand their responsibilities at an athletic contest.

1. *Gain an Understanding and Appreciation for the Rules of the Contest.*

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

2. *Exercise Representative Behavior at All Times.*

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

3. *Recognize and Appreciate Skilled Performance Regardless of Affiliation.*

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

4. *Exhibit Respect for the Officials.*

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

5. *Display Openly a Respect for Opponents.*

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

6. *Display Pride in your Actions at Every Opportunity.*

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

DEFINING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP & POOR SPORTSMANSHIP

Simply, bad sportsmanship is the opposite of sportsmanship, which is defined as “playing fair and losing without complaint or winning without gloating.” To expand on that definition, we believe sportsmanship can be further defined as “playing by the established rules of the contest, competing and losing without complaint, winning without gloating, and cheering in only a positive manner that does not disrespect, taunt, ridicule or attempt to intimidate anyone.”

It is difficult to attend an interscholastic athletic event without witnessing some acts of poor sportsmanship. And with any large group of people, there is a greater opportunity to have random and isolated instances of unfavorable behavior. However, peer pressure is a powerful thing among teen-aged students, and also with adults. Not supporting individuals who display poor sportsmanship and instructing them on good sportsmanship can also assist in sportsmanship efforts. Perhaps a definition of poor sportsmanship and examples displayed at numerous sporting events can help students, parents, competitors, coaches and support groups identify breaches in sportsmanship.

With this definition, here are just a few of the common problems with sportsmanship at interscholastic events.

Action

Booing at official's call or players action, or the cheers
“Nuts and Bolts, Nuts and Bolts, We Got...;”
Competitors, coaches, fans making negative expressions in reaction to an official's call

Cheering “Over-rated;” “Referee, Winning Team, Losing Team” (and pointing to the subjects); “Air Ball;” “You, You, You” (after a foul); “Sieve” (after a goal); “Nah, Nah, Nah, Nah, Heyyyy-eyyy, Good Bye”

Waving arms or screaming during a foul shot in order to distract the attention of opponents

Throwing of ANY object

Competitors not shaking hands after a contest; degrading an opponent, before or after a contest, in the media; trash talking during a contest; criticizing teammates and coaches

Damaging bleachers or facilities of host schools, hotels, restaurants

Competitors pointing to the crowd, doing dances after scoring or making a positive play in excessive celebration; Spectators using excessive body paint and acting out in manners unrelated to the game.

Posting untrue and inflammatory information on Internet bulletin boards and chat rooms; especially when the real name of the person posting the information is not displayed

Sportsmanship Infraction Interpretation

Disrespectful official's judgments and/or the efforts of players competing. Both are doing their best to execute in a way they were trained. Everyone makes mistakes, we're all human. We need to accept that.

These cheers are directed at the opposition to blatantly ridicule and taunt the opposition and their fans.

This is not playing fair, if it were, wouldn't spectators do it when their own players are shooting?

Not only is this a more serious form of the losing or competing without complaint infraction, it is dangerous and could be considered a criminal act.

This is not winning or losing with dignity and it does not show respect for the opposition, teammates or coaches.

Disrespectful and criminal.

Disrespectful and drawing attention to yourself and not crediting teammates and coaches. Fans drawing attention to themselves do a disservice to the game, showing they are more interested in their own selfish interests than the efforts of their team and school.

Possibly the worst kind of poor sportsmanship – hurling insults without any kind of accountability. Hiding behind a screen name, or no name, is worse than hiding in a crowd at a game.

THE CONCEPTS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is an oft-used word, yet no definitive explanation is readily available. We do know that it refers to some key concepts:

- Citizenship Values
- Competitive Integrity and Ethics
- Respect for Opponents and Officials
- Fair Play
- Understanding of the Rules
- Appreciation for all Performances
- Personal and Institutional Pride
- Gracious Acceptance of Results
- High Moral Character

All these concepts fall into the definition of sportsmanship. They all represent the standards which athletics, in the proper atmosphere, can teach our students.

Citizenship is a companion of sportsmanship, reaching out beyond the playing field and stadium into the community. Citizenship can be defined as:

“The quality of an individual’s response to membership in the community as evidenced by respect for self and respect for others. Sports provide not only the opportunity to teach and learn respect for self and respect for others, but it also places participants in a unique context - competition - that can further instill and hone values necessary for the development of respect for self and respect for others.”

Areas under the umbrella of citizenship include:

- Respect for Self
- Self-esteem
- Discipline
- Courage
- Responsibility
- Integrity and Honesty
- Ethics
- Pride
- Poise
- Respect for Others
- Teamwork
- Loyalty
- Compassion
- Tolerance
- Courtesy
- Fairness
- Integrity
- Humility

Good sportsmanship and citizenship are keys to the public’s perception of interscholastic athletics and activities and their role in the educational system. Athletics and activities, which display good sportsmanship and citizenship, show a positive and productive part of the total educational program offered by a school, and exhibit the justification for the financial expenditures necessary to run these programs.

SPORTSMANSHIP TRAITS

(Applications to athletics of [Name of High School] eight character traits, to be displayed by coaches, athletes, officials, cheerleaders, spectators, and school administration)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTSMANSHIP EDUCATION

What is sportsmanship?

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others:

- Play fair, take loss or defeat without complaint, or victory without gloating
- Treat others as you wish to be treated
- Respect others and one's self
- Impose self-control, be courteous, and gracefully accept results of one's actions
- Display ethical behavior by being good (character) and doing right (action)
- Be a good citizen.

What is sportsmanship education?

- It is learning about good sportsmanship traits and their link to good behavior so they can be practiced in play.
- It is learning about expectations of administrators, coaches, players, cheerleaders, and fans during an athletic event.
- It is learning that each individual can control choices concerning his/her own behavior, and that such control is worthy of praise and respect.
- It is using extracurricular activities to promote understanding.
- It inspires development of good sportsmanship traits among all students.

Why implement sportsmanship education?

- Sportsmanship education is a part of the (Name of High School) Character Education plan.
- Sportsmanship education is needed to teach students the differences between middle and high school athletics and athletics at higher levels.
- Sportsmanship education is needed to promote ethical behavior.
- Sportsmanship is the most important concept or value in sports. It is our foundation, our starting point. It promotes fair play, respect, and the importance of following the rules.
- Sportsmanship education is the right thing to do, the ethical thing.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN GOOD SPORTS WORKSHEET

Use This Worksheet To Get You Going

"Winning is for a day. Sportsmanship and citizenship are for a lifetime."

1. School belief statement on sportsmanship and involvement in the Good Sports Are Winners program.

- A. Program goals/expectations
- B. Target audience
- C. Sportsmanship committee members

II. Code of Conduct.

- A. Administration
- B. Coaches
- C. Players
- D. Spectators
- E. Cheerleaders/Bands
- F. Game officials
- G. Media

III. Codes of Ethics

IV. Promotion strategies

- A. List ways that your school will promote its Good Sports Are Winners program.
- B. Rewards for good sports behavior
- C. Consequences for Acts of Misconduct

V. Evaluation procedures

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GOAL SETTING

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

Mission Statement	The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity permeate 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 generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by <u>(name of your school)</u> as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.
Define	Are sportsmanship behavior and unsportsmanlike behavior clearly stated?
School Board Statement	Are the philosophy and goals of the interscholastic athletic program adopted by the board of education? Is sportsmanship emphasized as part of educational athletics?
Athletic Policy Manual	Is sportsmanship emphasized in the coaching manual and materials distributed to student-athletes?
Administrative Support	Do district administrators support and emphasize common sportsmanship goals?
Emphasis	Do league meetings emphasize the importance of educationally-sound athletic experiences?
Shape	Are desirable behaviors articulated and reinforced? Potential vehicles are through game programs, public address announcements, pass outs, tickets, pre-season meetings, assemblies, contests, triangle of coaches-athletes-parents.
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 where youngsters play hard, play safe, respecting the opponent and game officials and accept the results of interscholastic competition. <i>Keep athletics in perspective!</i>

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

August

- Distribute letters to various publics
- Discuss value of sportsmanship with fall coaches and athletes
- Create a committee up made 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, and showing MHSAA sportsmanship videos
- Talk with your event security staff and public address announcers about their role during games

September

- Distribute brochures and display posters promoting **GSAW!** campaign
- Send press release announcing school's involvement in program
- Visit homerooms in school, stressing value of good sportsmanship
- Utilize **GSAW!** slicks in printed materials produced at school
- Send fall public service announcement to local radio stations

October

- Plan a competition between student organizations, utilizing the **GSAW!** theme (Poster contest, etc.)
- Discuss sportsmanship, ethics and integrity being used as topics in the classroom with selected instructors
- Emphasis in school announcements and publications on good sportsmanship as fall tournaments approach
- Plan an activity around National Be A Sport Day during High School Activities Week

November

- Discuss value of sportsmanship with winter coaches and athletes
- Develop an editorial for the school newsletter to the public, discussing 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, and showing MHSAA sportsmanship videos

December-January

- Send out winter public service announcement to local radio stations

February

- Contact an editorial writer at 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
- Emphasis in school announcements and publications on good sportsmanship 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, and showing MHSAA sportsmanship videos

April-May-June

- Send out spring public service announcement to local radio stations
- Present your evaluation of **GSAW!** program to community through letters, newsletters that reach into the home
- Emphasis in school announcements and publications on good sportsmanship as spring tournaments approach
- Begin planning sportsmanship program for the next school year
- Send out summer public service announcement to local radio stations

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

SAMPLE LETTERS

NOTE -- These letters should be sent along with the list of expectations or codes or conduct for each group. These Guidelines for Behavior and Codes of Conduct can be found in the next section of this kit

Letter For School Board Members

An essential element of educational athletics is to teach lifetime values, such as ethics, integrity and respect. These values must be conveyed not only to our students, but to the community as well.

For a number of years, our school has been working with the Michigan High School Athletic Association to raise the level of behavior expectations of our coaches, student-athletes and spectators at our athletic events by participating in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program. As a responsibility of membership in the MHSAA, we are required to implement a program covering all aspects of sportsmanslike behavior.

Schools like ours must be the vehicle for promoting sportsmanship. To avoid this responsibility will reflect on our school and our community in a negative manner. We have an obligation to provide a program that we believe will counter the negative influences of other levels of athletic competition that exist in regard to sportsmanship.

During the year, we will be implementing various portions of the program made available to us by the MHSAA. We plan to communicate the mission of the program to internal and external audiences in the school system and the community.

As a school board member and a recognized leader of our community, you can play a role in this campaign by speaking out for good sportsmanship and helping to raise the level of what should be acceptable behavior by our coaches, student-athletes and spectators at our events, home and away. More importantly, your leadership by example, conducting yourselves in an exemplary manner at events, is essential to our success in this area.

Good sportsmanship is something which requires constant attention. We plan to stress it in a variety of ways this year. We encourage your support of this program, which we feel will have far-reaching benefits for everyone who is a part of our school system.

Letter From Principal/Athletic Director To Coaches

The privilege of coaching young people carries with it many responsibilities. As a high school coach, your responsibilities go well beyond wins and losses. In fact, wins and losses should rank near the bottom of the list of your expectations and ours in your work as a teacher in the athletic classroom.

Good sportsmanship and all the values it embodies are perhaps the most important reason we sponsor athletics. Taking a leading role in our sportsmanship efforts will convey a powerful message to your players.

We are continuing our efforts in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

But it is truly at the local level, where each individual school's efforts will blossom into success. Your involvement is essential. It is critical. As a society, we are constantly bombarded with the message that winning is everything. You must tell your student-athletes, and their parents, that winning as a goal in itself is failure-oriented. True success is oriented in the development of sport and lifetime skills, which should make players and spectators feel good after every game -- win or lose.

Please take a few moments to review the attached guidelines for behavior, stating the example we expect our coaches to display as leaders of the student-athletes we serve in our school and other interested parties in our school district. Good sportsmanship requires as much work as any play or skill you will teach an athlete this season. It is more important in the respect that the values instilled by good sportsmanship will serve our community for years to come.

We hope the upcoming season will be a rewarding one for you.

Letter To Student-Athletes

Athletes are looked to as role models whether they like it or not. Even in school sports, student-athletes serve as role models to the general student population in the high school, to elementary and junior high/middle school students, and even the community at-large.

It is with that understanding that practicing good sportsmanship is as important as any points you may score or any records you may set this season. Your behavior on the playing surface reaches to the top row of the stands and beyond. How our school and our community is perceived is influenced by the good sportsmanship you display.

We are continuing our efforts in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

Winning, by itself, ranks far down the list of why young people take part in school sports. Yet, our society places more value than ever before on winning -- probably too much value. Not everyone can win every game, or finish first in every race. But everyone can practice the Golden Rule -- treating others the way they wish to be treated, with fairness and respect. That is the true value in playing school sports.

Please take a few moments to review the attached guidelines for behavior, stating the example we expect our student-athletes to display as leaders in our school and our school district. As a representative of ours, your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Displaying 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 Cheerleaders

As a cheerleader, the benefits of athletic involvement are the same for you as for those participating on the playing surface. You are a role model, you are a leader in our school and our community.

In your role, displaying good sportsmanship is critical. Many times, cheerleaders can generate positive enthusiasm and even turn a potentially negative situation around. How our school and our community is perceived is influenced by the good sportsmanship you display.

We are continuing our efforts in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

As a society, we are constantly bombarded with the message that winning is everything. Not everyone can win every game, or finish first in every race. But everyone can practice the Golden Rule -- treating others the way they wish to be treated, with fairness and respect. That is the true value in playing school sports.

Please take a few moments to review the attached guidelines for behavior, stating the example we expect our cheerleaders to display as leaders in our school and our school district. As a representative of ours, your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Displaying 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 Groups

As a member of the **(name of group)**, you are taking part in program which places you in a position of leadership in our school and community. Individuals like you are looked up to by other students who wish to set a positive atmosphere in our building every day.

When your group becomes involved in an extracurricular athletic event, how our school and our community is perceived is influenced by the good sportsmanship you display.

We are continuing our efforts in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

As a society, we are constantly bombarded with the message that winning is everything. Not everyone can win every game, or finish first in every race. But everyone can practice the Golden Rule -- treating others the way they wish to be treated, with fairness and respect. That is the true value in playing school sports.

Please take a few moments to review the attached guidelines for behavior, stating the example we expect our student groups to display as leaders in our school and our school district. As a representative of ours, your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Displaying 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

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. When you as a student become involved in an extracurricular athletic event, how our school and our community is perceived is influenced by the good sportsmanship you display.

We are continuing our efforts in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

As a society, we are constantly bombarded with the message that winning is everything. Not everyone can win every game, or finish first in every race. But everyone can practice the Golden Rule -- treating others the way they wish to be treated, with fairness and respect. That is the true value in playing school sports.

Please take a few moments to review the attached guidelines for behavior, stating the example we expect our student body to display at athletic events. As a representative of ours, your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Displaying 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 year is a rewarding one for you.

General Letter To Parents

Over the past few years, our school has stepped up its sportsmanship efforts in an effort to emphasize what is truly important in educational athletics. As a result, we feel our coaching staff, our student-athletes and our student body in general have benefited. All of these groups display exemplary behavior at our events. We have raised their expectations.

But there is one group which we need to intensify our sportsmanship efforts with -- parents. It seems that over time, parents have lost sight or have never know that the true meaning of educational athletics is to do just that -- educate. It's not about wins and losses. It's not about championships or the remote pipe dream of earning an athletic scholarship to college. It's about learning. And learning the values taught by athletics, especially respect, is what set school sports apart of other levels of competition. It's why school sports exist.

We are continuing our efforts in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

As a society, we are constantly bombarded with the message that winning is everything. Not everyone can win every game, or finish first in every race. But everyone can practice the Golden Rule -- treating others they way they wish to be treated, with fairness and respect. That is the true value in playing school sports.

Please take a few moments to review the attached guidelines for behavior, stating the example we expect our spectators to display at athletic events. As a representative of ours, your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and the media. Displaying 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 look forward to serving you in the year ahead, and appreciate your continued support.

Editorial For School District Newsletter

As a school district, we've taken a leadership role in expecting the sportsmanship displayed by our athletic teams, student body and community at events to be outstanding. We've placed a higher value on respect than wins and losses, because there's more to be learned in educational athletics than how to shoot, score, run and throw.

We are continuing our efforts in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

(Optional paragraph about **GSAW!** awards won by school sports teams may be inserted here.)

If we don't make sportsmanship our highest priority, our programs will be no different than most of the non-school athletic programs, and as a result, we will have lost our reason for sponsoring them.

Your support of this program is essential as part of our educational mission. Your ability to be a good sport will put you in a leadership role in your home and our community.

The most sportsmanship guideline is practicing the Golden Rule -- treating others they way you want to be treated, with respect. Some sample guidelines of what we expect from our coaches, athletes, student body and adult spectators are available at the school office.

Everyone represents our school at an athletic event. One act of sportsmanlike, or unsportsmanlike, behavior by even one person paints a picture of how we are perceived by neighboring communities, schools and the media. Maintaining the proper perspective about school sports will help us in our quest for good sportsmanship, show what is good about our school district and remind us that school sports are here to educate students, and be fun.

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

General Program Article About Sportsmanship Emphasis on Adult Fans

(Insert your school's name, nickname and initials as indicated below)

Sportsmanship – Never Out of Style

Ever wonder why some schools are continually having behavior problems with their adult fans or students? Why do articles appear in local papers describing the negative incidents of a previous night's game? Does it seem that the sportsmanship behaviors of some schools are always a topic of conversation; that those same schools are often threatened with probation by their league or conference or that expulsion is even considered as a remedy for those offending schools?

In many cases these behaviors come about because of the definite lack of district and community support for expecting and demanding what is right about competition in high school athletics.

We can all be proud of our athletic programs at (School Name). Our staff, teams and coaches know what is acceptable behavior on their part. We know, and practice, a genuine courtesy toward our opponents; a respect for our officials and a "true love of the game" in all of our athletic competitions. We realize that our opponents are also young people who practice hard; play with intensity and expect to be treated with a certain dignity and respect. That is what (Nickname) Pride is all about.

None of us would want our youngsters treated in a fashion which is humiliating or degrading; we cannot expect good sportsmanship for our teams and coaches if we do not expect that same good sportsmanship toward our opponents and their fans.

Some might ask – Why are the same schools always under scrutiny and why are these improper behaviors allowed? In all of our years of athletic coaching and administration, one answer is crystal clear – "Not all schools demand exemplary behavior nor are they willing to correct improper behavior when it occurs." That is not the case at (School Initials).

Our administration, teachers, coaches and staff are all on the same page when it comes to good sportsmanship...

...positive behaviors aimed toward our teams and players are always encouraged...

...negative or degrading cheers or chants aimed to embarrass or ridicule are not part of our programs.

Most of the schools in our conference work very hard at promoting good sportsmanship; but as Thomas Paine wrote in the 1700's... "A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of being right." In many cases that would be apt explanation of the approach to unacceptable behaviors by a few high schools. Rest assured, (School Initials) will continue to stress good sportsmanship as an integral part of all its programs.

Along with our state athletic association and all of our conference schools; we are joining a renewed effort to encourage good sportsmanship; with the main emphasis aimed at the adult fan at high school events. The MHSAA has had to deal with an increasing number of unsportsmanlike behaviors on the part of adults at recent high school events. We support their efforts.

And with the support of all (Nickname) fans we can make sure that our high school contests are enjoyable, learning experiences for all of our youngsters; whether they be starters or substitutes; freshmen or seniors; girls or boys.

We invite you to come out and enjoy all of our sporting activities; we are sure you will enjoy yourself, while watching high school athletics at its finest – "(School Name)" style. Go (Nickname)!!!

Letter To The Media

Sportsmanship is what sets high school sports apart from all other levels of competition. Teaching the lifetime values of integrity, fairness and respect, sportsmanship is the product of educational athletics -- not wins and losses and blue chip athletes.

We are continuing our efforts in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

As a society, we are constantly bombarded with the message that winning is everything. Not everyone can win every game, or finish first in every race. But everyone can practice the Golden Rule -- treating others the way they wish to be treated, with fairness and respect. That is the true value in playing school sports.

It is important that you will join us in our efforts to promote good sportsmanship, by reporting on high school in a manner different from what happens at entertainment-oriented athletic events at the collegiate or professional level. Your list of goals should include:

- Promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship; which includes acknowledging that disrespectful behavior, such as taunting, trash talk and intimidation, has no place in school athletics;
- Reporting acts of sportsmanlike behavior without giving undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct;
- Refraining 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?; and
- Reporting facts without demonstrating partiality to either team.

Enclosed you will find a press release announcing our continued support of the **Good Sports Are Winners!** program. If you can find a way to utilize this material, stressing the need for high levels of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity at our events and in our daily lives, it would be deeply appreciated.

If you would like to further discuss the campaign, and how we are attempting to communicate the values of good sportsmanship to our constituents, feel free to contact us or the MHSAA.

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

Letter To Parents/Adult Spectators Just Prior To Tournament Play

Everyone acknowledges that tournament time is a special time. It is also an appropriate time to remind ourselves about the importance of sportsmanship.

Tournament play seems to inspire athletes, lifting their games to new heights. Tournaments, however, bring on a set of challenges to good sportsmanship. Because a loss ends the season, our character must also rise to the occasion.

It is too easy to become over exuberant after a victory; or to shift the blame when things don't go our way. It is essential that our coaches, student-athletes and spectators maintain a positive approach to handling adversity and prosperity.

Too many times this season, some parents have become quite vocal at games, loudly criticizing game officials, opposing players and our own players and coaches. 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 an administrative staff, we will be visible at these games to assist the host management with crowd control. We will be working as hard in the stands as our coaches and athletes are on the playing surface to ensure that good sportsmanship is practiced by everyone in our cheering section.

Our young people have worked all season long to prepare themselves for the tournament. They deserve your positive and enthusiastic support.

Letter From The Team Captain To Other Players

We have all heard about how important sportsmanship is. Our coaches and administrators preach it to us, we see advertisements for it and hear public address announcements at every game about it.

Maybe we tune some of it out after a while. Maybe we wonder how important it is now when we see everything that happens at college and professional games is contrary to what's we're being told.

But if you think about why we're here, I like to remember back to how we all got started.

In the third grade, I attended a youth clinic which taught the rules and skills of the game. At this point, I learned the necessity of sportsmanship. Many of my friends also attended the clinic, which provided incentive to learn the game, but more importantly, brought about friendly competition, fun and athletic success. Each year as I advanced to the next level, I competed with and against my friends from school. The fact that we won or lost had absolutely no bearing on why we were there. It was very common to see opponents leaving the gym together, chattering away about the unfolding events of the game, not the final outcome. It was a scene that truly epitomized sportsmanship. The participants were physically against each other, but not at the expense of embarrassing or doing hard to their opponents.

That youth league experience was critical to my relationship with my teammates and opponents. From that start, I developed a foundation of morals which guide my play today.

While it seems that the sportsmanship of collegiate and professional athletes is sometimes questionable, with fights, trash-talking, self-glorification, and no ties of loyalty, we can take steps to rescind these occurrences. Remembering how we approached the games when we were little can help us remember to be good sports. Although most games require a winner and a loser, sportsmanship eliminates losing and provides the ultimate rewards.

Let's do our best to be successful this season.

A Letter Regarding Parental Behavior

Much of the joy of being a high school sports parent comes from watching your youngster compete in games. There are very few kids who aren't bolstered by looking into the stands and seeing their Mom and Dad cheering for them.

As part of their responsibilities, parents should be at every one of their youngster's sporting events, regardless of the level of play. Fortunately, the majority of players behave appropriately at school sporting events. But those who misbehave can spoil it for all the rest. It takes only a few out-of-control parents to turn what should be a pleasant atmosphere into one that is stressful for everyone.

In addition to some of the obvious inappropriate actions, such as using profanity, drinking alcohol, throwing objects, and the like, the following rules of thumb for parental behavior should be followed:

- Don't interfere directly or indirectly with your youngster's coach. Parents must be willing to relinquish the responsibility for the child to the coach for the duration of a game. Negative comments and gestures of displeasure toward the coach while in the stands only undermines the efforts of the coach.
- Don't shout instructions or criticism to the youngsters.
- Do remain in the spectator area during the event.
- Don't make abusive comments to athletes, parents, officials or coaches of either team.
- Do express interest, encouragement, and support to your youngster.
- Do lend a hand when a coach or school administrator asks for help.

And what about those parents who violate the rules of conduct? Good sportsmanship among all spectators is a goal worth working for, but especially for parents, who have the obligation, not only to control their own behavior, but to also remind others around them of their responsibilities when necessary. When parents misbehave, it is the duty of other parents and school administrators to step in and correct the situation.

A simple rule of thumb for all spectators to follow is that absolutely nothing in their actions should interfere with any youngster's enjoyment of the game.

We hope you'll join us by being a good sport always!

Letter From One Parent To Another

You may not know me, but I am the person that sits next to you every week at the game. I come out each week for a variety of reasons. I love to watch my youngster play sports, I like to support the local team and it is nice to see friends and alumni. It is also a chance to get away from professional and collegiate sports where money, backstabbing and whining adults seem to permeate every nook and cranny. That is why it bugs me so much when the smell of fresh cut grass, popcorn and hot chocolate, that should fill the air at stadiums and gymnasiums, is ruined by some of the things I hear next to me.

Why do you feel compelled to tell the coaches how to coach and the players how to play? Is it a lack of education or just laziness that causes you to yell out obscenities in the middle of a crowd filled with young people instead of using, say maybe, the English language? And for those of you who think your son or daughter is the most important player on the team, and should play every minute of every game, guess what? So does every other parent and grandparent in the stands.

It is very easy to get "into" the game and become vocal. In fact, the team loves it when they hear cheering and loud noises from the stands. But during the game and especially after the game, tell members of the team they did a good job. Encourage them whether they scored the winning points or stumbled and fell. Let the coaching staff know you appreciate the countless hours of preparation and emotion they spend on your child.

All I ask for is a little popcorn and a few hours of civility. I promise not to take up more than 18 inches of seating (well, maybe 24) and I will pick up my trash when I leave. In an era of madness, I have found an oasis. It is a place for many of us to forget the week and enjoy the last pure thing in sports, high school athletics.

A Letter From An Official To Parents

This is something that I wanted to do for a long time. I want to talk to the guy that is up in the stands and as usual is yelling at the officials.

Sir,

I want to make a statement about the noise you make. At every game you do your best to spoil it for every one. When you are not at a basketball game, you are a perfect gentleman. Today it is appropriate to tell you what most athletic directors and coaches would like to tell you. Before we start, it might be better to share a story that happened to me recently.

The time was last year at a tournament in Grand Rapids. One of the teams involved was called the Spartans, which had an outstanding player who was quite a treat to officiate and watch play. The game itself was not too exciting. The Spartans were winning easily and tension was low. This was my fourth game in less than 24 hours, my knees were hurting and I just wanted to finish the game.

As the game progressed, a voice from the stands could be heard. This person was making one comment after another. The targets of course were the officials. I was really focused on the game and it didn't bother me. He presented nothing new so I made moving the game along a priority and tried to ignore it.

Later in the game I called a routine foul and the girls lined up for the shot. As they did so a voice came from the stands with another criticism. Again I ignored the voice. The girls on both teams made comments about who that was up in the stands. You see, he was spoiling the game for everyone.

One girl looked up and said to no one in particular, "That's my dad, I wish he would just go home." Her eye caught mine for just a brief second. She dropped her head quickly and her hands went to both knees. The hurt in her eyes told the story.

I don't know what you're thinking or what you are trying to achieve, but all it does is distract the players. You are an embarrassment to your school and your basketball team. The hurt you cause to your son or daughter cannot be measured. I am speaking to you for their sake. Relax, enjoy the game, cheer wildly for your team. If you want to make a criticism, do so quickly and then let it drop. The players want to play and not listen to you the entire game. The game belongs to them. This is their time. Let them play.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD...

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

OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS...

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

OF THE COACH...

- 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 athlete.
- 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, especially taunting, trash talking and intimidation, will not be tolerated.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow--please refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing or talking about; no throwing of any object in disgust. Shake hands with the officials and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public. Demand the same of your players.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote athletics and the student/athlete. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of all people at the event.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting/talking with the media. Please confine your remarks to game statistics and to the performance of your team.
- Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the No. 1 priority.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
- Be no party to the use of profanity or obscene language, or improper actions.

OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE...

- 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.
- 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 friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Refrain from taunting, trashing talking or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
- Remember that's there's a difference between gamesmanship and sportsmanship. Sportsmanship demands that we not try to push the limits of the rules to gain an advantage in competition.
- Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid **excessive** celebrating after a play or end of a game.

OF THE 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 friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the training and team effort that goes into a cheerleading squad?
- Wish opposing cheerleaders good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- Establish standards of desirable behavior for the squad and attempt in a cheerful manner to transfer that to your spectators.
- Select positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
- Encourage a positive crowd alternative when booing or an inappropriate chant begins by starting a popular cheer
- Use discretion in selecting the times to cheer. Give the opposing school the same amount of time your squad would want in performing cheers, and treat opposing players like you would treat your own team.
- Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances for both teams.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of your team and community, in the eyes of the officials and all at the event.

OF OTHER STUDENT GROUPS (PEP CLUBS, BAND, ETC.)...

- Establish themselves as leaders in their conduct before, during and after contests and events. Always provide positive support 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 themselves 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, in the eyes of all people at the event.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.

OF SPECTATORS IN GENERAL...

- Remember that you are at a contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, 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 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 (i.e. tailgating).
- Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and league administrators for their efforts in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the role of good sportsmanship to that end.
- Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events whose behavior is unbecoming.

OF PARENTS IN PARTICULAR...

- Understand the purpose of educational athletics. School sports are about kids learning and having fun. They're not about attempting to earn college athletic scholarships.
- Understand that you are possibly the biggest role model in your child's life. Carrying on wildly in the stands at games, challenging the authority of coaches and officials does little to model positive behavior in your child's presence.
- Don't live your life through your child's athletic activities. This is their time. This is their place. Let them play.
- Recognize that school coaches and administrators are now in charge of your child's athletic activities. Don't undermine their authority – openly or behind the scenes.
- Make your cheers during games those of support of your child – not instructions as to how to play.

OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCER...

- Be impartial. Announce the contest with no show of favoritism.
- Remember that your job is to inform -- not to entertain.

- Use proper language at all times.
- Be enthusiastic but calm.
- Do not attempt to “talk over the crowd.”
- Do not anticipate or second guess calls by the officials or criticize 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 p.a.system.
- Announce convenient routes for spectators to leave the venue and caution the crowd to drive safely on its way home.
- Be aware that good sportsmanship is a very important part of interscholastic activities; reading a sportsmanship statement prior to the beginning of an event, and at key times during breaks in the action contributes to a positive, educational atmosphere.

OF THE MEDIA...

- Promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship; which includes acknowledging that disrespectful behavior, such as taunting, trash talk and intimidation, has no place in school athletics
- Report acts of 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.

OF OFFICIALS...

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over-officiating are not acceptable.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
- Know the rules of the game thoroughly and abide by the established Code of Ethics.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.
- When watching a game as a spectator, giving the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR...

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

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR...

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

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN SAMPLE SPORTSMANSHIP MISSION STATEMENTS

Sample Statement #1

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the interscholastic programs of (Name of School) High School, as well as for the individuals who participate in such programs. People involved in all facets of the interscholastic program are expected to demonstrate respect for others and display good sportsmanship.

Sample Statement #2

Welcome to (Name of School) High School. We hope that you will find today's event both exciting and enjoyable. Here at (Name of School), we are dedicated to promoting and improving sportsmanship throughout our school and community. Our expectations are that all players, coaches, and spectators will share our same feelings and strive to keep sportsmanship the number one priority while supporting your favorite team and players.

"We believe that good sportsmanship is an ATTITUDE. Our ATTITUDE promotes supportive and positive behavior during the activities in our schools. Our mission is to foster this ATTITUDE by demonstrating our leadership in every aspect of our school's programs."

At (Name of School) High School we are proud to say that GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is alive and well.

SAMPLE CODES OF CONDUCT

For The Student-Athlete

(Name of High School) believes that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. Student participants have a duty to assure that their teams promote the development of good character. This code of conduct applies to all student participants involved in interscholastic athletics and activities.

1. Student participants will support the value of academics and the educational process.
2. Student participants will advocate, model, and promote the development of good character to include:
 - a) Trustworthiness
 - b) Respect
 - c) Responsibility
 - d) Fairness
 - e) Caring
 - f) Citizenship
3. Student participants will respect peers, coaches, officials, opponents and other associated with the event.
4. Student participants will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. Student participants will model appropriate behavior at all times.
6. Student participants will engage in a healthy lifestyle.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined or removed from a team if I violate any of its provisions.

Signature

Date

For Coaches

(Name of High School) believes that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. Coaches have a duty to assure that their teams promote the development of good character. This code of conduct applies to all coaches involved in interscholastic athletics and activities.

1. The coach will promote academics and the educational process.
2. The coach will teach, enforce, advocate, model, and promote the development of good character to include:
 - a) Trustworthiness
 - b) Respect
 - c) Responsibility
 - d) Fairness
 - e) Caring
 - f) Citizenship
3. The coach will respect participants, officials, opponents, parents, and all other involved.
4. The coach will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. The coach will model appropriate behavior at all times.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined if I violate any of its provisions.

Signature

Date

For Parents & Other Spectators

(Name of High School) believes that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. This code of conduct applies to all parents/fans involved in interscholastic athletics and activities.

1. Parents/Spectators will promote academic, emotional, physical and moral well being above desires and pressure to win.
2. Parents/Spectators will teach, enforce, advocate, model, and promote the development of good character to include:
 - a) Trustworthiness
 - b) Respect
 - c) Responsibility
 - d) Fairness
 - e) Caring
 - f) Citizenship
3. Parents/Spectators will respect participants, officials, opponents, and all others involved.
4. Parents/Spectators will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. Parents/Spectators will model appropriate behavior at all times.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be forbidden from attending games or practices if I violate any of its provisions.

Signature Date

For Officials

The MHSAA believes that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. This code of conduct applies to all officials involved in interscholastic athletics and activities.

1. Officials will demonstrate respect towards players, coaches, spectators and all involved.
2. Officials will be knowledgeable.
3. Officials will perform at their best regardless of the level or expertise of participants.
4. Officials will promote fair play.
5. Officials will model appropriate behavior.
6. Officials will take control in an unassuming manner.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct.

Signature Date

FOUR STEPS TO DEVELOPING SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is conduct becoming to an individual involving fair and honest competition, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of results. The four steps in developing sportsmanship are: (1) demonstrate sportsmanship ourselves; (2) explain what is expected; (3) provide orientation and practice in sportsmanship-like behaviors as members prepare for and participate in programs and; (4) continue coaching, encouraging, correcting, and teaching for youth and their families to develop sportsmanship. Following, are tips for effective results in each of the four steps:

Step 1. Demonstrate Sportsmanship

It is important for administrators, coaches and other leaders to demonstrate sportsmanship. Youth and their families learn from the example we provide. We should always meet and exceed the expectations outlined in the Good Sports Are Winners! Guidebook.

The following are examples of additional ways to demonstrate sportsmanship:

1. Find out what the policies, rules, and procedures are for the sport in which you are participating. Accept and support them, even if you don't agree with all of them. Behave as you hope your members and their families will behave.
2. If you and your members disagree with something, be polite in expressing your concern and suggest alternatives to "make the best better" to the appropriate policy makers. Express appreciation if changes you suggest are made.
3. Don't be a "sore loser" when things don't go your way. Gracefully accept the situation and work positively with everyone to do their best under existing policies, rules, and procedures.

Step 2. Explain What's Expected

It is important to explain the policies, rules, and procedures to members and their families, and make sure they (and we!) follow them. Review what will happen and what to expect at each of the programs in which they plan to participate. Additional ideas for explaining sportsmanship expectations include:

1. Have a special orientation meeting with your student-athletes and their families. If such a meeting is not possible, distribute and review materials from the Good Sports Are Winners! kit with your students, and send selected materials home with them for their families to read.
2. Work with members so that they can perform as well as possible. Make suggestions for how they can improve before competition. Make sure student-athletes know their strengths and areas in which improvement is needed before they go into competition. It's much easier for kids (and parents) to understand that they need to improve their behavior when they are already aware of such problems.
3. When youth or their families want to do something that is outside the policies, rules, procedures and sportsmanship guidelines, let them know what the consequences will be and stop them. If they persist, do your part to make sure the consequences come to pass.

Step 3. Help Youth and Their Families During Competitive Programs

Competitive programs abound with "teachable moments" for developing sportsmanship. It is important for administrators, coaches and others to keep attuned to the participants and spectators, and provide assistance in exhibiting sportsmanship as needed. Here are some tips:

1. When possible, be present at the programs in which your members are participating.
2. Encourage members to enjoy themselves and learn as much as they can.
3. Visit with parents about how the program is organized.
4. Encourage younger siblings to get involved with the program in the future.
5. Visit with members after they participate and help them learn from their experience. Discuss what they did well, what they could have improved upon, and ideas to try in the future.
6. Congratulate and cheer on those who won or performed better than they expected, and encourage them to be gracious towards others and not "show off" or get conceited.
7. Console those who lost or who did not perform as well as they had hoped. Explain that learning to be a good loser is one of the most difficult and most important abilities we ever develop. Help them understand that in competitive situations there are almost always more "losers" than "winners" just as in real life there's only one person who gets a job for which 10 may interview. (This may not seem helpful at the time, but gives youth something to think about later in accepting the disappointment.)
8. Discuss how they can improve their performance in the future.
9. Do not permit your members or their families to exhibit poor sportsmanship. Stop any complaining, blaming, or excuse-giving as soon as it starts. Help them understand why things are as they are.
10. Review the expectations of sportsmanship as needed. Recognize and praise good sportsmanship.

Step 4. Work With Youth and Their Families Following Competitive Programs

When a program is over, work with participants and their families "to make the best better" for the future. Shortcomings and criticisms should be handled and dealt with in private. Successes and progress should be recognized publicly. Have a follow-up meeting or meetings to celebrate successes, talk about areas for improvement, and begin plans for the future.

SPORTSMANSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

Activity 1

Basic Sportsmanship Expectations

Time Required: 15 minutes

Audience: Students and student-athletes

Materials Needed:

One Good Sports Are Winners! brochure per member and one for each family

Extra paper and pencils for note-taking

What To Do:

1. Briefly introduce the topic, define what is meant by the term “sportsmanship,” and discuss why it is important for the members and their families. Highlight some of the relevant points. Use examples from your own experience to explain why the topic is important.
2. Distribute the Good Sports Are Winners! brochures.
3. Review the main points of the brochure by having members take turns reading each of the suggestions listed, and discussing each item. Make sure members completely understand what is meant by each item. Ask for personal examples of how they can apply the tips as they participate in competition and other programs. Also ask for examples of how someone might act if he/she used unsportsmanlike behavior, to help members understand the difference.
4. Distribute additional copies of the Good Sports Are Winners! brochure to be taken home to each family. Ask members to give the brochure to their parents or other supporter who will be with them at upcoming events, and ask them to read it before attending.
5. Ask if there are any questions and provide appropriate responses. Summarize by briefly reviewing how your members are expected to behave before, during, and after the upcoming competitive programs and events.

Activity 2

Sportsmanship Expectations

Time Required: 30–60 minutes

Audience: Student-Athletes and their families

Materials Needed:

One Good Sports Are Winners! brochure per participant

Extra paper and pencils for note-taking

What To Do:

Choose activities from the following suggestions to do with your group.

1. Briefly introduce the topic, define what is meant by the term “sportsmanship,” and discuss why sportsmanship is important for the members of the group and their families. Highlight some of the relevant points. Use examples from your own experience to explain why the topic is important.
2. Ask members to share an example or two of sportsmanlike and unsportsmanlike behavior they have observed. For examples of unsportsmanlike behavior, ask them to tell what could have been done differently for the behavior to demonstrate better sportsmanship.
3. Distribute one Good Sports Are Winners! brochure to each participant. Review the main points of the brochure by having members take turns reading each of the suggestions listed, and discussing each item.
4. Make sure everyone understands completely what is meant by each item. Have members role-play for the group examples of good sportsmanship and poor sportsmanship for each item. Use the examples in the Good Sports Are Winners! kit to set the stage for the role-plays, make up some of your own, or ask the members to develop their own situations to illustrate the points.
5. Ask for examples of how student-athletes and their parents and supporters can apply the tips.
6. Ask student-athletes to brainstorm a “wish list” for how they wish their parents would act at competition. Ask parents to compile a similar “wish list” for how they wish their children would act at the same event. Then compare the two lists in an open, friendly, honest discussion.
7. Ask if there are questions and provide appropriate responses.
8. Summarize by briefly reviewing the major points about how student-athletes and their parents and supporters are expected to behave before, during, and after the upcoming season.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

THE HOMEROOM PRESENTATION

SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR AND SPORTSMANSHIP

PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION

The purpose is to make students aware that:

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

WHAT IS EXPECTED IN GENERAL

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

WHAT IS SPECIFICALLY EXPECTED

- During the National Anthem, students are to face the flag, not to talk, listen to the public address announcer for instructions to sing or not, and to remain still until the end of the anthem.
- Proper language is to be used. No swearing or language which is offensive to others will be tolerated. High school events are a family activity. Individual and group vulgarity is unacceptable, as is taunting, trash talk 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 or the team being penalized by the game official.
- Respect is the key to good sportsmanship. Opponents should be respected. They are not enemies, but fellow teenagers who happen to attend other schools.
- 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 chants and avoid obscene, degrading or elitist cheers--when you participate in an elitist cheer, you give support to an elitist image.
- At halftime, watch any performance or presentation if possible, acknowledge the hard work, preparation and performance of those involved, and do not in any way, detract from the performance.
- After the game, do not tease or belittle the opponent in any way and be pleasant and gracious to everyone.

WHAT THE SCHOOL WANTS MOST

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

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.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN TIPS FOR TEACHING SPORTSMANSHIP

While youngsters participate in sports they develop behavioral attitudes that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Coaches have a responsibility to emphasize the importance of good sportsmanship and fair play to all their players.

The following are some tips on teaching sportsmanship:

1. Hold parent meetings to reinforce the importance of fun, sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation with others.
2. Take the time to point out examples of both good and poor sportsmanship by professional athletes and discuss their behavior with the team.
3. Reward ethical behavior and good sportsmanship. Make this an important reward and not just a consolation prize. Develop a system of points to be accumulated by your players where awards are received for demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship.
4. Teach athletes to be responsible for their own behavior.
5. Support officials and field directors in their efforts to control the games.
6. Educate your players about the rules and "the spirit" of the rules.
7. Stress fair play, civility, and common decency toward opponents and officials.
8. Control problems early and let fans and players know that there are consequences for unacceptable behavior.
9. Let your athletes know that there will be mistakes made and that losing as well as winning is a part of the game.
10. Define winning as doing your best and trying your hardest in practice as well as games.
11. Teach your team the importance of being gracious in both victory and defeat.
12. Never allow yourself or anyone else to discriminate against or make fun of athletes based on their race, gender, body type, ability, disability, nationality, religion, accent, ethnic origin, appearance, economic level or parental affiliations.
13. Remember that the essence of competition is the mutual quest for excellence through challenge and the playing field must be even for both teams.

This article is adapted from Youth Sports Journal, the publication of the National Alliance for Youth Sports.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN A PREGAME FELLOWSHIP SUCCESS STORY

Previous editions of the GSAW! kit have included the following letter from Earl Hartman of Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart High School, detailing how an program where sportsmanship during events is improved by having student-athletes from competing schools spend time together before a game. Here is Hartman's first letter from 1993:

As an athletic official and coach over the past two decades, I have developed a sincere concern regarding the direction of sportsmanship in high school athletics. The expansion and development of the media over the years has brought our young athletes up close to the trash talking, taunting, gloating characteristics of the professional and college programs. When **Sports Illustrated** uses double-page picture spreads to glorify the end zone masses attempting to distract field goal kickers and free throw shooters, our young athletes begin to accept lack of respect for opponents as the norm of a win-win-win society. Are we headed towards the golf state championships where arm waving, jeering hecklers surround tees and greens? Should not the field goal kickers and free throw shooters receive the same respect as their golfers while they attempt to perform their skills?

While reading an article in **Athletic Business** magazine this past fall, an idea came to me. The article dealt with a particular high school football program's post-game policies. As part of the article, it was noted that they players were encouraged to spend time on the field after the game with the player from the opposition they had matched up against. An attempt was to be made to determine how each felt the other had done.

While reading this, my mind went back to the hundreds of games I have coached over the past twenty years. I wondered how many times I've blurted out "good game" as we rushed through hockey-style post-game line ups and hand slaps. I thought of how many times I would have liked to have stopped and **really** told a player he/she played a good game, that he/she made some fine plays, that he/she had a great future.

During my first year as an athletic director (1991-92) I had seen busload after busload of young athletes arrive at our facilities, dress for the contest, perform, clean up and get back on the bus for home with no interaction with our athletes but a rote and mechanical "good game" hand slap. Our opponents seemed to be presented as nameless and faceless athletes who were only present to be defeated in order to accomplish our goals.

As I reviewed the value of a post-game communication experience, I thought how much better it would be to have a pre-game experience. A pre-game experience might allow the participants to learn something about each other, create an atmosphere of respect and play the game as worthy opponents rather than bitter enemies. I then realized that we have unique opportunities in our basketball and volleyball programs as we have a preliminary (JV) contest. This would allow time to meet and interact with varsity opponents before the game.

As an experiment during a December boy's basketball game, I invited the varsity players and coaches from both teams into a classroom at halftime of the junior varsity game. I quickly explained my concern over the direction of sportsmanship and I had each coach match up players (starting positions, first off the bench, reserves, etc.). I suggested topics such as "are you going to college?" "do you want to play ball in college?" "what are your teachers and classes like?" With that, I ignored the boys and began conversing with the coaches and athletic director in the back of the room. Shortly thereafter, I realized that I was having to raise my voice to have the people I was with hear me all over the other conversations in the room. Although the entire interaction lasted less than ten minutes, I felt the experience was good.

Midway through the contest, an event occurred that made me declare this first experiment was a success. I had witnessed several practices and previous games in which a certain one of our talented players had pounded walls, shook his head, scowled or cursed over a missed shot or turnover. At one point, this player had taken a baseline jumper that was blocked out of bounds by the opposing center. As the player stepped back onto the court for the in-bounds play, he patted the opposing center on the shoulder and nodded to say "nice play." The opposition was no longer nameless and faceless, but rather a respected opponent who, at least in this one battle, had succeeded and was acknowledged and respected for it!

I plan to experiment more with this concept and possibly include junior varsity players in a post-game meeting. I will present the ideas to our league for potential adoption and would like to encourage others to consider similar ideas.

In 1995, Hartman submitted another success story of pregame fellowship, taking his original idea and expanding on it. He details plans in this letter to an upcoming opponent:

**Sacred Heart Fighting Irish
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
316 East Michigan Street
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858**

December 5, 1995

Mrs. Geraldine David, A.D.
Gaylord St. Mary's High School

We are looking forward to Friday's event and hope to make many friends and create some great memories. Although plans are still being worked out, this is a tentative schedule of events. Please copy and share this information with your coaches.

Our lunch period is from 11:07 a.m. to 11:47 a.m. so our students will be released for lunch as normal and return to their fifth hour classes. When your bus arrives at the Parish Hall (behind the school at the corner of Franklin and Illinois) our students will be taken from class and brought over to match up and serve lunch to your students. (Pizza and pop. We'll order three pieces per student. From past experience, mostly pepperoni, some ham and a few plain.)

While in the Hall we will match up cheerleaders, varsity players and jayvee players. Our students will then take your students to class for sixth and seventh hours.

After school (2:17 p.m. dismissal) your bus will transport your students to Chippewa Recreation and ours will report there also. We will then proceed with a "triathlon" (bowling, pool and darts) awarding certificates to the top team in each category at each level.

The "triathlon" will be a team effort as each pair (trio in some cases) will alternate shots or throws (is that what you do with a bowling ball?) to achieve the highest score possible (i.e. St. Mary's student rolls first ball, his Sacred Heart partner tries to pick up the spare). In pool, we will play "no call-slip counts-deduct one for a scratch-how many balls can you pocket before six misses".

We will need to send the Jayvees back to the gym by 4:15 p.m. to prepare for their 5:00 p.m. game and should transport the others by 4:45 p.m. Once at the gym the concession stand will allow each student a combination pop/chip/hot dog. We assume the jayvee players will eat after their game and the varsity players when they arrived.

We have covered the costs for the pizza lunch, activities at Chippewa Recreation and the hot dog dinner. Snacks at the recreation center and any additional concession stand goodies will be the students' responsibility.

I am sure this will be a worthwhile event and will create additional excitement when you return for the baseball/softball tourney on May 18, 1996.

Thanks for your help and cooperation. Call if you have questions.

Earl Hartman, A.D.
Sacred Heart Schools

Here's how the event was covered in the December 13, 1995 edition of the Isabella County Herald:

SHA Teams Spend Time With Gaylord Opponents

Sacred Heart Athletic Director Earl Hartman used his concern last week over the direction of high school sports to create a series of special events for the season-opening basketball contest with Gaylord St. Mary's.

Hartman has orchestrated similar day-long events in the past. The Michigan High School Athletic Association annually promotes his concept through the Good Sports Are Winners! Program.

Friday's event started with a pizza lunch at the parish hall. The St. Mary's players and cheerleaders arrived at noon and were introduced to their Sacred Heart host who took their lunch order and served the meal. After lunch, each Sacred Heart student-athlete took their St. Mary counterpart to afternoon classes, introducing their guests to teachers and classmates.

After school, the students went to Chippewa Lanes for bowling and pool contests. The student-athletes formed individual teams, alternating turns to achieve their best score. At one point, Jason Kile's strike generated high fives from bowling teammate Casey Smith, the player he would spend the evening matched up on the basketball court.

The varsity boys' bowling champions were the team of Joe Albaugh (SHA) and Colin Simpson (GSM) with an average 142.5; cheerleaders Tara Koester (SHA), Nikki Jones (SHA) and Beth

Prusakiewicz (GSM) scored 105; and junior varsity performers Curt Gottschalk (SHA) and Rob Wyrembelski (GSM) topped their level with 166.

In the pool shooting event the varsity Shark Award went to Scott Pieratt (SHA) and Travis Smilowski (GSM); the cheerleader level was topped by Marsha MacKeller (SHA) and Anne Tarbutton (GSM); and Dan Barberi (SHA) and Eric Benaway (GSM) topped the j.v. pool shooters.

Afterward, the students were transported back to the gymnasium and prepared for the basketball contests as respected friends rather than unknown enemies. Several instances of sportsmanship were obvious on the court during the evening.

The junior varsity contest was won by St. Mary's 58-46 as the Snowbird's overcame a two-point deficit entering the fourth quarter by outscoring the Irish 25-11. Nick Grinzinger led the young Irish with 14 points while Kip Hartman and Brian Quakenbush added 10 points each. Keith Hutchins added seven rebounds.

In the varsity contest, Sacred Heart overcame a slow start to run out to a 71-55 win. John Hunter paced the scoring with 20 points while Tim Groves added 17 and Jason Kile had 10. Kile led the rebounding with 13 and Mike Hackett added nine.

IMPROVING ADULT SPECTATOR SPORTSMANSHIP

Prepared by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

July 21 & 22, 1999 -- Mt. Pleasant, MI

A. EFFECTIVE PRESEASON MEETINGS

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

B. POSTER IDEAS

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

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

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

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

D. EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING OFFICIALS FOR DEALING WITH UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIORS

1. Meet and greet officials.
2. Inform them of the school's support for them.
3. Let them know the school's expectations.
4. Let them know ahead of time of any "history" with spectators present.
5. Advise them not to get in discussions or arguments with fans, but let the AD or security deal with any problem.
6. Encourage them to communicate with coaches and players, but not to attempt to become friends with players.
7. Utilize a post-game ratings checklist (see sample on page 23).

E. PREGAME SPORTSMANSHIP SCRIPTS AND HANDSHAKE PROCEDURES

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

- OR -

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

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

- OR -

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

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

F. PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH UNRULY SPECTATORS

1. Timing is critical: get to problems quickly.
2. Use halftime or postgame. Tell a person, "I thought you were getting a little carried away today" and "Try to look at our sportsmanship expectations."
3. When to go into the stands:
 - a. For abuse or foul language.
 - b. For throwing objects.

- c. For obstruction of view.
 - d. When a spectator is ignoring the requests of others.
 - e. When game management has been informed by the official that a spectator needs to settle down or be asked to leave.
 - f. Use less crowded, less emotional lower level games as an educational opportunity to teach in the stands.
- 4. Sit next to them and explain their options:
 - a. Stop the behavior.
 - b. Final step is being escorted out by security.
 - 5. At that stage, say: "I need to see you in the hallway for a few minutes." Talk with them out of the public eye.
 - 6. If that's unsuccessful, say: "I'm going to ask you to leave, and if you don't, we may be asking you not to return for the rest of the season."

G. FOLLOW UP WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT

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

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN SELF-EVALUATION FOR COACHES/SPORTSMANSHIP

Name:

Date:

Please complete the following evaluation and review your responses with the Athletic Director.

A. Please rate yourself in the following areas

	needs improvement- - - -excellent				
1. Encourage players to play within the rules	1	2	3	4	5
2. Encourage players to respect officials	1	2	3	4	5
3. Encourage players to treat opposing teams with respect	1	2	3	4	5
4. Encourage players to react properly to spectators	1	2	3	4	5
5. Encourage players to handle winning and losing in an appropriate manner	1	2	3	4	5
6. Supervising players in a manner that helps to prevent sportsmanship problems	1	2	3	4	5
7. Providing a proper example for the players concerning sportsmanship	1	2	3	4	5

B. 1. The thing that I did this year that most promoted sportsmanship for our team was...

2. The area of sportsmanship that I could most improve in as a coach would be...

3. The biggest problem that we had this year with sportsmanship was...(include your opinion, was this preventable?)

4. COACH/ATHLETIC DIRECTOR COMMENTS...

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN OFFICIALS SPORTSMANSHIP EVALUATION

This form is used by the Wisconsin Valley Conference.

OBJECTIVE: Sportsmanship is a high priority issue in the Wisconsin Valley Conference and is in the best interest of interscholastic athletics. This evaluation tool is provided to assist WVC schools to foster positive, sportsmanlike behavior at all WVC athletic competitions.

DIRECTIONS: *Game officials must complete the following evaluation by checking the appropriate boxes for each area and return this evaluation to school officials before leaving the game site.* All comments are appreciated. Make certain to complete the comment section for any *unacceptable* marks.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

**THE WISCONSIN VALLEY CONFERENCE REQUESTS CONTEST OFFICIALS TO STRICTLY
PENALIZE SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS RELATED TO PHYSICAL AND VERBAL
TAUNTING.**

	HOME TEAM			VISITING TEAM		
	Excellent	Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Excellent	Acceptable	Not Acceptable
COACH	()	()	()	()	()	()
** Abides by the rules of the game ** Exemplified leadership and appropriate sportsmanship.						
** Respects the judgment and integrity of game officials.						
 ATHLETES	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()
** Treats opponents with respect. ** Respects the judgment and integrity of game officials.						
** Displays appropriate conduct, does not argue or make inappropriate gestures.						
 GAME MANAGEMENT (Where applicable)	 ()	 ()	 ()			
** Timing ** Scoring ** Announcing ** Supervision						
 FANS	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()
** Respect the judgment of game officials. ** Recognize and appreciate outstanding plays by both teams.						
** Refrain from comments/cheers which downplay the opponent or which use profane or obscene language or gestures.						
 CHEERLEADING (Optional for Officials)	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()	 ()
** Displays standards of desirable behavior for the squad and spectators. ** Use of positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing. ** Respects the judgment of game officials.						

COMMENTS:

HOME SCHOOL _____ VISITING SCHOOL _____

DATE OF EVENT _____ SPORT _____

SUBMITTED BY _____

TITLE _____

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

THE LEAGUE-CONFERENCE SPORTSMANSHIP MEETING

This format was used by the Lenawee County Athletic Association and the Tri-County Conference discuss the issue of sportsmanship, and how an initiative could be undertaken on a conference level to address it.

- Such a meeting needs to be conducted in a time frame that assists its implementation. The beginning of the school year worked for one conference, while the end of the school year, planning for the following year, worked for another.
- A day-long format is used, in a meeting place with several rooms available for groups to break off into.
- Each conference school sent the following individuals:
 1. The Athletic Director
 2. Four students - Two sophomores & two juniors (*Prefer two females and two males*)
 - a. Group breakdown
 1. Athletes (2)
 2. Cheerleader
 3. Student Council Representative
 3. Other school administrators are welcome
- After a welcome to review the purpose of the meeting and a possible opening address to set the tone, the efforts of other conferences are reviewed.
- The opening segment is followed by a two-hour "brainstorming" session, where the students are broken up into four groups to address several questions related to sportsmanship. Be sure that only one student from each school is in each group, that will help promote a better flow of ideas, and help the students of each school get to know each other better.
- Possible questions for discussion during the brainstorming session:
 1. Define sportsmanship.
 2. Discuss, in general, your views about sportsmanship. Explain the difference between appropriate and inappropriate sportsmanlike behavior.
 3. In general terms, make a list of who needs to improve their sportsmanship.
 4. What can be done to counter the taunting, trash talking and other intimidating behavior we see at the college and professional levels?
 5. How can our conference promote good sportsmanship (make a list of at least 10 ideas).
 6. What are ways to communicate our concerns about sportsmanship to those who behave inappropriately at our events? (List at least five ways to deal with these individuals or groups)
 7. Our league wants to acknowledge and reward good sportsmanship. Give five suggestions for the development of a reward system that could be implemented.
- Be sure that a recorder is taking notes. You may wish to use large writing tablets that could be placed on an easel for display to the rest of the group.
- Follow the smaller group discussions with the a meeting of the whole to consolidate the ideas discussed during the brainstorming session.
- Finalize the ideas of the brainstorming session and begin developing a basic plan for the conference.

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

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

SAMPLES OF LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES/AWARD PROGRAMS

A number of leagues and conferences have developed their own recognition programs for sportsmanship. We present to you some of the better ones we have seen for your evaluation, modification and possible implementation.

A Self & League Assessment Program

An Oregon program asks that a school rate itself, and that league members rate each other. Achieving a pre-determined score in both the self-assessment and league categories earns a school a sportsmanship banner to display. In subsequent years, reaching the standard earns a school an attachment for the original banner indicating the years in which it maintained a high level of sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship The Corn Belt Conference Way

This is a two-pronged program where individual student-athletes are nominated by other schools to receive an award; and game officials rate a school's players, coaches and spectators.

Mid-State Nine Program

Student Council members from all league schools rate the other schools in the conference, specifically the student body, in three areas: 1. Respect shown by the student body toward the opposing team, game officials, and members of their own student body; 2. Respect for the National Anthem and school loyalty songs, and 3. General enthusiasm for their own school and team.

Western Lakes Activities Association

This program has each league contest (varsity and reserve teams) evaluated by four groups: Coaches, athletes, cheerleaders and spectators. Each group provides an evaluation for each event, which is turned in to the building athletic director. At the conclusion of the season, all forms in each sport are forwarded to one individual for tabulation. The evaluation form is shown on the following page.

Wolverine Conference

This conference rates schools three times a year, using a standard set of criteria. It uses a 1-5 rating system, with 5 being the highest rating a school can receive. A 1 or 2 in any area demands that a comment be submitted so the school being evaluated can concentrate on that area. A memo explaining the program and its evaluation form follow the WLAA form.

The Traveling Trophy

This sample program relies on schools and game officials for sportsmanship ratings. The prize is a traveling trophy which can be awarded by season and possibly moved from school to school.

North Central Illinois Conference

Another traveling trophy program, this program provides guidelines and leaves it up to each school to develop a scoresheet based on the guidelines, with the principals from conference schools making the final selection in the Spring.

Northwestern Illinois Conference

Breaks sportsmanship into five value-drive categories, and provides for a variety of parties to give input on a school's sportsmanship performance at an event.

Mid-Suburban League

This is a banner program which schools can win annually. The league has North and South divisions, and one school is selected in each. This is also a neat program in the respect that it is judged by members of the Student Council of each school, and they are judging only the cheering section of the school.

Tri-Valley Conference

This program targets athletes, cheerleaders, coaches and spectators; with specific rating criteria for each group.

A Self & League Sportsmanship Assessment Program

(Adapted From Oregon Schools Activities Association)

This program can be developed by a league to promote sportsmanship on the local level. If, in the first year of the program, a school reaches both of the school and league the proscribed scores, the league would present it with a banner to be displayed at the school. In subsequent years, schools reaching the proscribed scores would receive an emblem from the league indicating the year of recognition to be placed on the banner.

In the first year of the program, only fall and winter sports are used to determine if a school is worthy of an award. In subsequent years, the spring season of the previous school year, and the current year fall and winter season assessments are combined to determine award recipients.

SCHOOL SELF ASSESSMENT 80% Score Required

It is up to the school to determine how the self-assessment is to be accomplished for each league activity and season. A committee within the school shall tally and determine the percentage of the total points by averaging the scores. The final result, converted to a percentage, shall be submitted to a league representative at the conclusion of each sport season.

The school self-assessment had been assigned a maximum of 100 points. Within each category is a listing of criteria for achievement which are weighted on a sliding scale from 0 for lowest to 5 for highest score as designated.

LEAGUE ASSESSMENT 75% Score Required
--

League assessments of other schools are to be completed on the same timetable as the school's self-assessment.

The league assessment had been assigned a maximum of 100 points. Within each category is a listing of criteria for achievement which are weighted on a sliding scale from 0 for lowest to 5 for highest score as designated.

The school's league assessments of other schools within the league shall be sent to the league representative for final tabulation. A school shall not assess itself on the league assessment form. The selected league representative shall compile total averages to determine the final percentage. (Total points divided by the number of assessments submitted.)

CATEGORIES FOR LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP HONORS PROGRAM

SCHOOL SELF-ASSESSMENT - 100 POINTS POSSIBLE

FOR THE (Circle one) FALL - WINTER - SPRING -- SPORTS SEASON

NOTE: Submit the completed form to your school committee at the end of each sports season.

Points awarded within each category are weighted on a sliding scale from 0 for lowest to 5 for highest score. Rate your school by circling the appropriate point total.

I. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION (School board-Administration-Athletic/Activities Director) (15 points possible)

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | • Program for educating students/student-athletes/parents/spectators/coaches about sportsmanship (i.e. in-service, pre-season meeting, assemblies, fliers, bulletins, letters, media). |
| 1 2 3 | • Program for promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school-community-league. |
| 1 2 | • Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event |
| 1 2 | • Develop a program of recognition for exemplary behavior. |
| 1 2 3 | • Attend events and function as a model of good sportsmanship and set an example in controlling unsportsmanlike behavior. |

BONUS POINTS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1 2 | • Establish a league sportsmanship workshop or conference. |
|-----|--|

TOTAL POINTS: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Title:** _____

II. COACHES (25 points possible)

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1 2 3 | • Knowledgeable of current rules, follows school policies, standard operating procedures and fundamentals of sportsmanship. |
| 1 2 3 | • Participate in a pre-season meeting to help educate students/student-athletes/support groups/parents/community on rules and regulations and sportsmanship expectations. |
| 1 2 3 4 | • Consistently shows respect for the integrity and judgment of officials. |
| 1 2 3 | • Consistent treats players, coaches, opponents and officials with respect. |
| 1 2 3 | • Stresses the values derived from playing-performing fairly with a constructive attitude toward competition. |
| 1 2 | • Publicly shakes hands with opposing players and coaches before and after contests. |
| 1 2 | • Helps student-athletes develop a positive self-image and keeps athletics in perspective to the overall picture of academics and life. |
| 1 2 | • Consistently serves as a positive role model for sportsmanship |
| 1 2 3 | • Recognizes good sportsmanship and sets an example in controlling unsportsmanlike behavior (i.e. - Discourages and reprimands players who taunt and engage in trash talk) |

BONUS POINTS

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 2 | • Attends an MHSAA rules meeting |
| 1 2 | • Attends and promotes a league sportsmanship program |
| 1 2 | • Received no technicals, penalties, yellow/red cards or disqualifications. |

TOTAL POINTS: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Title:** _____

III. STUDENT BODY (10 points possible)

- 1 • Establish a school sportsmanship committee
- 1 2 • Written commitment to take part and promote sportsmanship (i.e. application for sportsmanship program, individual pledge program)
- 1 2 3 • Organize sportsmanship workshops and school assemblies to educate students and spectators.
- 1 2 3 • Communicate with athletic and activities directors in coordinating sportsmanship promotional ideas through each activity and with support groups (i.e. booster club), band, dance/drill teams & cheerleaders).
- 1 • Program of recognition for anyone who has exemplified the highest standard and positive attitude for each activity and season.

BONUS POINTS

- 1 2 • Develop a sportsmanship program at the elementary school or junior high/middle school.

TOTAL POINTS: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Title:** _____

IV. STUDENT-ATHLETES (20 points possible)

- 1 2 • Knowledge of current rules of contest, follow school-league-MHSAA policies and procedures and inform others.
- 1 • Pledge to adhere to sportsmanship guidelines
- 1 2 3 • Inform others of sportsmanship expectations and set an example in controlling unsportsmanlike behavior.
- 1 2 • Create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for competition among players, coaches, spectators and officials.
- 1 2 3 • Consistently treat fellow teammates, opponents, coaches and officials with respect.
- 1 2 3 • Consistently exercise self-control in accepting decision and play with integrity.
- 1 2 • Respect your own property and property of others.
- 1 • Communicate through team captain or coach regarding rule clarifications from the official.
- 1 • Shake hands with opponents after a contest.
- 1 2 • Serve as a positive role model.

BONUS POINTS

- 1 2 • Help less skilled teammates improve their skill techniques.
- 1 2 • Receive no penalties, technicals, red/yellow cards or disqualifications.

TOTAL POINTS: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Title:** _____

V. CHEERLEADERS (10 points possible)

- 1 • Learn the rules of the game with the help of coaches, players and officials.
- 1 • Participate in educating other students, parents and adult spectators in the values of high school sports and sportsmanship expectations.
- 1 • Educate and encourage spectators to cheer at appropriate times in a positive manner.
- 1 • Promote an welcome atmosphere with visiting teams, spectators and cheerleaders.
- 1 • Consistently respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- 1 • Recognize outstanding performances for both teams and give encouragement to injured players.
- 1 • Function as a model for sportsmanship-leadership.
- 1 • Participate in identifying and giving recognition to individuals who display exemplary sportsmanship.
- 1 2 • Know and respect all safety guidelines established for cheerleaders

BONUS POINTS

- 1 • Participate or serve as leaders in a league sportsmanship workshop.
- 1 • Initiate a social or fund-raising function with opposing cheerleaders.

TOTAL POINTS: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Title:** _____

VI. STUDENT SUPPORT GROUPS (Pep Bands, Dance/Drill Teams) (10 points possible)

- 1 • Communicate with school administration regarding parking, seating assignments, game procedures, dressing facility arrangements and performance schedule
- 1 • Know the current rules of the contest for which you are performing.
- 1 • Show respect for use of property, equipment and facilities.
- 1 • Be aware of safety rules.
- 1 • Consistently treat visiting teams, coaches spectators, officials and other performance groups with respect.
- 1 • Adhere to the timetable for your performance.
- 1 • Maintain common courtesy and respect in timing of spontaneous performances.
- 1 • Promote cooperation among support groups, coaches, student body, spectators and administration.
- 1 • Give applause for performances.
- 1 • Select appropriate routines with good sportsmanship in mind.

BONUS POINTS

- 1 • Participate in promotional programs for positive sportsmanship (i.e. - assemblies, skits, poster contests)

TOTAL POINTS: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Title:** _____

VII. PARENTS-SPECTATORS (10 points possible)

- 1 • Take part in the schools educational training program to update yourself on the current rules.
- 1 • Keep athletics in perspective to the academic program.
- 1 • Adhere to sportsmanship guidelines and expectations.
- 1 • Consistently respect coaches, officials and players.
- 1 • Give encouragement to players
- 1 • Recognize outstanding performances by either teams with applause.
- 1 • Take part in positive cheers and follow directions from cheerleaders
- 1 • Stay off the playing surface at all times.
- 1 2 • Be a positive role model and encourage others to follow suit.

BONUS POINTS

- 1 2 • Develop a parent spirit group which promotes sportsmanship.
- 1 2 • Attend a school and/or league sportsmanship workshop.

TOTAL POINTS: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Title:** _____

EXTRA BONUS POINTS

- 1 • Actively participated in promoting sportsmanship activities during October.
- 1 • Received an MHSAA Good Sports Are Winners! award at a district tournament.
- 1 2 • Received an MHSAA Good Sports Are Winners! award at a regional tournament.
- 1 2 3 • Received an MHSAA Good Sports Are Winners! award at a finals tournament.

TOTAL POINTS: _____

SUM TOTAL: _____%

School: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Title: _____

Telephone: _____

FAX Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

CATEGORIES FOR LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP HONORS PROGRAM

LEAGUE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA - 100 POINTS POSSIBLE

FOR THE (Circle one) FALL - WINTER - SPRING -- SPORTS SEASON

Submit a league rating sheet for the other schools in your league (not including your own school) to the league representative. (If the school does not have cheerleaders, specify none and do not insert a rating number for that category. Rating system is 0 for lowest to 5 for highest score.

I. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

- Organization - facility readiness 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Supervision - control 0 1 2 3 4 5

II. COACHES

- Professionalism 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Positive role models 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Demonstrate consistent respect for others
(Participants, coaches, officials, fans) 0 1 2 3 4 5

III. TEAMS

- Demonstrate self-control and integrity 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Display respect for others consistently 0 1 2 3 4 5

IV. STUDENT BODY

- Display positive support for their own team 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Demonstrate respect for opposing teams, coaches, fans, officials, cheerleaders
& support groups 0 1 2 3 4 5

V. CHEERLEADERS

- Display positive support for their own team 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Demonstrate respect for opposing teams, coaches, fans, officials, cheerleaders
& support groups 0 1 2 3 4 5

VI. SUPPORT GROUPS (Pep Band/ Dance-Drill Teams)

- Display positive support for their own team 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Demonstrate respect for opposing teams, coaches, fans, officials, cheerleaders
& support groups 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Demonstrate appropriate choice and timing of performance 0 1 2 3 4 5

VII. ADULT FOLLOWERS

- Display positive support for their own team 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Demonstrate respect for opposing teams, coaches, fans, officials, cheerleaders
& support groups 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Stay off playing surface 0 1 2 3 4 5

VII. OVERALL IMPRESSION OF HOSPITALITY

- Demonstrate respect for property, equipment and facility of own school and others 0 1 2 3 4 5
- Treat others as guests
- Announcement of welcome, promote positive sportsmanship, hold social function
with other schools -- DOING OTHER THINGS FOR OTHER SCHOOLS 0 1 2 3 4 5

BONUS POINTS

- Students stay off playing surface 0 1 2 3 4 5

TOTAL POINTS

PERCENTAGE

Authorized Signature: _____ Title: _____

School Represented: _____

School Evaluated: _____

Sportsmanship The Corn Belt Conference Way

Sportsmanship is a concern that we all have as Administrators. The way people perceive you is a reality. Reality is what the Corn Belt Conference would like to address.

The purpose of this program is to promote and recognize exemplary conduct on the part of players, coaches and fans.

The following process will be followed:

1. An award is given to the individual in each sport that shows the best sportsmanship. This would be determined by the following criteria:
 - a. Each school will bring three names of athletes they feel were outstanding in sportsmanship during the year to the All-Conference meeting. They cannot bring the name of an athlete from their own school.
 - b. The athlete that receives the most nominations would be named the sportsmanship winner for that sport. If there is a tie, then we will give duplicate awards. The award will be sent to the school to give to the Award Winner.
2. To give a sportsmanship award, like the conference championship award, to the team compiling the most points throughout the season from the officials ratings of the games.

The following form will be completed by the officials who did the game and mailed back to the Conference President. The Sportsmanship form and envelope should be given to each set of officials when issuing their checks. It is recommended that the Athletic Director (or his or her designee) handle this responsibility. Officials should drop the form in the mail -- it should not be handed in at the end of the game.

The President of the conference will tabulate the points for each sport. The Conference President will send the results of the forms to all the schools. The conference sportsmanship award would be announced with the release of the All-Conference team.

The following information will be on a postcard for officials to fill out and mail in the attached envelope to the Conference President. The envelope will be self addressed and postage paid.

Game: _____ **vs.** _____

Date: _____ **Site:** _____

Circle the number relating to each - 1 is poor and 5 is great

School: _____ **School:** _____

Coach	1	2	3	4	5	Coach	1	2	3	4	5
--------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	--------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Players	1	2	3	4	5	Players	1	2	3	4	5
----------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Fans	1	2	3	4	5	Fans	1	2	3	4	5
-------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	-------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

The Corn Belt Conference is looking to improve sportsmanship in the conference. We would like for you to take time and fill this short form out and mail it back in the envelope provided. Please be honest, and for your personal information, the schools are only going to get a composite total from all the games. Thanks!

A Conference Program To Promote Sportsmanship

Each year, Peoria High School sponsors a Mid-State Nine sportsmanship trophy. This traveling trophy is awarded annually to the Mid-State Nine school which has best exemplified the qualities of good sportsmanship during the basketball season.

Two student council members independently judge the opposing team's students during all regularly scheduled conference basketball games. The judges are the President and vice-president or their designees as approved by the student council advisor of each school. Judging is based on the following: 1. Respect shown by the student body toward the opposing team, game officials, and members of their own student body; 2. Respect for the National Anthem and school loyalty songs, and 3. General enthusiasm for their own school and team.

Judging is based on a five-point system with five points awarded as the best score and no points was the worst possible score for each of the categories listed above.

At the end of the basketball season, each school submits to Peoria High School a list compiled from the judging sheets on how the other schools have been rated: From number one (the school showing the best sportsmanship) to number eight (the school showing the poorest sportsmanship). Judges do not rate their own school.

After all lists are received, the Peoria High School Student Council compiles a master list and awards the trophy to the school which scores the highest.

Below is the sheet sent to each school to tabulate their ratings:

Mid-State Nine Sportsmanship Trophy

Criteria For Judging The Student Bodies:

The following are the general areas to be judged in the relative degrees of value as indicated, from the highest number (best) to the lowest (worst). Please circle the value of the area as determined by your judgment of each student body, using one sheet per game. Also, indicate the total point value of each student body.

- I. Respect the opposing team, its student body, and the game officials.
- A. Booing, hissing or uncomplimentary remarks.
 - B. Distracting noise or action during game and foul shooting.
 - C. Lack of whole-hearted cooperation with cheerleaders.
 - D. Derogatory cheers and songs.
 - E. Throwing objects from the stands.
 - 1. Throwing of anything that may be injurious to a player or spectator.
 - 2. Throwing anything that may land on the playing surface.
 - F. Rowdyism
 - 1. Any disorderly conduct or fighting before, during, after, or as a direct result of the game.
- 5 4 3 2 1 0
- II. Respect of the National Anthem and School Loyalty Songs.
- 5 4 3 2 1 0
- III. General enthusiasm for their school and team.
- 5 4 3 2 1 0

Total point value for Student Body: _____.

The two judges will add their individual ballots for the total score to be given to the opposing team's student body. At the conclusion of the basketball season, arrange each team in vertical standing. Submit these standings at the conclusion of the basketball season to: Student Council Advisor, Peoria High School, 1615 N. North Street, Peoria, IL 61604.

WLAA OPPONENTS SPORTSMANSHIP EVALUATION

Please rate the opposing school in the areas indicated. Circle the appropriate response. Unsatisfactory-UN; Satisfactory-SAT; Excellent-EX; Not Applicable-NA.

The Coach

Did he/she show respect for the integrity and judgment of game officials? UN SAT EX NA

Did he/she abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit? UN SAT EX NA

Did he/she demand that his/her athletes abide by official's decisions without emotional display and disciplined those on the team who displayed unsportsmanlike behavior? UN SAT EX NA

Did he/she display self-control under all conditions? UN SAT EX NA

The Student-Athlete

Did they show respect for the integrity and judgment of game officials and accept their decisions without gesture or argument? UN SAT EX NA

Did they show self-control under all conditions? UN SAT EX NA

Did they treat the opponents with respect before, during and after the contest? UN SAT EX NA

The Cheerleaders

Did they select only positive cheers which praised their team without antagonizing the opponents? UN SAT EX NA

Did they use discretion in selecting the proper times to cheer? UN SAT EX NA

Did they demonstrate desirable behavior for the squad and the spectators? UN SAT EX NA

The Spectators

Did they show respect toward the officials, opposing coaches and players, and opponent's spectators? UN SAT EX NA

Did they recognize and show appreciation for an out standing play by either team? UN SAT EX NA

Did they refrain from cheers which downplay the opponent or which use profane or abusive language? UN SAT EX NA

COMMENTS: _____

SCHOOL: _____ OPPONENT: _____

SPORT: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF COACH/RESPONDENT: _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE BUILDING OR DISTRICT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

MEMO

To: Wolverine Conference Principals
Wolverine Conference Athletic Directors

Re: Wolverine Conference Sportsmanship Proposal

Fr: Sportsmanship Committee

In an effort to improve sportsmanship within the conference, our committee would like to make the following recommendations to be implemented during the upcoming school year.

1. Schools will be rated three times per year, at the conclusion of the fall, winter and spring sports seasons. The overall winner will be awarded at the conclusion of the school year.
2. Evaluations are to be done by the head coach, athletic director and principal of each member school. This evaluation should take place immediately after the season.
 - a. Each member school will fill out a sportsmanship card for each school in each Wolverine Conference sanctioned sport.
3. We will evaluate schools in three areas:
 1. COACHES
 2. PLAYERS
 3. CROWD
4. Schools will be rated numerically from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). A 1 or 2 rating will dictate a comment as to why this area was a problem.
5. The evaluation areas are to be weighted in the following manner:

COACHES - 40% PLAYERS - 40% CROWD - 20%
6. Other areas that may be evaluated regard the are of overall game/meet management. These evaluations will not count towards the Sportsmanship Award.
7. At the conclusion of each season, the athletic director will mail the completed cards to the league secretary. The secretary will compile the ratings and return the standings to each school. Included will be the comments with regards to any 1-2 ratings that a program may have received.

WOLVERINE CONFERENCE SPORTSMANSHIP RATING CARD

_____ Sport	_____ School
----------------	-----------------

1. COACHES 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Comments (for 1 or 2 rating) _____

2. PLAYERS 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Comments (for 1 or 2 rating) _____

3. CROWD 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

Comments (for 1 or 2 rating) _____

Evaluating School

School Being Rated

School Officials:

Facility:

Game Management:

Feeder Program Concerns:

_____ Coach	_____ Athletic Director
----------------	----------------------------

A TRAVELING TROPHY PROGRAM

Schools in a particular league may initiate a unique sportsmanship project in which they use a rating system and award a traveling trophy or plaque at the end of each sports season.

Only games involving schools within the league could be rated by the game officials and by the opposing school administrators. The referees rate each coach and team, and the administrators rate the opposing school's cheerleaders, cheering section, adult followers, coach and team.

Each referee is to be given a rating sheet and a stamped envelope addressed to the tabulator. These sheets have four categories worth a maximum of 20 points. (The rating scale ranges from 'Excellent,' worth 5 points to 'Bad,' worth 0 points.) Rate the **Coach** on (1) **personal appearance and conduct** on and off the playing surface and throughout the game; and (2) **sportsmanship** - conduct and attitude toward opponents and officials. Also, rate the team on (1) **personal appearance and conduct**; and (2) **sportsmanship**.

The school administrator or designated school official could also complete a rating sheet and send it to the tabulator which is worth a maximum of 50 points on the 5 to 0 system. Rate the opposing school in the following five areas: **Cheerleaders** - (1) Personal appearance and conduct; (2) Sportsmanship - appropriate choice and timing of yells, courtesy toward opponents, officials and teams, and crowd control before, during and following the game. **Cheering Section** (Student Body, Band) - (1) Courtesy - conduct toward officials in and outside the playing arena before, during and after the game; (2) Sportsmanship - conduct and attitude toward players and other spectators and observance of game regulations. **Adult Followers** - (1) Courtesy; (2) Sportsmanship (both criteria are the same as for 'Cheering Section.' **Coach** - (same two criteria as on official's sheet). **Team** - (same two criteria as on official's sheet).

Each school could acquire the maximum points in a given sport (for example, 20 points from the officials added to the administrator's 50-point sheet). The rating for each game and the final rating total is on a percentage basis which allows for discrepancies in a number of games played per school. The school with the highest rating at the end of the sports season would receive a traveling "Sportsmanship Trophy or Plaque."

Samples of the official's and administrator's forms follow. You may wish to take the official's form and use in your own building to have officials rate your own coaches and teams to help you promote the ideals of good sportsmanship.

TRAVELING TROPHY PROGRAM

SAMPLE RATING SHEET FOR GAME OFFICIALS

Dear Game Official: Please take the time to fill out and return this form. The Host school should provide you with a stamped, addressed envelope. This form is **not** to be left with the competing schools.

Rating is to be done on a scale from 0 to 5.

Rating scale:

- 5 - Excellent
- 4 - Good
- 3 - Average
- 2 - Fair
- 1 - Poor
- 0 - Bad

Game Date: _____ Sport:: _____

Home Team: _____

Visiting Team: _____

Please rate the following:

Home Team

Visiting Team

COACH:

1. Personal - Appearance and conduct on and off
and off the playing surface and throughout the game.

2. Sportsmanship - Conduct and attitude toward opponents
and officials.

TEAM:

1. Personal - Appearance and conduct on and off
and off the playing surface and throughout the game.

2. Sportsmanship - Conduct and attitude toward opponents
and officials.

TOTAL POINTS

Name of rating official: _____

Address: _____

Signature of rating official: _____

**TRAVELING TROPHY PROGRAM
SAMPLE RATING SHEET FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**

School Administrator: Please fill out and return this form for all league contests (home and away). You are rating the opposing fans, team and personnel only, not your own school/town. If the school does not have cheerleaders, specify **NONE** - do not insert a rating number. Thank You.

Rating is to be done on a scale from 0 to 5.

5 - Excellent; 4 - Good; 3 - Average; 2 - Fair; 1 - Poor; 0 - Bad

Game Date: _____ Sport:: _____

Home Team: _____

Visiting Team: _____

Team Being Rated: _____

The following areas are to be rated:

CHEERLEADERS

1. Personal - Appearance and conduct. _____
2. Sportsmanship - Appropriate choice and timing of yells. Courtesy toward opponents, officials and teams. Crowd control before, during and after game. _____

CHEERING SECTION

1. Courtesy - Conduct toward officials in and outside the playing arena before, during and after the game. _____
2. Sportsmanship - Conduct and attitude towards players and other spectators. Observance of game regulations (Signs, noisemakers, debris, etc.) _____

ADULT FOLLOWERS

1. Courtesy - Conduct toward officials in and outside the playing arena before, during and after the game. _____
2. Sportsmanship - Conduct and attitude towards players and other spectators _____

COACH

1. Personal - Appearance and conduct on and off the playing surface and throughout the game. _____
2. Sportsmanship - Conduct and attitude toward opponents and officials. _____

TEAM

1. Personal - Appearance and conduct on and off the playing surface and throughout the game. _____
2. Sportsmanship - Conduct and attitude toward opponents and officials. _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE _____

SCHOOL REPRESENTED: _____

North Central Illinois Conference

Sportsmanship Guidelines

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

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

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

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

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

III. Miscellaneous

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

Northwestern Illinois Conference Sportsmanship Rating Form

Conference School Played:_____ Date:_____

Event:_____

Submitted By: (Circle One) Admin./A.D./Coach Visiting Team Coach Officials

Circle one number on each area: (1-lowest, 5 highest) Place a check mark in front of any problem areas.

Be Courteous To All 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

- Opposing coaches and players shake hands before/after games
- Applause during the introduction of players coaches and officials
- Everyone shows concern for injured players
- Fan respect is obvious
 - no using of newspapers or turning backs during introductions
 - no yelling, waving of arms during opponents serves or shots
 - no derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures

Know The Rules, Abide By The Official's Decisions 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

- Utilizes opportunities to promote understanding of the rules
- Players use team captains and coaches for clarification of the calls
- Official decisions are accepted
 - booing or heckling is unacceptable
 - derogatory remarks are unacceptable
 - cheerleaders lead the fans in a positive manner

Win with Character And Lose With Dignity 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

- Handshakes between opposing players and coaches after the game
- Treating competition as a game, not a war
- Applause at the end of the contest for performance of all players
- Recognition that the win or loss is not due to the officials

Appreciation Shown For Good Performance Of Both Teams 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

- Coaches/players congratulate opponents for outstanding performance
- Fans recognize all outstanding performances by applause
- Recognition that the win or loss is due to the effort of the team
- Positive comments are used to encourage the teams to perform better

Permit Only Positive Sportsmanlike Behavior To Reflect On Your School Or Its Activities 1-2-3-4-5

- Encouragement is given to all in attendance to perform in a sportsmanlike way
- Poor sportsmanship is reported to school officials
- Administrators help coaches to teach, model and reinforce sportsmanship
- Recognize coaches who display sportsmanlike conduct

Total Points_____

Comments: (Please use the back side of this page)

Pilot Program Mid-Suburban League Program to Promote Sportsmanship

Each year, the Mid-Suburban League Conference will sponsor two Mid-Suburban League Sportsmanship Banners. These banners will be awarded annually to two Mid-Suburban schools which have best exemplified the qualities of good sportsmanship throughout the school year; one banner to a North Division school and one to a South Division school.

The sports being assessed for the pilot program will be boys' basketball and girls' basketball. If the program is successful, other sports will be added.

Two Student Council members from the host school will independently judge the home and opposing team's cheering section during all regularly scheduled home conference games.

The judges are the President and Vice-President or their designees as approved by the Student Council advisor of each school. Judging is based on three categories as listed on the ballot sheet.

Judging is based on a five-point system with five points awarded as the best score and one point as the worst possible score for each of the categories.

At the end of the winter season, each school submits all tally sheets to Hoffman Estates High School.

After all the lists are received, Hoffman Estates Student Council compiles a master list and awards the banner to the school which scores the highest.

Following is the sheet sent to each school to tabulate the ratings:

Mid-Suburban League Sportsmanship Ballot

Criteria for Judging Cheering Section:

The following are the general areas to be judged in the relative degrees of value as indicated, from the highest number (*best*) to the lowest (*worst*). Please circle the value of the area as determined by your judgment of each cheering section, using one sheet per game, per team. Also indicate the total point value.

1. Respect for your team, cheerleaders and visiting team cheerleaders.

- A. Stand during introductions
- B. Cheer with your cheerleaders
- C. Enthusiasm for your team
- D. Cooperation with visiting team's cheerleaders

5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---

2. Respect of the National Anthem and School Loyalty Songs.

- A. Stand for the National Anthem
- B. Remove hats for National Anthem
- C. Stand for your school song
- D. Stand for visiting team's school song

5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---

3. Respect of the officials

- A. By Players
- B. By Coaches
- C. By Cheering Section (Fans)
- D. By Cheerleaders

5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---

5	-	Excellent	-	Meets all 4 elements in the category
4	-	Very Good	-	Meets 3 of the 4
3	-	Average	-	Meets 2 of the 4
2	-	Below Average	-	Meets 1 of the 4

Evaluated Team: _____

Date of Game: _____

Total Points: _____

Submit to Bill Sissel, Athletic Director, at Hoffman Estates High School

TRI-VALLEY CONFERENCE

Sportsmanship Evaluation And Guidelines

ATHLETES

Rating should be based on the following criteria.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated as a guest or friend. 2. Wish opponents good luck before contest and congratulate following either a victory or defeat. 3. Respect judgment and integrity of game officials. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Do not argue or make non-verbal gestures which indicate disagreement. 5. Do not argue or make verbal or non-verbal gestures to opponents, individuals, or team bench. |
|--|---|

Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Below Average	Unacceptable
1	2	3	4	5

CHEERLEADING

Rating should be based on the following criteria.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treat opposing cheerleaders the way you would like to be treated as a guest or friend. 2. Wish opposing cheerleaders good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. 3. Display standards of desirable behavior for the squad and spectators. 4. Use of positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Use of discretion in selecting the times to cheer. 6. Treat opposing players like you would treat your own team. 7. Gives encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances for both teams. 8. Respects the judgment of game officials. Does not request an official's call. |
|--|---|

Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Below Average	Unacceptable
1	2	3	4	5

COACH

Rating should be based on the following criteria.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respects the integrity and personality of student athlete. 2. Abides by the rules of the game 3. Exemplifies leadership. 4. Sets a good example for players and spectators to follow. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) no arguing | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b) no unsportsmanlike gestures toward opposing coach or officials. c) shakes hands of opposing coach and officials. 5. Respects judgment of officials. 6. Expects good sportsmanship from players. 7. Discourages use of profanity or obscene language. |
|--|---|

Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Below Average	Unacceptable
1	2	3	4	5

FANS

Rating should be based on the following criteria.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not jeer an opposing athlete when a mistake has been made. 2. Do not verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious. 3. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. 4. Respect the judgment of game officials. Do not question calls. 5. Recognize and appreciate outstanding plays by either team. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, and during games, and afterwards on or near the site of the contest. 7. Refrain from cheers which down-play the opponent or which use profane or obscene language. |
|---|---|

Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Below Average	Unacceptable
1	2	3	4	5

NAME OF SCHOOL BEING RATED _____

TOTAL ACCUMULATED POINTS _____ NAME OF SPORT BEING RATED _____

GAME POINT AVERAGE _____

Rating submitted by _____ Title _____

(Signature)

Representing _____

Please use the back side of this form for comments.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN A SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD PROGRAM FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES AND SPECTATORS

One of the most important components of the **Good Sports Are Winners!** campaign is its **recognition** and **rewarding** of good sportsmanship during MHSAA tournaments. Likewise, local schools could reinforce the message of sportsmanship by developing a program which would recognize and acknowledge the efforts of members of your athletic teams, student body and staff for displaying good sportsmanship. A sample program is outlined below.

Selection Procedure

1. A selection committee appointed by the school consisting of three to six members shall select all winners.
2. The selection committee will determine a recipient from each group (athletes, general student body, staff - you may expand this to each grade and team if you like) that **exceeds** the requirements or expectations identified in the MHSAA **Good Sports Are Winners!** program.
3. The selection procedure will be as follows:
 - A. Building staff and designated student leaders (i.e. - student body president, team captains, etc., - it's your call) will be responsible to submit nominations in all three categories (an individual may not nominate themselves) to the school office on or before February 1 of each year. All nominees are to be chosen using the behaviors identified in the MHSAA **Good Sports Are Winners!** kit (or school/league sportsmanship kit if you choose) as a general guideline. It is important to realize that the committee will not award in any category where the candidate only meets the criteria. He or she must **exceed** the criteria to be considered.
 - B. The selection committee will meet to consider each nominee and determine the recipient for that group for the year, using the general criteria listed below.
 - C. The awards will be presented at the school's year-end honors convocation (or other time as you see fit).

Selection Criteria

1. Must exemplify the ideals of sportsmanship outlined in the MHSAA **Good Sports Are Winners!** kit. The successful candidate must have demonstrated in more than one instance a special effort that reflects a true understanding of sportsmanship and interscholastic athletics in perspective.
2. Should be actively involved in the school and community.
3. Must have not only complied with the requirements but exceed them as indicated. A minimum of three specific instances where the candidate exceeded the expectations for good sportsmanship are to have been exhibited in the support materials presented.
4. Must be a student or staff member in good standing with the school.
5. Must have satisfied all of the above criteria and be willing to appear before the committee if deemed necessary.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN SAMPLE LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP POLICIES

SPORTSMANSHIP CODE - COWPA LEAGUE

OBJECTIVE: To promote sportsmanship and to provide standards for proper behavior at public functions of the COWPA LEAGUE.

These guidelines will also be used in determining the winner of the COWPA LEAGUE Sportsmanship Award.

All people representing a school - coaches and athletes (I) and parents and other fans (II) are expected to follow these guidelines:

- I. A. No profanity is to be directed at other players, coaches, officials or fans.
 - B. All school representatives are expected to respect the right and property of other schools:
 - 1. Vandalism of any kind will not be tolerated.
 - 2. Theft of school or personal property is in violation of this code.
 - C. Refrain from purposely flagrant acts.
 - 1. Fighting or taking cheap shots.
 - 2. Baiting opponents or opposing fans.
 - D. Respect the right and property of other students.
 - 1. Theft of personal belongings, clothes, shoes, money, etc., is in violation of the Sportsmanship Code.
- II. A. Support your team in a positive manner. Do not demean the opposing team.
- 1. Respect all athletes, coaches and officials.
 - a. Do not boo when the opposing team's lineup is announced.
 - b. No name-calling.
 - c. Do not throw foreign objects on the playing surface.
 - 2. Make positive signs which support your team, rather than signs which run down your opponents.
 - 3. Crowd participation during free throws is acceptable, but band participation is not.
 - 4. Avoid negative body gestures and vulgarities.
 - a. No negative hand gestures.
 - b. Avoid swearing.
- B. Respect the rights and property of others when hosting or visiting other schools.

CENTRAL STATE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

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

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

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

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

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS!

THE PARENT PLEDGE: WE ARE IN IT FOR THE KIDS

At Temperance Bedford High School, a pledge program has been developed involving parents on an annual basis. Everyone who “takes the pledge” receives a certificate from the school, and has their name listed in a school publication.

Good Sports Are Winners! - A Program That Works

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

Why Do We Need Good Sportsmanship?

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

Through the Good Sports Are Winners program, parents can make proper behavioral choices while viewing their children’s athletic events:

Parents Who Pledge Agree:

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

Take The Pledge If You...

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

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS PLEDGE

I (We) take the Good Sports Are Winners pledge.

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

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

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

I (We) will praise all “Great” plays, whether by our team or our opponent.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Child(ren)’s School: _____

Grade: _____ Sport: _____

☐ New Pledge

☐ Renewal Pledge

Please feel free to publish my name along with other parents who support “Good Sports Are Winners” _____
(Signature)

You will be receiving a certificate upon receipt of your signed pledge.

Please fill out and return **within 5 days** to the Bedford Athletic Department **OR** Your Child’s School

The Bedford Parent Sportsmanship Pledge:

- I will cheer for all good plays or players whether by/for an opponent or Bedford Athlete.
- I will not direct profanity or cursing toward officials, players, or coaches.
- I will respect the abilities and sensitivities of our opponent, the officials, and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
- I will accept responsibility for all my actions.
- I will learn the rules of the game, so that I may understand and appreciate participants' actions during a contest.

Tips For Parents

- Tell your kids you have made the pledge and why. Explain why it is important to be a good sport.
- Communicate openly with your kids about being a good sport. Provide solid information and clear rules to follow.
- Support officials' and coaches' decisions regarding game conduct and encourage appropriate measures in dealing with offenders.
- Remember that appropriate and consistent discipline indicate love and concern.
- Be a role model. You can set an example for your kids.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

CASE STUDIES

The following case studies raise several issues regarding sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Read them aloud to your team or group (or pass out a copy and have them read the scenarios), then discuss the questions provided. These case studies can be shared with coaches, student-athletes, PTO's, officials, etc.

CASE STUDY 1

When Jamie Harrison was hired three years ago as the head basketball coach at North High School, she brought great expectations of winning a league championship. The last two years her teams have finished second. This year, she has four returning starters including Sharnell, the senior star forward averaging 28 points a game. The community thinks this will be the year. At the beginning of the season, Coach Harrison passed out a copy of the team rules and discussed them along with the associated penalties. Each player read and signed the list indicating her acceptance of the rules. One rule specifically prohibits drinking and calls for suspension from the team's next game. The week before the championship game, Sharnell was caught with a beer at a friend's party.

Discussion Questions

What should Coach Harrison do?

Should she enforce the rules and suspend Sharnell or turn the other way and pretend it did not happen?

What are the consequences of Coach Harrison's choice?

Does she have any other options?

Should she deal with it after the season?

Would it make a difference if Sharnell was caught with hard liquor instead of beer?

Would it make a difference if this happened in the off-season?

Would the situation be different if Sharnell was not a starter?

What do you think the other players want to happen?

What would you do if you saw Sharnell drinking at the party?

CASE STUDY 2

Amy is having her best gymnastics season ever. At the last five meets, she has medaled on each apparatus, and the coach thinks she may have a chance for a top finish at the league championships. Lately though, she seems to be really tired after practice and to be losing a lot of weight. Amy says it's because of the extra hours she's putting in, but Robin, her best friend and closest competitor, thinks Amy is showing signs of anorexia. Amy confides in Robin that she is only eating one meal a day, usually fruit, but she just wanted to lose weight to be a better gymnast. She asks Robin not to tell anyone about her eating habits, especially because the league championship is coming up soon.

Discussion Questions

What are Robin's options?

What should Robin do?

What are the consequences of Robin's decision?

Who might get hurt by Robin's decision to get involved?

Who might get hurt if she does nothing?

CASE STUDY 3

East High School is playing West High School in the last soccer game of the season. The winner of this game advances to the state tournament, and the losing team goes home. So the pressure is on and tensions are high. The official calls a penalty on East when Charles Price is offside. Charles is mad. He says the official has been making bad calls all afternoon, especially against East. So he approaches the official, gets in his face, and lets him know what he thinks of this call.

Discussion Questions

Was it appropriate for Charles to yell at the official or question the call?

How else could he have handled this situation?

Should the other players or coach get involved? If so, how?

CASE STUDY 4

Chris Warner is the coach of the volleyball team at Adams Junior High School. He has been a teacher for several years and this is his first year as a coach. Coach Warner believes that the purpose of junior high teams is to gain experience and have fun, so he rotates all the players into the game so everyone gets a chance to play. Some of the parents of the better athletes have called the athletic director to complain about Coach Warner's strategy. The athletic director talks to the coach the next day reminding him that one of the parents is on the school board.

Discussion Questions

What should Coach Warner do?

What is the purpose of a junior high team?

Would you make cuts at this level?

What if this was a varsity or a junior varsity team?

Who should decide which students play in the game?

How important is winning?

CASE STUDY 5

Suzie, the Hawks' outside hitter, pounds the volleyball over the net and it clearly falls outside the court. However, with all the girls scrambling around the floor, the official cannot see whether the ball touched a player on its way out. If it did, Suzie's team scores a point. If not, it is a side out and the Lions get the ball. The Hawks are signaling a touch, but the Lions are showing their disagreement. The official calls Jackie to the net and asks her if the ball touched any of the Lion players. Jackie is a JV player for the Hawks who was the closest line judge to the ball.

Discussion Questions

What should Jackie say?

Would it matter if it was a close match or a championship match?

What if another Hawk or Lion saw what happened? What should she do?

CASE STUDY 6

The Mallards ran on the field to the boos of the Wildcats home crowd. As the cross-town rivals were introduced, the home fans threw little yellow rubber ducks on the field to make fun of the team mascot. Throughout the game, the Wildcat fans picked on the opposing players and yelled obscenities at the officials when the calls went against their team. At one point, Mr. Farley, father of one of the Mallard players, went over to Mr. Johnson, one of the loudest Wildcat fans, and told him to sit down and be quiet. Mr. Johnson took a swing at Mr. Farley and was finally pulled from the bleachers by the security officer. Mr. Johnson said he was just supporting his team and Mr. Farley had no business asking him to stop cheering for the Wildcats. Besides, everyone else was making as much noise as he was.

Discussion Questions

Is Mr. Johnson right? Is it OK to harass the other team if "everyone" else is doing the same thing?

Were Mr. Farley's actions appropriate?

What else could each fan have done under the circumstances?

Was the crowds' treatment of the Mallards appropriate? Why or why not?

How should sports fans show support for their team?

How should opposing teams be treated?

Is there any danger in the actions of a rowdy and hostile crowds? If so, what kind of danger?

Are fans role models? If yes, for whom are they role models?

CASE STUDY 7

James Smith and Steve Hamilton have a long running rivalry. They competed against each other in high school and college and never really got along. Now they are both high school coaches and their football teams are conference rivals. Their teams have played twice before and split the games, so today's contest has great meaning to both men. It is a hard-fought competition with a close score up to the final play. Coach Hamilton's Bears pull it out in the end with a field goal in the closing seconds. Coach Hamilton joins the celebration on the sideline and runs to the locker room without leading his team to midfield for the traditional handshake.

Discussion Questions

Should the coaches shake hands after the game? Why or why not?

Does their long-standing rivalry excuse them from shaking hands?

What is the message they send to their players and the fans?

Are coaches role models? If yes, for whom are they role models?

OTHER CASE STUDY ACTIVITIES

Ask student-athletes to role play the scenarios outlined above. Then ask one of the players to facilitate the follow-up discussion.

Create scenarios relevant to your team or school.

SPORTSMANSHIP ROLE PLAYING

Role Plays About Conduct

Role Play 1 • High Standards of Behavior

One member acts as the person registering people for the event. Another member demonstrates how you should act when you arrive at the event and approach the registration area. Be pleasant, ask questions politely, say please and thank you.

Role Play 2 • Poor Behavior

One member acts as the person registering people for the event. Another member demonstrates how you should **not** act when you arrive at the event and approach the registration area (fuss about how your parents made you late, complain that the line is too long, start a quarrel with your sister, argue about where you're supposed to set up your display, etc).

Role Plays About Fairness

Role Play 3 • Showing Sportsmanship Through Fairness

One member acts as a news reporter. Another member demonstrates how you should act in explaining to a news reporter what members in your project category did in their projects. Explain the project requirements and explain what the judges are looking for. Talk about the projects and other participants fairly.

Role Play 4 • Poor Sportsmanship: Being Unfair

One member acts as a news reporter. Another member demonstrates how you should **not** act in explaining to a news reporter what members in your project category did in their projects: brag about the work that the kids in your club did, but make fun of what kids from other clubs did; complain that you didn't have as much time to work on your project as the other kids did (when in fact everyone had the same 24 hours per day, seven days per week).

Role Plays About Honesty

Role Play 5 • Showing Sportsmanship Through Honesty

One member acts as the judge. Another member demonstrates how you should act in explaining honestly to the judge what you did in your project.

Role Play 6 • Poor Sportsmanship: Being Dishonest

One member acts as the judge. Another member demonstrates an example of cheating or dishonesty in explaining to the judge what you did in your project. For example, "borrow" someone else's project and try to pass it off as your own. Or show something that's obviously made from a kit or purchased, and tell the judge not only did you make it, but you even designed the pattern and made the material yourself! Or cheat in little ways, like saying that you're 13 so you can compete in a junior class, when you're actually 14. Better yet, think of a way that someone might actually try to cheat in your project category, and act it out for your group.

Role Plays About Competition

Role Play 7 • Showing Sportsmanship in Competition

Two members role play sitting side-by-side in a competition. Have a nice conversation with each other. Explain what you did in your project, compliment each other's exhibit, and make helpful suggestions for how you might improve.

Role Play 8 • Showing Poor Sportsmanship in Competition

Two members role play sitting side-by-side in a competition. Have a mean-spirited conversation with each other. Try to convince the other person to change something about his/her exhibit that would make it look worse to the judge.

Role Plays About Courtesy

Role Play 9 • Showing Courtesy

One member plays the part of the program organizer. Another member plays the part of a participant who shows courtesy in asking if fans could be brought in or if part of the class could be excused to get a drink of water since the room is so hot.

Role Play 10 • Poor Sportsmanship: Being Rude

One member plays the part of the program organizer. Another member plays the part of a participant who is rude in asking to be excused. Tell the organizer your parents think she's an idiot for scheduling the program on such a hot day, say you and your buddies will just walk out if something isn't done to cool the place down immediately.

Role Play 11 • Showing Sportsmanship in Relating to Others

One member plays a spectator who wants to talk with a participant about the 4-H program. Another member plays a participant who shows sportsmanship in responding to the spectator's questions and excusing herself when it's time to be judged.

Role Play 12 • Being Unsportsmanlike in Relating to Others

One member plays a spectator who wants to talk with a participant about the 4-H program. Another member plays the part of a participant who lacks sportsmanship in responding to the spectator's questions. Sarcastically tell the person if they read the local newspaper once in awhile they would know the answers to their dumb questions. Tell him/her you're just too busy to bother with anybody who isn't a judge.

Role Plays About Graceful Acceptance of Results

Role Play 13 • Behaving Gracefully as an Individual

One member acts friendly, thoughtful, and kind in explaining what the judges said during the interview. Explain that they started off with easy questions that helped you feel at ease, and then moved on to tougher questions. Discuss how you didn't know the answers to some questions, and close with comments about what you did learn and what you liked about the experience.

Role Play 14 • Behaving Disgracefully as an Individual

Another member throws a tantrum in explaining what the judges said during the interview. Fuss that they started off with easy questions and made you feel at ease, and then blind-sided you with tough questions that nobody could possibly answer! Say your leader should have made sure that you knew what was in the project book, and blame somebody else for your not winning.

Role Play 15 • Showing Sportsmanship in Accepting Results as a Family

One member plays an announcer of winners. Another member plays a responsible parent. Someone else plays a competitor who shows sportsmanship in accepting results. When the winners are announced, the "parent" shows acceptance with a statement such as, "I bet their families are really proud of them this year." The "competitor" responds with comments that show acceptance such as, "They had a nice project," "I talked with them ... they had really studied and knew their stuff," or "I don't know, but the judge's questions were thorough ... I bet they did better in their interviews than I did in mine." The "parent" responds with appropriate comments such as, "Next time, would you like me to quiz you on the project?" and "I'm proud of you for realizing that no one can always be the best."

Role Play 16 • Showing Poor Sportsmanship in Accepting Results as a Family

One member plays an announcer of winners. Another member plays a parent who thinks his/her main job is to be an advocate for his/her child. Someone else plays a competitor who lacks sportsmanship in accepting results. When the winners are announced, the "parent" shows concern with a statement to the "competitor" such as, "I hoped you would win this year ... I wonder why they picked those other kids?" The "competitor" responds with unsportsmanlike comments that downplay the results such as, "I don't know, but nobody could have studied harder than me ... they probably cheated ... I was gypped!" "It's not fair! After I didn't know the answers to those two questions, the judge didn't ask me anything else, and she spent 10 minutes each talking to the kids who won!" and "If I had spent as much money as the winners, I could have won, too!" The "parent" gets all riled up, and marches the participant up to the announcer to protest the results in a fit of anger.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

THE “CREATIVE SPORTSMANSHIP” SPEECH CONTEST

Many efforts have been undertaken to communicate the message that sportsmanship is essential to the value, and even to the survival of interscholastic athletic programs. Working toward that goal, here's a way to give students a direct voice in the promotion of sportsmanship.

A "Creative Sportsmanship" speech contest is a wide-open opportunity for students to use their creative and performance abilities in a fun-filled, yet impacting way to promote sportsmanship. Here's a brief description of how such an event could be staged. Feel free to modify to your local needs:

"Creative Sportsmanship"

1. Only three basic rules will apply to the competition:

- Rule # 1: Time limit will be five (5) minutes.
- Rule #2: Subject matter must promote sportsmanship. Creative Sportsmanship shall orally and/or visually communicate in a manner which promotes sportsmanship. Material shall not be restricted as to style, form or genre: it may be serious or humorous, original or published, public address, pantomime, declamation, interpretation or acting, etc. The number of performers in an entry shall not be limited. Costumes are permitted. Hand props and/or visual aids are permitted., Live music may be included. Electronic equipment, sets or staging may not be used. Performances shall be designed for classroom presentation.
- Rule #3: Material must be appropriate for public performance. Material which is questionable or risqué from an ethical, moral or good taste perspective will not be tolerated.

2. There will be no limitations on numbers of performers in an entry or on the creative parameters of the performance. We know this may produce oration performances vs. acting performances vs. interpretive performances, etc. in the same competition. But that's all right since the purpose is not to compete in the skills of an event but to compete with a message promoting sportsmanship.
3. You should plan to involve participants in other public performances, such as during halftime of home basketball tournament games, to promote sportsmanship in direct and active ways.

A WORD OF REMINDER ABOUT "SPORTSMANSHIP" AS SUBJECT MATTER

SPORTSMANSHIP is a term which describes a social behavior. Despite the perception to the contrary, it is not specifically an athletic term. Rather, it is a term which describes the attitudes and actions which are desirable for people engaged in competition with one another, whether it is in sports or in the arts, in business or in academic endeavor. Therefore, we hope that participants in this event will look at sportsmanship, both in contexts where it is familiar and where it may not be so familiar.

Evaluation Form - Creative Sportsmanship

Number in cast: _____

Cast member's names: _____

Rate each performance by awarding 1-5 points in each evaluation category (1-improvement needed; 2-fair; 3- average; 4 excellent; 5-superior). Then total and record the total points (maximum-150) in the space provided. Please write brief evaluative **comments** in the spaces provided.

Category	Circle Point Award	Comments
Sportsmanship theme focus	1 2 3 4 5	
Creativity of idea and approach	1 2 3 4 5	
Value as a promotional presentation	1 2 3 4 5	
Ensemble, presentation and delivery	1 2 3 4 5	
Special or unique features	1 2 3 4 5	
Audience appeal	1 2 3 4 5	
Originality	1 2 3 4 5	
Props, costumes, staging	1 2 3 4 5	
Sportsmanship values advocated	1 2 3 4 5	
Overall impression	1 2 3 4 5	

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT COMMUNICATE

- Prior to the beginning of a home contest, have a team member (or a member from both participating teams if you can develop a league policy) **read on the public address system a statement about sportsmanship** to the crowd. This statement should be prepared by the student, and should reflect the educational values of the game about to be staged and how learning takes precedence over winning.
- Prior to the beginning of a game, have the public address announcer state that members of the home team are now going into the stands with a **sportsmanship button**, and presenting them to someone they want to serve as a role model for good sportsmanship during the game about to be played. (INFORMATION ABOUT BUTTONS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE MHSAA OFFICE).
- A variation of the button theme would be for the coach, athletic director or building principal to have announced before the game begins, the **“Designated Good Sports”** for that contest. In general, the designated good sports would be one student and one adult. They would be given a t-shirt to wear throughout the game with a sportsmanship slogan on the front and back. A school may elect to let the individuals keep the shirts or have them returned for future games. (INFORMATION ABOUT SHIRTS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE MHSAA OFFICE).
- **Report** good sportsmanship when it happens to your opponents, the media and the MHSAA. A report form is included in this section of this book.
- Using the **GSAW!** theme, create a one-week promotion at your school focusing on sportsmanship, with the winning group named at an assembly. Such promotions could include a **poster, essay or float contest**.
- **Development of a speaker's bureau:** Administrators, coaches and selected student-athletes could talk with local adult civic organizations about the **GSAW!** campaign. Student-athletes could deliver talks to students in the junior high/middle and elementary schools of the system to stress good sportsmanship.
- Principals, superintendents could write their own **commentaries** for school district newsletters.
- Send **public service announcements** to local radio and television stations on a seasonal basis (see enclosed samples in this section). When you contact the station's public service or sports director, ask if a coach, athlete or cheerleader can tape the announcement for playback on the air.
- Develop a **school board statement/policy** that stresses that athletics are an educational event where sportsmanship is a priority; that attendance at an athletic event is a privilege; and that inappropriate behavior by any party will be dealt with appropriately (see samples in following section).
- Encourage the speech/debate/forensics instructors/coaches to incorporate good sportsmanship themes into **class assignments and competition**.
- Send local media a **press release** stating that your school has joined the **GSAW!** campaign to promote good sportsmanship (see enclosed sample in this section).
- Use **sportsmanship related story slicks** in your own school **souvenir game programs or other publications** (slicks are sent directly to MHSAA member school athletic directors).
- Have your **public address announcer** read a pre-game or time out statement encouraging sportsmanship and proper respect for the opponents and game officials (samples are enclosed in this section).
- Select a **"Good Sport"** of the week or month. This could be a player, coach, student or parent.

- **Discuss sportsmanship with other schools in your league** (A sample format of such a meeting is enclosed in this packet). In addition to holding meetings, recognition vehicles such as an all-sportsmanship team or a school award could be discussed.
- If a team you played during the regular season or a school from your league advances to the state finals, have the coaching staff of the particular team send a **good luck message** before the event; attend the event as a show of support; or send a congratulatory note after the state finals.
- **Acknowledge the performance** of a team you played for a conference or MHSAA tournament title by an exchange of some token of appreciation for a great game.
- If you are playing a team that is traveling some distance to your school, **promote camaraderie between the two schools** by inviting the opposing team to stay in the homes of team members the night before the game, and possibly have an exchange of mementos before the game.
- Create a **postage meter ad** that goes on school mail with a message promoting good sportsmanship.
- Create **banners** that convey the messages of good sportsmanship and welcome opponents to your school.
- Create a **sportsmanship report card** for visitors to your school to fill out and drop off after contests.
- If you, your athletes, your spectators, etc., felt they were treated particularly well while visiting another school for an event, encourage them to **write a letter** to the principal or athletic director of that school. Chances are the school may share that letter with its constituents. The end result is that both parties are encourage to practice good sportsmanship.
- Sponsor a **school-wide cartoon contest** for those budding cartoonist. The cartoon could be an school newspaper editorial drawing based on the following facts. Over several seasons, there has been a noticeable deterioration in sportsmanship among schools in your conference and in your own school. There have been isolated instances of vandalism; arguments between parents, coaches, and officials; trash talking between players; and a growing split in the student body. The school newspaper editor has written an editorial reminding readers of the importance of athletic activities in education. The purpose is to cool folks off a little and to encourage improved behavior at games.
- As a conference, **develop a brochure which provides maps/directions to each school**, and also include sportsmanship information and expectations in that publication.
- Develop a **card to present to officials which work your home events**, providing expectations of them to report any unsportsmanlike behavior they observe. A sample is shown in this section.
- Develop a **Power Point presentation**, which could be used at team and parent meetings.
- Show the **MHSAA-produced videos, “Sportsmanship Begins At Home” and “What Kids Wish Their Parents Knew About Sportsmanship,” at pre-season meetings involving parents, and at local service club luncheons/meetings.** The videos could also be shown on the **school district’s channel on the local cable system** where available.
- Develop a **Sportsmanship page on the school Web Site**, with links to appropriate sources for additional information about sportsmanship.

- The **varsity cheerleaders** arranged to **meet with the student body** of the **local elementary schools** to promote good sportsmanship. During the program, they performed a few cheers and then had an interactive conversation with the elementary-age children stressing the sportsmanship guidelines for spectators and defining sportsmanship. The cheerleaders also stressed to them some rules to follow while visiting other schools and while attending home games at the high school.
- At **pep assemblies**, students are given **incentive** to be good sports. They are encouraged to earn banners, t-shirts, win awards for good sportsmanship behavior.
- Develop a **student spirit group** that sits together in the stands at games and **engages in only positive sportsmanship acts**. Find a sponsor to buy shirts for each participant. The kids can design the logo, which is on the front of the shirts and the sponsor on the back. The group sits together in the stands, and cheer only positive cheers. Anyone that says anything or statement in a negative tone is removed from the group. Wearing the shirt gets the students into all sporting events free. You could charge each student a small fee (\$5 was used in the program we saw in Illinois) to be a member.
- Develop a **student sportsmanship committee**. Students are assigned games. One student sits in the home stands and the other sits in the visitor's section. The Athletic Director or Event Manager watches the visiting team. At the end of the game, one fan from the visiting team, one fan for the home team and one player from each team are selected and presented a "Sportsmanship Medallion". Pictures are taken and posted in the gym lobby.
- If possible, do a **role playing exercise** at a parent's night meeting where your parents go down on the playing surface and the players sit in the bleachers. Have the parents play the game, and have your players imitate the actions and antics of their parents in the stands. The parents might be quite surprised to have their sons and daughters echoing the comments they hear from the stands during an event.

CREATING A “NO SWEAR ZONE”

In an effort to curb the use of profanity at all levels of your school’s athletic program, institute a “No Swear Zone” program. In order to have your school’s athletic teams become members of “The No Swear Zone,” they must pledge, as a team, to stop the use of profanity in practice and in games.

To get the program started, photocopy the pledge sheet on the following page and give it to every athletic team in your school.

Have each team’s coaches and team members sign the pledge sheet and return it to the Athletic Director. By signing the pledge they will honor “The No Swear Zone” decree, which states, “As a team we will stop the use of profanity.”

You may wish to extend “The No Swear Zone” into the stands by having student groups and spectators take the pledge.

To recognize those individuals who have joined “The No Swear Zone” at your school, acknowledge those teams and individuals by listing them in your souvenir program, on your school’s Web site, in some type of visible display in your school hallway, or by developing a certificate to present to each person.

“THE NO SWEAR ZONE” PLEDGE SHEET

Completed by Coach:

Head Coach: _____

Team: _____

School: _____

Signed by Coaches:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Signed by team players:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

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23. _____

24. _____

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26. _____

27. _____

28. _____

29. _____

30. _____

31. _____

32. _____

(Attach additional sheets if needed)

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR COACHES, STUDENTS & PARENTS

Coaches Forum for Parents

With the recent influx in poor sportsmanship by parents, a forum for parents should be held prior to each season. This forum should be mandatory for all parents of athletes participating on school teams. At this forum, coaches and school administrators should outline to parents the proper behavior expected from them at home and away games. Let parents be aware that if they act in a bad manner they will not be able to attend games for the remainder of the season.

Parent/Athlete Roundtable

With the increase in parental pressure on children who participate in school athletics, especially high school athletics, schools should hold a Parent/Athlete Roundtable. Parents and their children can sit down with coaches and talk about the pressures and commitment that go along with participating in varsity athletics. It is reported that many athletes who no longer enjoy athletic competition only continue to participate because of parental pressure. This Roundtable will allow athletes and parents to talk about this and other issues relating to the topic of parental pressure on children participating in varsity athletics.

In The Classroom

Sportsmanship Week

Designate a single week at your school a “Sportsmanship Week.” The concepts and issues discussed on Monday may be further explored throughout the week, beginning with a “Thought of the Day” or “Quote of the Day” to be included in the morning announcements. Have officials choose a “Sportsperson of the Game” for each home game, and recognize these athletes at the end of the season. Ask your coaches to choose a “Sportsperson of the Week” from their team and display photographs of these players on a sportsmanship bulletin board.

Logo Contest/Poetry Contest

Ask your English department to conduct a logo or poetry contest based on sportsmanship. Use the winning logo as a theme for the Day’s events, reprint it on a banner to hang in the gym, or make pins to hand out to spectators at home contests. Solicit support from local newspapers to publish winners of the poetry contest.

Student-Athlete Outreach Program

This program involves sending high school student-athletes to elementary and junior high/ middle schools in the district to discuss issues of ethics, fair play and sportsmanship. The Student-Athlete Outreach Program provides an excellent opportunity for students to address important topics related to sportsmanship, including drug and alcohol abuse, role models and trash talking. It has been rewarding for both the visiting student-athletes as well as the younger students.

Guest Speakers

Invite one or more guest speakers to your school speak on sportsmanship. Speakers may include alumni, coaches, administrators, sportswriters, officials or umpires.

Rivals Unite

Get together with members or players of your school’s biggest rival, and plan a community service project together. Perhaps the actual activity could take place prior to the day of competition. For example, if your schools have an annual Thanksgiving Day game, you could deliver gift baskets to local families in need the day before. Such a project will enable opposing players to interact off the field in a positive, noncompetitive situation. Developing these relationships will foster and encourage good sportsmanship and fair play on game day.

Top Ten List of Good Sportsmanship

This activity requires that individual students or small groups create their own Top Ten List of Good Sportsmanship. The class may then share their ideas and agree on a final Top Ten List that can be displayed in the school and at athletic contests. Suggest transposing the list onto T-shirts that can be sold at home games. Any profits may be used for the purchase of new equipment or uniforms.

Poster Contest

Ask your art department chairperson to conduct a poster contest prior to the start of your sportsmanship program. Display posters throughout the school to promote the program. The school may choose to display winning posters in the cafeteria, gymnasium or any other highly visible location. Reward the students who create the most unique and appropriate illustration of sportsmanship with free tickets to a school athletic event.

Role-Playing Scenarios

In this packet, you will find a selection of role-playing scenarios depicting fictitious situations or circumstances that are designed to stimulate discussion and personal reflection on critical issues of sportsmanship. You may assign a group to each scenario and have a group leader summarize the scenario and the group's reactions. You might also act out the scenario by assigning a character to each student.

Captain's Roundtable

Assemble the team captains of all the sports within your athletic program for an open forum on the current state of ethics, fair play and sportsmanship within your school, athletic conference and state. Brainstorm and create a list of suggestions that will increase the awareness of these issues. These ideas may then be presented to your school's Athletic Director or other appropriate administrator.

On The Court, On The Field

Visible Signs of Sportsmanship

In your gymnasium, post signs that promote and encourage displays of good sportsmanship. This will be a constant reminder to all students and other individuals who use the gym that sportsmanship should be a top priority for all sports and all ages. Prior to a game, encourage both teams to perform with the ideals of sportsmanship and fair play in mind. This may be illustrated by reading a quote or phrase about sportsmanship before the game or alternating players from each school when lining up before the playing of the National Anthem.

Fan Appreciation

Post signs to thank fans for their support, but at the same time, subtly remind them to adhere to your school's belief that sportsmanship, ethics and fair play are important. Include a list of do's and don'ts for the fans of your athletic programs, and make a public address announcement explaining them before every game. Make sure proper discipline is taken with people who do not abide by the rules. Encourage your fans to support players that display good sportsmanship and coaches that act as good role models for their players. For example, support coaches that do not run-up game scores and athletic directors that select a challenging schedule of competitors.

Annual Sportsmanship Award

Prior to your sportsmanship program, have the coaches and players of all athletic teams at your school nominate players for an Annual Sportsmanship Award. The individual who displays the best attitude and team spirit toward his/her respective sport should receive this award. Suggest that your local newspaper, radio station or television station sponsor the award. If you are part of a multiple school district, consider a district-wide award to be selected from the list of building school winners.

SPORTSMANSHIP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For Elementary & Junior High/Middle School Students

1. Why do you play sports/games?
2. What lessons can we learn from sports?
3. What is sportsmanship?
4. What examples of good and poor sportsmanship do you see at your school?
5. What are some things you can do to promote good sportsmanship?
6. Do you think professional athletes have a responsibility to be positive role models? How about high school and college athletes?
7. Do you want to be a role model for younger kids when you get older?
8. How do you treat others who are not athletic?
9. Do you ever feel pressure to compete or stay involved in sports? Who pressures you? Parents? Coaches? Friends?
10. Do you think parents exhibit poor sportsmanship while watching their children's games?
11. Have you witnessed parents' poor sportsmanship at your games? Was there any physical confrontation between parents, parents and coaches, or with players?
12. How do you feel when you know others have cheated? If you knew one of your teammates cheated in a victory, would you tell someone? Who would you tell? Would your answer be different if you had lost the game?
13. Who is your favorite athlete? How does he/she behave on and off the playing field?
14. What is trash talking? Is it an acceptable way of being competitive? What are some examples of trash talking and poor sportsmanship that you have experienced first-hand?
15. Many sport video games such as, basketball, football, and tennis contain examples of poor sportsmanship. Do you think sport video games should include trash talking, showboating, and other acts of poor sportsmanship? Do you think this will have a negative affect on the young kids who play these games?
16. Is too much emphasis placed on winning versus having fun?
17. What is showboating?

For Senior High School Students

1. What is Sportsmanship? Can it be taught? Who taught you?
2. Do you think professional athletes are role models? Do they have a duty to serve as role models even if they do not want to be, because of their media exposure?
3. Are you a role model to younger athletes? Why or why not?
4. Do fans at your school's athletic games show good sportsmanship? What about fans from opposing schools?
5. Can a coach's style be considered verbally abusive or is it just a means of motivating players?
6. Is it ever acceptable to break a rule?
7. Do you ever feel peer pressure to break rules or taunt opposing players?

8. If you knew one of your teammates cheated in a victory, would you tell someone? Who would you tell? Would your answer be different if you had lost the game?
9. Do you think trash talking and taunting is an acceptable way of gaining a competitive edge?
10. What are some examples of trash talking and poor sportsmanship that you have experienced firsthand?
11. Why is fighting perceived to be more acceptable in some sports, such as hockey, than in others?
12. Recently, Martin McSorley was found guilty of assault with a weapon for smashing an opponent in the head with a stick during an NHL game. He will serve no jail time, but he is not allowed on the same ice as Donald Brashear. Do you think the Canadian government should be able to punish an athlete for a game-incident or should the NHL be responsible? The NHL did suspend him for 23 games. Was that an adequate punishment?
13. Do professional sports have an ethical commitment to curb violence?
14. Is it acceptable to take advantage of an opponent's injury? (If you know an opponent has a "bad" ankle, do you run plays that take advantage of this injury?)
15. Who should be responsible for implementing or mandating guidelines regarding the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs? Do you think drugs and alcohol negatively affect how an athlete performs?
16. Is too much emphasis placed on winning in high school? Is sportsmanship sometimes overlooked in order to get the victory?
17. If an athlete is no longer enjoying athletic competition, should he/she continue because of parental pressures?
18. Do you think parents exhibit poor sportsmanship while watching their children's games?
19. Have you witnessed parents' poor sportsmanship at your games? Any physical confrontation?
20. How has your athletic participation affected you as a person?
21. Many sport video games such as, basketball, football, and tennis contain examples of poor sportsmanship. Do you think sport video games should include trash talking, showboating, and other acts of poor sportsmanship? Do you think this will have a negative affect on the young kids who play these games?
22. Allen Iverson, of the Philadelphia 76ers, recorded a rap album that contains violent references and derogatory terms about gays, women and blacks. He recently met with David Stern, Commissioner of the NBA, and agreed to take steps to eliminate offensive lyrics from the final version of his rap album. Do you think Allen has the right to release an album that contains violent references and derogatory terms about gays, women and blacks? How do you compare this to Atlanta Braves' pitcher John Rocker who made derogatory comments in a Sports Illustrated article last year?
23. Are steroids a problem in high school athletics? Some Olympians in 2000 were caught using steroids in drug tests. Are they setting a bad example?
24. Is hazing a problem in high school athletics? Are you aware of any such incidents?

Parent Discussion Questions

1. What is sportsmanship?
2. Do you teach your children the importance of sportsmanship?
3. Do you practice sportsmanship while watching your children play sports?
4. Do you think some parents exhibit poor sportsmanship while watching their children's games?
5. Have you witnessed parents' poor sportsmanship at your child's games? Any physical confrontation between parents and other parents or with coaches, athletes, and/or referees?

6. Who should be the role model for young athletes?
7. Do you think professional athletes are role models? Do they have a duty to serve as role models even if they do not want to be, because of their media exposure?
8. Are you a role model to your child and his/her friends? Why or why not?
9. Do fans at your child's athletic games show good sportsmanship? What about fans from opposing schools?
10. Can a coach's style be considered verbally abusive or is it just a means of motivating players? Do you mind if a coach yells at your child? What if that coach uses profanity?
11. Do you think trash talking and taunting is an acceptable way of gaining a competitive edge? What are some examples of trash talking and poor sportsmanship that you have experienced firsthand from your view on the sideline?
12. Who should be responsible for implementing or mandating guidelines regarding the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs? Do you talk to your children about the negatives of alcohol and drug use?
13. Is too much emphasis placed on winning in athletics versus having fun? Is sportsmanship sometimes overlooked in order to get the victory?
14. Many sport video games (basketball, football, and tennis) contain examples of poor sportsmanship. Do you think sport video games should include trash talking, showboating, and other acts of poor sportsmanship? Do you think this will have a negative affect on the young kids who play these games?
15. Allen Iverson, of the Philadelphia 76ers, recently recorded a rap album that contains violent reference and derogatory terms about gays, women and blacks. He recently met with David Stern, Commissioner of the NBA, and agreed to take steps to eliminate offensive lyrics from the final version of his rap album. Do you think Allen has the right to release an album that contains violent references and derogatory terms about gays, women and blacks? How do you compare this to Atlanta Braves' pitcher John Rocker who made derogatory comments in a Sports Illustrated article last year?
16. Throughout this past year, stories about steroid use in athletics, from the high school level to the professional level have surfaced. Have you ever talked to your child about steroids and the harmful effects that result from its use?
17. Recently, some youth leagues began requiring parents to participate in sportsmanship training courses prior to their child's athletic season, in order to be able to attend their child's games. What do you think about this concept? Will it help reduce the number of incidents of unruly parents?
18. Do some parents act the way they do because they have invested heavily (financially, emotionally and otherwise) in their child's athletic activities, holding onto the faint hope that their child will receive an athletic college scholarship? Statistics indicate that less than one percent of high school sports participants will receive a Division One scholarship; that less than three percent of high school sports participants will participate in college athletics; and that for every dollar of athletic financial aid to college, there are 38 dollars of academic financial aid.
19. Do some parents have trouble ceding control of their child's athletic fortunes to the school coach after many years of being closely involved with them in non-school sporting activities?
20. Is hazing a problem in high school athletics? Are you aware of any such incidents? Are you doing anything to monitor or discourage hazing?

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR USE AT HOME

ATHLETIC EVENTS

Pre-Game Announcements

Welcome to today's contest between _____ and _____.

As member schools of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, they remind you that sportsmanship and the objectives of educational athletics are what set this event apart of other levels of competition. Your cooperation and support of the values promoted by these two schools is appreciated.

The schools participating in this event are members of the Michigan High School Athletic Association which have adopted the rules under which the games are conducted. A strong commitment to excellence, fair play, and sportsmanship are all vital to this activity's success. _____ and _____ high schools appreciate your recognition of the values being taught at this educational event.

The playing and eligibility rules to today's game were developed by _____ and _____ high schools, which are members of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. These rules provide for fair competition, and protect the integrity of educational athletics. Sportsmanship is one element of these games that spectators can help promote. Good Sports Are Winners because they take personal responsibility for keeping the levels of sportsmanship at today's game high.

We are pleased to welcome you today to _____ High School. Good sportsmanship is one of the primary purposes of educational athletics. Our student-athletes recognize that judgment calls -- by coaches, officials and themselves -- are made in good faith and should be respected. Spectators can support both of these teams by refraining from derogatory or demeaning comments and cheers today. We hope that you will enjoy the game and support the students in a positive and sportsmanlike manner.

When _____ High School sponsors an athletic event, it considers that happening to be an extension of the classroom, with the lessons learned as important as those coming out of a textbook. Perhaps the most important lesson is good sportsmanship, a course which will serve everyone well in the game of life. Remember, Good Sports Are Winners!

Welcomes - Prior to Player Introductions

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Everyone wants to be famous, and some people will do whatever it takes -- good or bad -- to be noticed. In today's game, what will you become famous for? Please, be a good sport today!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Many intangibles go into school sports -- practice, conditioning, strategies -- but the most important of these is sportsmanship. Without sportsmanship, these games lose their educational value. We need YOU to be a good sport!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. At the forefront of the statewide sportsmanship efforts are your local schools. We ask that you assist them in their work by being a good sport today!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Sportsmanship is the Golden Rule of athletics -- treating others the way you wish to be treated. Sportsmanship asks us to focus on respect, because sportsmanship is a way of life.

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. The first person you should look at when evaluating sportsmanship is yourself. What does your reflection look like? Please, be a good sport today!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. High school sports are a privilege to play and a privilege to watch. A privilege that depends on responsible conduct in school hallways, classrooms and playing fields. A privilege that depends on good sportsmanship. Good Sports Are Winners because they understand their responsibilities on and off the playing surface.

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Sportsmanship begins at home. It begins with an attitude that how you play matters more than the final score. So please, be a good sport today!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. The educational value of this event is more important than its outcome. Respect for others, including opponents and officials, is one of those values. There are no excuses for taunting and trash talk. Remember, Good Sports Are Winners!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Sportsmanship is not just a necessary part of high schools sports, it's the reason school sports exist. Sportsmanship is a way of life.

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. A recent survey revealed that the number one reason youngsters take part in high school sports is to have fun -- not to be number one. That's why Good Sports Are Winners!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. The teams and athletes in today's competition are giving their best. They deserve the best from fans as well. Good sportsmanship brings out the best in all of us.

After Lineups Are Introduced -- Introduce Officials

Your officials for today's game are _____ and _____ . These officials are registered by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and like the coaches, are hired by **(Name of your school)** to help the athletes learn on the playing field. These individuals have worked hard to learn the rules and apply them fairly. We request you respect their honest efforts in administering this contest.

Your officials for today's game are _____ and _____ . These officials are registered by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. They are hired by **(Name of your school)** with the mutual agreement of schools participating in this event. Their experience and integrity qualify them to administrate the rules of the game. An attitude of good sportsmanship should be upheld by all spectators, players and coaches, no matter what their personal feelings or loyalties may be in this contest.

National Anthem Introduction

At this time we ask that you stand, and gentlemen, remove your caps, as we pay honor to America with the singing of our National Anthem...

To Be Read During Breaks In The Action

With parents now attacking, and even killing, other parents, at kid's sporting events, a new term has been coined – it's called "sports rage." It's just a new way of classifying the worst unsportsmanlike behavior, which has no place in a school sports -- or at any sporting event. Let's all work together to eliminate sports rage from the sports page. We need YOU to be a good sport!

So you want to be a good sport? If you do, you'll have to follow the rules, and follow them without exception. OK...the first rule of good sportsmanship is to show respect. Rule number two is ... see rule number one! When you really think about it, it's not that hard to be a good sport!

Sportsmanship is the Golden Rule in action. It is practicing respect. Sportsmanship doesn't change with time or place. Sportsmanship is the same no matter where the game is played, or who is playing it. Sportsmanship is what sets high school sports apart from other levels of athletics; and ultimately, sportsmanship becomes a way of life for students.

Here's what a few kids have said about their parent's sportsmanship at school games: "Sometimes I just wish they'd keep our parents out of the gym, and the games would probably be more fun." "We'd get thrown out of games if we acted that like that, I don't know why the parents think they have a right to act that way." "It's tough to be a role model for others when you can't even be a role model for us." Parents, the kids have a simple message – They need you to be a good sport!

Some people believe in convenience sportsmanship -- in other words, to be a good sport only when it's to their advantage. Sportsmanship isn't something you choose to do at certain times, it's something that requires constant effort. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners because they understand sportsmanship in educational athletics is a full-time job.

In a day and age where it seems that almost anything goes, there's an old-fashioned value that's still in style – it's called respect. In sports, respect translates into sportsmanship. There's nothing wrong with treating people the way you'd like to be treated, whether it's in the gym or out in the community. Respect and sportsmanship are a way of life.

Finishing first does not always mean you won. In fact, an attitude where you feel you have to win at all costs and show disrespect for your opponent, officials and the rules of the game in the process makes you a loser. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners because they know there's no excuses for poor sportsmanship.

Many parents, while watching a sporting event with their child, are quick to point out why a play turned out the way it did to teach them something about the game. But too many times, nothing is said about examples of outstanding or poor behavior on the playing surface. Parents, what are you teaching your kids about sportsmanship? (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners because they know that sportsmanship begins at home.

High school sports are different from other levels of athletics because they promote lifelong values -- including respect for others. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners because they believe that Trash Talk is TRASH! Support the campaign to eliminate taunting from school sports.

So much has been made lately of athletes and coaches being role models for fans, but in the end, who's a role model for who? Before you verbally abuse a player, coach or referee at an athletic event -- THINK! Maybe it's time for the spectators to become role models for the participants.

(Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners!

Some people say trash talk in sports is harmless -- just a "part of the game." That may be true in college or professional sports, but in high school athletics -- educational athletics -- showing that kind of disrespect can get you kicked out of a game. It's a punishment that fits the crime. Games are meant to be played -- not talked.

(Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners because they support the campaign to eliminate taunting from school sports.

Pretend for a moment that you're the only person in attendance at a high school game. Would your behavior include ridiculing impressionable 14 to 17-year olds, openly second-guessing coaches and berating officials? Probably not. So the next time you are in a crowd at a contest, act as if you were the only fan in the stands, and encourage the participants in a positive manner. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners!

Your ticket to an educational athletic event is a privilege -- a privilege to watch youngsters learn on the playing surface. One of the lessons taught today is one spectators can benefit from as well -- the value of good sportsmanship. This is a classroom where respect should be accorded to all in attendance. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners!

While the scoreboard reveals the winner of a high school athletic event, the real winners are those who display good sportsmanship. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners because they treat competition as a game and not a war...they show genuine concern for an injured player...and they accept and respect the decisions of the officials.

Coaches should set a good example for contestants and fans, always exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior. Participants should treat opponents with respect and shake hands prior to and after contests. Fans should be fans -- not fanatics. Sportsmanship. It is vital to the success of the further existence of educational athletic programs. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners!

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SEND TO RADIO/TV/CABLE OUTLETS

(Ask the station if a coach, athlete or cheerleader can tape these announcements for on-air use)

The old saying goes “Actions speak louder than words.” But at a high school sporting event, verbal assaults of an unsportsmanlike nature hurt kids, degrade coaches and officials, and prove to be an embarrassment for the school you’re supposedly cheering for. Whenever you set foot in the athletic classroom, you have the responsibility to be a good sport. Take that responsibility seriously, and your actions will speak louder than words. A public service message from (Name of School) High School and (Your Station’s Call Letters).

Sportsmanship is like a chain, a chain that can be strengthened or broken by the actions of just one person. Be the strongest link – be a good sport! A public service message from (Name of School) High School and (Your Station’s Call Letters).

A recent national survey of high school game officials revealed that the number one reason referees hang up their whistles is because of a lack of sportsmanship – especially on the part of adult spectators. The games can’t start without officials, but the games can certainly do without poor sports in the stands. The simple message to parents from coaches, student-athletes and now officials is simple – we need you to be a good sport! A public service message from (Name of School) High School and (Your Station’s Call Letters).

Admission to an educational athletic event is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility -- responsibility to conduct oneself in a responsible manner, where the game is enjoyable for other fans and participants. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners on the playing surface and in the stands. A public service message from (Name of School) High School and (Your Station’s Call Letters).

There’s one in every cheering section -- the disgruntled fan who knows it all and lets everyone know it. How to coach, how to play, and of course, how to officiate. Such poor sports are an embarrassment to their school. Good Sports Are Winners because they lead by example. They understand that they represent their school wherever they go and take that responsibility seriously. A public service message from (Name of School) High School and (Your Station’s Call Letters).

The ticket you purchase to a high school athletic event is a privilege to watch a contest and support extra-curricular activities not, a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious. Be a positive role model by encouraging and supporting all aspects sports. (Name of School) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners! A public service message from (Name of School) High School and (Your Station’s Call Letters).

Let’s remember that at any high school sporting event it is the student-athlete who is supposed to be the center of attention, not the obnoxious fan in the stands. As a fan, you have a right to enjoy good sportsmanship as well as a responsibility to practice it. (Name of school) High School reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners! -- because the object of the game is to have fun. A public service message from (Name of School) High School and (Your Station’s Call Letters).

Good sportsmanship is learned, practiced and executed. Respect for opponents, spectators, coaches and officials is a must at all levels of athletics. At educational athletic contests, behavior on the part of everyone should be characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. (Name of School) High School reminds you that the next time you attend an educational athletic event that Good Sports Are Winners! A public service message from (Name of School) High School and (Your Station’s Call Letters).

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN PRESS RELEASE TO SEND TO MEDIA ANNOUNCING YOUR SCHOOL'S INVOLVEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Date)

Contact: (Name)
(Telephone number)

(Name of your school) CONTINUES INVOLVEMENT IN GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! PROGRAM

Continuing to promote the values of integrity, fair play and ethics in interscholastic athletics, **(Name of your school)** will again participate in the **Good Sports Are Winners!** statewide sportsmanship campaign.

The **Good Sports Are Winners!** campaign is sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and Meemic Insurance.

"The **Good Sports Are Winners!** program has made a major impact on sportsmanship at high school athletic events statewide, and we're pleased to be a part of this program," said **(Name of principal)**, principal of **(Name of your school)**. "We need to continually communicate that interscholastic athletics are games in a classroom setting, different from other organized sports activities.

"We need this program to send the right message to the public. A message that integrity, fairness and respect are necessary in athletics, despite what we continually see on television and read in the newspapers," **(Last name of principal)** said. "It's important for students and adult spectators to join us in this effort. Sportsmanship is an educated choice that everyone involved should make in high school sports."

(Last name of principal) also said efforts would be made to emphasize the need for parents to become more aware of the need for good sportsmanship. Those efforts include the showing of the MHSAA-produced video, "What Kids Wish Their Parents Knew About Sportsmanship," at pre-season meetings.

"We really need to get the message out to our parents that their behavior in the stands must be as exemplary as that displayed by our coaches and student-athletes," said **(Last name of principal)**. "Parents must accept their responsibility as a role model when it comes to sportsmanship."

Additional information about the **Good Sports Are Winners!** campaign may be obtained by contacting **(Name of principal)** at **(Telephone number)**, or by contacting the MHSAA at 517/332-5046.

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A GREETING CARD FOR OFFICIALS

Upon arrival at one school, the officials are given this card and asked to read it prior to the contest. The officials are asked to report any inappropriate behavior or comments that may be made to the school's coaching staff.

Perham High School - Heart O'Lake Conference

In an effort to cooperative promote good sportsmanship by eliminating negative behavior between opposing players, Perham High School is asking you to follow the procedures as described on this of this card when officiating Perham High School Games.





1. When you observe negative talk or behavior between opposing players, warn the players to stop.
2. If it continues, stop the game, call both coaches together and explain to them what you have observed. Also, explain that penalties will be given if it continues. Allow the coaches to talk to their teams.
3. If penalties are called, please call me the next working day to report the incident.

If you have any questions, or comments, please call me:
Terry Knauf, Athletic Director, 555-5555

P.S. - We appreciate all you do for our kids!

THE HAPPY GRAM

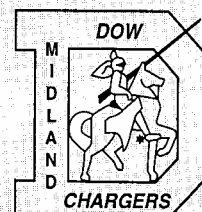
Notes like this can be sent to players and others, applauding their achievements, and urging them to keep sportsmanship at the forefront when preparing for the next event.

	GLADWIN HIGH SCHOOL HAPPY GRAM	<i>"Something Nice Happened"</i>
November 18, 1998		
Dear Andrew,		
Number nine (#9) was FINE! Watching you beat Shepherd 44-0 and break our school win record was awesome! As you get ready to beat Belding, continue to be the best-behaved student-athletes in Michigan. Set the stage before, during, and after the next two games by practicing exemplary sportsmanship. GO GHS!		
Proud to be your principal,		
		
Mr. Shell	pc: Coach Charon Jack Roberts	
 Renaissance™ <i>A New Commitment To Excellence In Education</i>		

At Dow High School in Midland, Athletic Director Dan McShannock developed a two-page newsletter on sportsmanship, which is distributed within the school community. The newsletter uses a lot of the material in the GSAW! kit, as well as some fresh ideas. A copy of the newsletter appears on the next two pages.

The Charger

Sportsmanship Issue



Volume I, Number 1 "Special"

H. H. Dow High School - Athletics

September 1998

Sportsmanship/Citizenship

Sportsmanship and citizenship is as much a part of an athletic contest as the game itself. At H. H. Dow High School we believe that athletics play a vital role in the student athletes' total education. We believe that the lessons of sportsmanship and citizenship are taught everyday in our lives including in athletics. We all have an important role in teaching the lessons of sportsmanship and citizenship.

H. H. Dow High School, along with the members of the Saginaw Valley Conference, are working hard to promote good sportsmanship and citizenship among our students and athletes. We need your help and support in this effort as well.

General Guidelines

- * Be a gracious host and show respect for your opponents
- * Respect the decisions made by the contest officials
- * Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheer and signs. **BE A FAN...NOT A FANATIC!**
- * Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a licence to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.

Don't Be A Sideline Critic At Kids' Games

Some Friendly Advice

- ✓ Make it a point to single out the players and tell them "Nice Game!" after their performance. Kids love praise, especially from other Moms and Dads.
- ✓ If you're standing next to a Mom or Dad who begins to gripe about a young player, remind them in a friendly way, "Hey, those are just kids out there!"
- ✓ The person who denigrates or criticizes other parents' kids will soon find themselves standing alone and the object of derision - or worse.

Sports Illustrated, March 16, 1998 by Rick Wolff

Fundamentals of Sportsmanship

- * Gain an Understanding and Appreciation for the Rules of the Contest.
- * Exercise Representative Behavior at All Times.
- * Recognize and Appreciate Skilled Performance Regardless of Affiliation.
- * Exhibit Respect for the Officials.
- * Display Openly a Respect for the Opponents.
- * Display Pride in Your Actions at Every Opportunity.

Suggestions for Sportsmanship

Acceptable Behavior . . .

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

Unacceptable Behavior . . .

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

The greatest value of organized high school sports is that it teaches discipline, loyalty, and teamwork. But of even greater importance to any athlete is the need to get the best possible education that is available. Important as sports are, they are always secondary to the overriding need for a well rounded education.

Lee A. Iacocca
Chrysler Corporation Chairman

"Anyone can support a team that's winning-it takes no courage. But to stand behind a team, to defend a team when it is down and really needs you, that takes a lot of courage".

Bart Starr, NFL Quarterback, Coach

School Spirit?

It has been said that schools lack school spirit because of a lack of student attendance at various school events including athletic events. Please consider the number of Dow High students that are involved in various school activities and this does not include the number of students involved in the various clubs at Dow High.

* Fall athletes	367
* Winter athletes	225
* Spring athletes	288
* Marching band	140
* Choir	75
* Orchestra	60
* Debate	30
* Forensics	19
* Student Congress	8
* Student Union	40
* Thespian	20
* Drama	85

Also, lets consider the number of hours in practices to sharpen their skills, miles run, miles swam, endless rehearsals and the list goes on.

Then, lets not forget about the homework assignments that are due the next day, or that important test to study for, or a trip to the library to gather information for an important paper. They do all of this and do it well. Many of these students have a G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher.

Let's not question their "spirit". They have dedicated themselves time and time again to their activities and also have taken time out of their busy schedules to catch the action of fellow Chargers.

"Good values should be emphasized in every athletic practice and game; in every rehearsal and performance; in every activity publication; and, in every decision made by coaches, sponsors, administrators, executive directors, and members of boards of education."

Dr. Al Burr, retired high school principal

High School Sports Like "The Masters"?

"In golf, customs of etiquette and decorum are just as important as rules governing play," It is appropriate for spectators to applaud successful strokes in proportion to difficulty but excessive demonstrations by a player or his partisan are not proper because of the possible effect upon other competitors".

"Most distressing to those who love the game of golf, is the applauding or cheering of misplays or misfortunes of a player. Such occurrences have been rare at the Masters but we must eliminate them entirely if our patrons are to continue to merit their reputation as the most knowledgeable and considerate in the world.

Robert Jones Jr. about the Masters Golf Tournament
Statement is printed on each day's pairing sheets

"Class is an intangible quality which commands, rather than demands, the respect of others.

This is because those who have it are truly considerate of others, are courteous and polite without being subservient, are not disagreeable when they disagree, are good listeners, and are at peace with themselves because they do not knowingly do wrong.

In short, a person with class might well be defined as one who practices "The Golden Rule" in both his professional and personal life".

John Wooden, College Basketball Coach

The most important thing for young athletes to understand is that while athletic performance may be an important part of their early years, an even more important part is their academic achievement. Athletics tend to pass as one gets older, whereas what one achieves academically stays with one the rest of one's life. Long after athletic exploits are forgotten, one is still using the education that in some cases was made possible by athletic achievement.

Our proudest boast is that all of our athletes also become well educated and that quality shows itself in their later lives.

Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.
University of Notre Dame, President

Lets keep in mind that today's game is being played by 15, 16, and 17 year old high school student athletes and not professionals!

"Sportsmanship and citizenship are the same thing. They are just spelled differently."

Bernie Saggau, Iowa Athletic Association

"The Charger" is a publication written and distributed by the athletic department of H. H. Dow High School in Midland, Michigan

**GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN
SAMPLE SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES
RELATED TO CONDUCT AT INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC EVENTS**

(Courtesy Illinois High School Association)

The following policy samples were developed by the Illinois Association of School Boards **Please review these samples with your local school board attorney before adoption.**

AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE

Student:

Sport or Activity:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT-PARTICIPANT:

In consideration of the (name of school district) permitting me to participate in the above sport or activity, I agree as follows:

1. I will abide by all conduct rules and will behave in a sportsmanlike manner.
2. I will follow the coach/sponsor's instructions, playing techniques, training schedule and safety rules for the above sport or activity.
3. I will acknowledge that I am aware that participation in the above sport or activity may involve **MANY RISKS OF INJURY**. A serious injury may result in physical impairment or even death. I hereby assume all the risks associated with participation and agree to hold the _____ School district, its employees, agents, coaches, School Board members, and volunteers harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, claims, or demands of any kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by or in connection with my participation in the above activity or sport. The terms hereof shall serve as a release and assumption of risk for my heirs, estate, executor, administrator, assignees, and for all members of my family.¹

Date: _____

¹ Schools should fully inform and warn of risks inherent in a sport and should assist the student-participants in understanding and appreciating these risks. The student-plaintiff in a well-known case involving the Seattle Public School District suffered a catastrophic injury by using his football helmet improperly as he was being tackled. He received a \$6.4 million award based on the jury's belief that the student had not been warned of the possibility of serious and permanent injury if he used his football helmet in an improper manner.

This sample form is loosely based on a form developed by the Seattle Public School District after the decision in that case. The form's waiver of liability and hold harmless language are most likely meaningless, but serve to alert the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) to the seriousness of potential injuries and may discourage lawsuits.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Spectator Conduct And Sportsmanship For Athletic And Extracurricular Events

Any person, including adults, who behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner during an athletic or extracurricular event may be ejected from the event the person is attending and/or denied admission to school events for up to a year after a School Board hearing.¹ Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include:

- using vulgar or obscene language;
- possessing or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or illegal substance;
- possessing a weapon;
- fighting or otherwise striking or threatening another person;
- failing to obey the instructions of a security officer or school district employee; and
- engaging in any activity which is illegal or disruptive.

The Superintendent may seek to deny future admission to any person by delivering or mailing a notice, sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least 10 days before the School Board hearing date², containing:

1. The date/time and place of a Board hearing;
2. A description of the unsportsmanlike conduct;
3. The proposed time period that admission to school events will be denied;
4. Instructions on how to waive a hearing.³

1 Boards may make and enforce reasonable rules of conduct and sportsmanship for school events and deny future admission to school events to violators for up to one year provided a notice and hearing is given (105 ILCS 5/24-24).

2 Id. If a violator is a student, the hearing should be held in a closed meeting (5 ILCS 120/2). If, however, the violator is a non-student, the hearing must be held in an open session.

3 The hearing requirement is for the violator's benefit and, consequently, the violator should be able to waive it.

STUDENTS: CONDUCT CODE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Recognizing that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, the District requires that the conduct of student participants be exemplary at all times. Participants are representatives of the District and their school and must conduct themselves appropriately at all times both while in school and out of school. Student participants who violate this policy are subject to being removed from the activity at the discretion of the coach, sponsor or Building Principal, in addition to any other applicable punishment.

The Building Principal shall require that all coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities have Rules or a Conduct Code for their participants consistent with this policy and the rules adopted by the (**name of state high school athletic association**). These rules should contain a notice to participants that failure to abide by them could result in removal from the activity. The Rules or Conduct Code shall be reviewed by the Building Principal periodically at his or her discretion and presented to the School Board. [see alternative paragraph below]

All coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities shall annually review the Rules of Conduct with participants and provide participants with a copy.

[ALTERNATIVE PARAGRAPH]

The Building Principal [or Athletic Director], using input from coaches and sponsors of extracurricular activities, shall develop uniform Rules or Conduct Codes for all participants consistent with this policy and the rules adopted by the Illinois High School Association. These rules should contain a notice to participants that failure to abide by them could result in removal from the activity. The Rules or Conduct Code shall be reviewed by the Building Principal periodically at his or her discretion and presented to the School Board.

(While a Conduct Code is not specifically required by state or federal law, the existence and dissemination of one is critical to the successful removal of a student from an activity.)

CONDUCT CODE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Participants shall at all times abide by the safety rules of their activity or sport. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Participants' conduct, in and out of school, shall not reflect negatively on their school or create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral, or educational environment in the school.

Participants who violate this Conduct Code are subject to being removed from the activity at the discretion of the coach, sponsor, or Building Principal, in addition to any other applicable punishment.

I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THESE RULES AND I HAVE READ THEM.

Date: _____ Signed: _____
(Participant)

Date: _____ Signed: _____
(Parent or guardian)

NOTICE OF VIOLATION - FORM

[School District Letterhead]

Date _____

Dear: _____

You are hereby notified that you are charged with violating the District's policy on Rules of Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Extracurricular Events. The policy states in part as follows:

Students who behave in an)	This paragraph only with Policy _____
unsportsmanlike manner may be)	
denied admission to school events)	
for up to a year in addition to any)	
other penalty prescribed by the)	
student conduct code.)	

Any fan, including adult fans,)	This paragraph only with Policy _____
who behaves in an)	
unsportsmanlike manner during)	
athletic or extracurricular events)	
may be denied admission to)	
school events for up to a year)	
after a Board hearing.)	

The School Board will meet in open session [closed session if addressed to a student] on _____, 20_____, _____ p.m., at _____
to consider denying you admission to all school events beginning on _____
and continuing through _____.

Please notify me if you wish to waive this hearing. If you decide to waive the hearing, however, you will be denied admission to school events during the period of time described above.

You are charged with committing the following unsportsmanlike conduct: [insert time, place, and a description of the conduct]

Superintendent

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

RULES OF CONDUCT & SPORTSMANSHIP FOR ATHLETIC/EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS - REGULATIONS

The process for denying a person admission for violation of the School Board policy on Rules on Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Extracurricular Events as follows:

1. Any person who disrupts a school event or otherwise violates the School Board policy on Rules of Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Extracurricular Events will be asked to leave. If the person refuses to leave, security personnel or law enforcement will be summoned.
2. Any person charged with violating the School Board policy on Rules of Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Extracurricular Events will be notified in writing. The notification will be given at least 10 days before the Board hearing and will describe the unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. The School Board President or his or her designee will begin the hearing with the introductory comments. He or she may read the Notice of Violation. The hearing will proceed as follows:
 - Superintendent presents the evidence which supports the penalty sought in the Notice of Violation.
 - The person charged with the violation presents evidence and/or explanation as well as any other pertinent information.
 - The School Board discusses the charges and make a determination.
4. The School Board hearing will be held on an informal basis with the rules of evidence not strictly followed.

STUDENTS

STUDENT CONDUCT & SPORTSMANSHIP DURING ATHLETIC/ EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The School Board encouraged student activity participants and student fans to support the District's athletic teams and extracurricular events by attending games and cheering, clapping and otherwise encouraging participants. Support, however, must be exhibited in a sportsmanlike manner.

Students who behave in an unsportsmanlike manner may be denied admission to school events for up to one year after a School Board hearing in addition to any other penalty prescribed by the student conduct code. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include:

- Using vulgar or obscene language;
- Possessing or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or illegal substance;
- Possessing a weapon;
- Fighting or otherwise striking or threatening another person;
- Failing to obey the instructions of a security officer or school district employee; and
- Engaging in any activity which is illegal or disruptive.

The Superintendent or designee may charge a student with unsportsmanlike conduct by delivering or mailing a notice, sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, of the violation at least 10 days before the School Board hearing date. The notice shall inform the fan:

1. The date, time, and place of a hearing before the school board
2. A description of the unsportsmanlike conduct;
3. The proposed length of time admission to school events will be denied;
4. How to inform the Superintendent of a desire to waive a hearing.

RE: RULES OF CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP FOR ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR SCHOOL EVENTS - POLICY - FORM - GUIDELINES - Policy and .

In addition to adherence to accepted crowd control measures, school districts should require fans to behave in a sportsmanship manner. Fans who display unsportsmanlike behavior may disrupt or even endanger participants and other fans.

The sample policy will assist school administrators in fulfilling the district's duty to protect participants and patrons from reasonably foreseeable acts of third parties. It contains a provision based on an Illinois statute which would deny admission for up to a year for unsportsmanlike behavior. The policy's provision for a School Board hearing before imposing this penalty is required by the same Illinois statute.

The sample form should be delivered in person or by certified mail with return receipt requested to a fan who violated the districts policy on Rules of Conduct and Sportsmanship for Athletic and Extracurricular School Events. If the violator is a student, the hearing should be held in a closed meeting. If, however, the violator is someone other than a student, the hearing must be held in an open session of the board. The hearing requirement is for the violator's benefit and, consequently, the violator should be able to waive it. The sample form gives the violator the opportunity to submit to the penalty without a hearing,

RE: CONDUCT CODE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - Policy .

Providing for the discipline of student athletes and participants in extracurricular activities is a necessary part of a district's extracurricular program. The school district must ensure that participant conduct during the athletic activity is appropriate. Additionally, participant conduct outside the activity time and even outside the school day, reflects upon his or her school. Consequently, coaches generally have rules or conduct codes to regulate participant conduct both in and out of school.

The most severe form of punishment is removal from the athletic activity. In the majority of judicial decisions involving a student's challenge to having been removed from a team, courts have rules that participation in extracurricular athletic programs is a privilege rather than a right. The "privilege" status of participation in athletics is significant because the deprivation of a privilege does not trigger the due process provision of the Constitution. Consequently, unlike school attendance, students generally have no Constitutional right to participate in extracurricular athletic programs.

Even absent a Constitutional right to participate in extracurricular programs, there are still frequent challenges to a school's attempt to remove a student from an athletic team. A school district can minimize its vulnerability to having its action judicially overturned by doing the following:

1. Have a reasonable written Rules or Conduct Code for its student-participants.
2. Make the Rules or Conduct Code for each team fairly uniform, avoiding wide differences in punishments for particular misbehavior.
3. Disseminate the Rules or Conduct Code to the participants and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Require each participant acknowledge in writing having received the rules. Have each coach explain the rules to participants at the beginning of the sport season and periodically remind participants of the rules. The same process applies to all extracurricular activities.

4. Allow participants who violate the Rules or Conduct Code to give an explanation before removing them from the activity. Whenever a student's "good name, reputation, honor or integrity is at stake," offer a more formal due process proceeding to the participant before removing him or her from the activity

The attached policy will ensure that each athletic activity has written rules for student-participant conduct which will be given to participants. Additionally, it provides for periodic review by an administrator and the School Board.

RE: SAMPLE CONDUCT CODE FOR ATHLETES - Form _____.

The sample Conduct Code for Athletes describes conduct which the district has a right to expect from its student-participants in extracurricular activities. This or similar Conduct Codes will reduce the likelihood of having a court overturn the discipline imposed.

RE: SUPERVISORY PLANS - Policy _____.

Many student injuries occur in non-classroom areas out of school. Leaving the time, area, and manner of supervision to the discretion of individual staff members may leave areas under-supervised or even unsupervised. Policy _____ requires the Building Principal to compile a comprehensive schedule of supervisory assignments for these areas.

A BOARD OF EDUCATION STATEMENT ON SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS & INTEGRITY

The Board of Education recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom.

Participants and responsible adults involved in Board approved extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom. The Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, spirit groups and support/booster groups.

Board Of Education On Sportsmanship, Ethics, And Integrity In Extracurricular Activities

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

Promoting sportsmanship includes for our athletes, administrators, coaches and officials:

1. Treating opponents and officials with the respect that is due them as guests and fellow human beings.
2. Shaking hands with opponents.
3. Taking victory and defeat without undue emotionalism, i.e. gloating, or demonstrating disappointment.
4. Controlling of tempers at all times on and off the playing field.
5. Being positive with officials, without criticism for officials or coaches after the game.
6. Cooperating with the coaches and fellow players in trying to promote good sportsmanship.
7. Being positive with opponents, refraining from swearing or making insulting remarks to their opponents before, during, or after the contest.
8. Letting student audiences know that inappropriate behavior reflects poorly on the team.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

ANNUAL TEAM REPORT SHEET

(Use this form to track the sportsmanship efforts in each sport)

Team: _____ **Level:** _____
(Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman, Junior High/Middle School)

Head Coach: _____ **Date:** _____

(Please check each box, date and initial as appropriate)

- ☐ Sportsmanship letter sent to team members: _____
- ☐ Sportsmanship letter sent to parents of team members: _____
- ☐ Sportsmanship brochure distributed to team members: _____
- ☐ Sportsmanship brochure distributed to parents of team members: _____
- ☐ Sportsmanship expectations verbally communicated to players: _____
- ☐ Sportsmanship is discussed at pre-season meeting with team members & parents: _____
- ☐ Sportsmanship videos shown during pre-season meeting with team members & parents: _____
- ☐ Other discussions about sportsmanship (please list): (i.e. Talks to service groups, booster clubs, etc.)

- ☐ MHSAA coach and player disqualification procedures discussed and enforced.

Number of coach ejections during season: _____

Number of player ejections during season: _____

- ☐ Pre-game sportsmanship announcements read prior to each home contest: _____
- ☐ Sportsmanship public address announcements read during each home contest: _____
- ☐ Clinic held for cheerleaders in sportsmanship and crowd control: _____ Date: _____
- ☐ Active administrative presence/supervision at all home contests. Administrative presence/supervision at appropriate away contests: _____
- ☐ Local media notified and encouraged to participate in sportsmanship activities: _____
- ☐ Visiting teams greeted and treated as guests by the host school: _____
- ☐ Expectations of public address announcers and official scorers described: _____
Date: _____
- ☐ Announcers & scorers consistently display neutrality during contests: _____
- ☐ Announcers & scorers treat visiting and home teams comparably: _____
- ☐ Announcers & scorers offer no personal comments or criticisms of players, officials or coaches:

- ☐ Announcers & scorers follow officials instructions faithfully: _____

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

THE EXEMPLARY SPORTSMANSHIP REPORT FORM

The Exemplary Sportsmanship Report Form should be made available through the school office to administrators, coaches, faculty and spectators so that these individuals may report acts of outstanding sportsmanship to the MHSAA and to the media. A copy of this form can be found on the FORMS page of the MHSAA Web Site. Submissions will be used by the MHSAA in various publications to point out good sportsmanship in action.



EXEMPLARY SPORTSMANSHIP REPORT

Complete and mail this form to John R. Johnson, Communications Director, MHSAA 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, MI, 48823, when you witness an act of exemplary sportsmanship. Copies of the completed form should also be mailed to members of your local media.

Sport: _____ Level: _____
(Varsity, J.V., etc./Boys or Girls)

Home Team: _____

Visiting Team: _____

Use this space to give an account of the exemplary act(s) of sportsmanship which you observed.
Please provide as many details as possible. Attach additional sheets of paper if necessary

Your Name: _____

In What Capacity Did You Attend The Event? _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Signature/Date: _____

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN

CROWD CONTROL GUIDELINES

Crowd control is often thought of in a negative way. However, good crowd control is preventative in nature and nurture a positive atmosphere for an educational athletic event. Here's a couple of examples:

CROWD CONTROL PLANNING

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

- 1) Establish written behavioral standards and expectations for coaches, players, students, song and cheerleaders, spectators, and management personnel. Communicate them in a variety of ways, expect them to be followed, and 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 foods, beverages, radios 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, arm bands, or badges, and expect them to be active and visible to discourage problems quickly identified.
- 4) Expect/encourage management personnel, supervisors, and security 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 undesirable way, or violating rules of good citizenship, sportsmanship do something about it. Actions speak louder than words. Inaction allows the establishment of undesirable 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.
- 10) Establish precise job descriptions, expectations, and authority of all working personnel and inform them of all rules, regulations, and emergency procedures.

(Seattle Public Schools)

CROWD CONTROL CHECKLIST

(Courtesy of Florida High School Activities Association)

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

Good crowd control consists of sound preventative planning and organization long before problems arise. 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 consideration 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 a particular sport.
- Appoint a "greeting committee" to meet the opponents and serve as their host/hostess throughout 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, confetti, etc., from the facility.
- Avoid overcrowding 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 the entire contest.
- Pay special attention to people who do not come to a contest to watch it.
- Discourage attendance of elementary students unless accompanied by an adult.
- Keep playing area 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 aisleways.
- Before leaving the facility, check with the police to determine whether any unforeseen incidents transpired.
- Establish good communications with all connected to the event.

WHEN TO SALUTE THE FLAG

NOTE: Students, players and fans should be reminded that when the National Anthem is played, they should stand at attention, face the flag and place their right hand over their hearts.	INDOORS		OUTDOORS	
	Civilian Attire	In Uniform	Civilian Attire	In Uniform
WHEN THE NATIONAL ANTHEM IS PLAYED	Stand at Attention (3)	Stand at Attention if under Arms Salute	Salute (1) (2) (3) (4)	Salute (1) (2) (4)
WHEN THE FLAG PASSES BY ON A PARADE OR REVIEW	Stand at Attention (3)	Stand at Attention if under Arms Salute	Salute (3) (5)	Salute (5)
WHEN THE FLAG IS HOISTED OR LOWERED OR COLORS ARE POSTED	Stand at Attention (3 & 4)	Stand at Attention Salute	(3) (4)	Salute (4)
WHEN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE IS RECITED	Salute (3)	Stand at Attention Salute	(3)	Salute

1. Flag, if visible, is faced and saluted; if not visible, face music and salute; if music is recorded, face front and salute.
2. Salute is rendered at first note of music and held until last note.
3. When in civilian attire: **MEN** - remove headdress, hold at left shoulder with right hand over heart; without hats, place right hand, palm open, over heart. **WOMEN** - place right hand, palm open over heart.
4. When in athletic clothing, face flag or music, remove headdress, and stand at attention.
5. Salute is rendered when flag is six paces from view and held until it has passed six paces beyond.

SPECIAL NOTES: Photographers and others taking pictures render the appropriate honors outlined above, except when they are specifically directed to photograph others rendering honors. Flags and national anthems of friendly foreign countries are shown the same marks of respect.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! AWARD

Judging Criteria

MHSAA tournament hosts and MEEMIC Insurance Company will select schools in each team tournament for recognition in the Good Sports Are Winners! Program.

- Fall – Girls Volleyball, Football, Boys Soccer
- Winter – Girls Competitive Cheer, Team Dual Wrestling, Ice Hockey, Boys & Girls Basketball
- Spring – Baseball, Girls Soccer, Softball, Boys & Girls Lacrosse

All schools are eligible for recognition, but only ONE winner is selected per tournament site. Judging is done by game officials, scoring personnel, MHSAA tournament management, security personnel, parking personnel, hotel personnel, and tournament managers.

Judges evaluate and rate the cheerleaders, spectator sections (students and adults), coaches, and players of each school during the total tournament. Judging criteria includes evaluations in the following categories:

#1 - Be Courteous To All

Desirable Behavior: Opposing coaches and players shaking hands after game; players shaking hand of opponent after fouling out; all showing concern for injured player; respectfully addressing officials during competition and thanking them for their performance, regardless of agreement with all 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, gestures, including "hey-hey-hey goodbye," "air ball," "you, you, you," "scoreboard," "warm up the bus," and others.

#2 - Know The Rules, Abide By And Respect The Official's Decisions

Desirable Behavior: Utilize every opportunity to promote understanding of the rules of the contest within the school and community; players utilize the team captain or coach for clarification of the 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 the officials.

#3 - Win With Character And Lose With Dignity

Desirable Behavior: Handshakes between opposing players and coaches at end of contests, 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: Yells that antagonize your opponents when you feel you have won the game; refusing to shake hands or give recognition to winner or good performance; blame loss on officials, coaching, individual player's performance or other rationalizations; or self-centered victory celebrations on the playing surface.

#4 - Display Appreciation For Good Performance Regardless Of The Team

Desirable Behavior: Coach/players search 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 fingers, name calling, etc., of opponents in an attempt to distract; to degrade an excellent performance by opponents.

#5 - Exercise Self-Control And Reflect Positively Upon Yourself, Team And School

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

Unacceptable Behavior: Displays of anger, boasting, use of profanity, bouncing beach balls, antics or full body-painting which draw attention to individuals in the stands instead of the contest; doing own yells instead of following lead of the cheerleaders; doing unsportsmanlike yells/gestures, such as "YOU, YOU, YOU!" while pointing finger at fouling opponent.

#6 - Permit Only Positive Sportsmanlike Behavior To Reflect On Your School Or Its Activities

Desirable Behavior: Positively encourage those around you to display only sportsmanlike conduct; report poor sportsmanship to school officials; member schools insist that sportsmanship be a priority; administrators help coaches to teach, model, and reinforce sportsmanship; recognize coaches for sportsmanlike conduct; coaches will play those who exhibit positive sportsmanship; administrators will take appropriate action to ensure sportsmanlike behavior.

Unacceptable Behavior: Fans, players, coaches, administrators or member schools unwillingness to get involved and take a stand to defend one of the main tenets of school activities--teaching and promotion of sportsmanship.

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS!

RECOGNITION EVALUATION FORM

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

The Coaches

Should be considered for:	Yes	No
Overall Sportsmanship Award	_____	_____
No award at this level, but still eligible at the Regionals/Finals. .	_____	_____
Disqualification at this level and at the Regionals/Finals	_____	_____

The Players

Should be considered for:	Yes	No
Overall Sportsmanship Award	_____	_____
No award at this level, but still eligible at the Regionals/Finals. .	_____	_____
Disqualification at this level and at the Regionals/Finals	_____	_____

The Cheerleaders (if applicable)

Should be considered for:	Yes	No
Overall Sportsmanship Award	_____	_____
No award at this level, but still eligible at the Regionals/Finals. .	_____	_____
Disqualification at this level and at the Regionals/Finals	_____	_____

The Spectators (Students and Adults)

Should be considered for:	Yes	No
Overall Sportsmanship Award	_____	_____
No award at this level, but still eligible at the Regionals/Finals. .	_____	_____
Disqualification at this level and at the Regionals/Finals	_____	_____

The School Administration's Handling of Sportsmanship Issues

Should be considered for:	Yes	No
Overall Sportsmanship Award	_____	_____
No award at this level, but still eligible at the Regionals/Finals. .	_____	_____
Disqualification at this level and at the Regionals/Finals	_____	_____

OVERALL RATING (Check one)

This school should be considered for:	
Overall Sportsmanship Award	_____
No award at this level, but still eligible at the Regionals/Finals. .	_____
Disqualification at this level and at the Regionals/Finals	_____

COMMENTS: _____

SPORT: _____

SCHOOL: _____ DATE: _____

DISTRICT: _____ REGIONAL: _____ SITE NUMBER: _____ CLASS/DIVISION: _____

EVALUATION BY/TITLE: _____

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! AWARD

Site Report Form



Mali, fax or e-mail this information to the MHSAA at the conclusion of your tournament.

SECTION ONE – Host/Site Information

SPORT: _____

CLASS or DIVISION (circle one): A B C D 1 2 3 4

SITE NUMBER: _____

TOURNAMENT LEVEL (circle one): District Regional Quarterfinal Semifinal

HOST SCHOOL: _____

TOURNAMENT MANAGER: _____

SECTION TWO – Winning School

After judging the teams involved at our site, we have determined the school that displayed the most outstanding level of sportsmanship and should receive the **Good Sports Are Winners!** award. Only ONE school per site is eligible to receive the award.

Name of winning school

Please disqualify the following school(s) for violating GSAW judging criteria. This school(s) is not eligible to receive the award at the Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinal or Final level once disqualified at your site.

Name of disqualified school(s), and reason for disqualification

MANAGER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

At the conclusion of your tournament, please return this information via mail, fax OR e-mail to:

MHSAA, 1661 Ramblewood Dr, East Lansing, MI, 48823

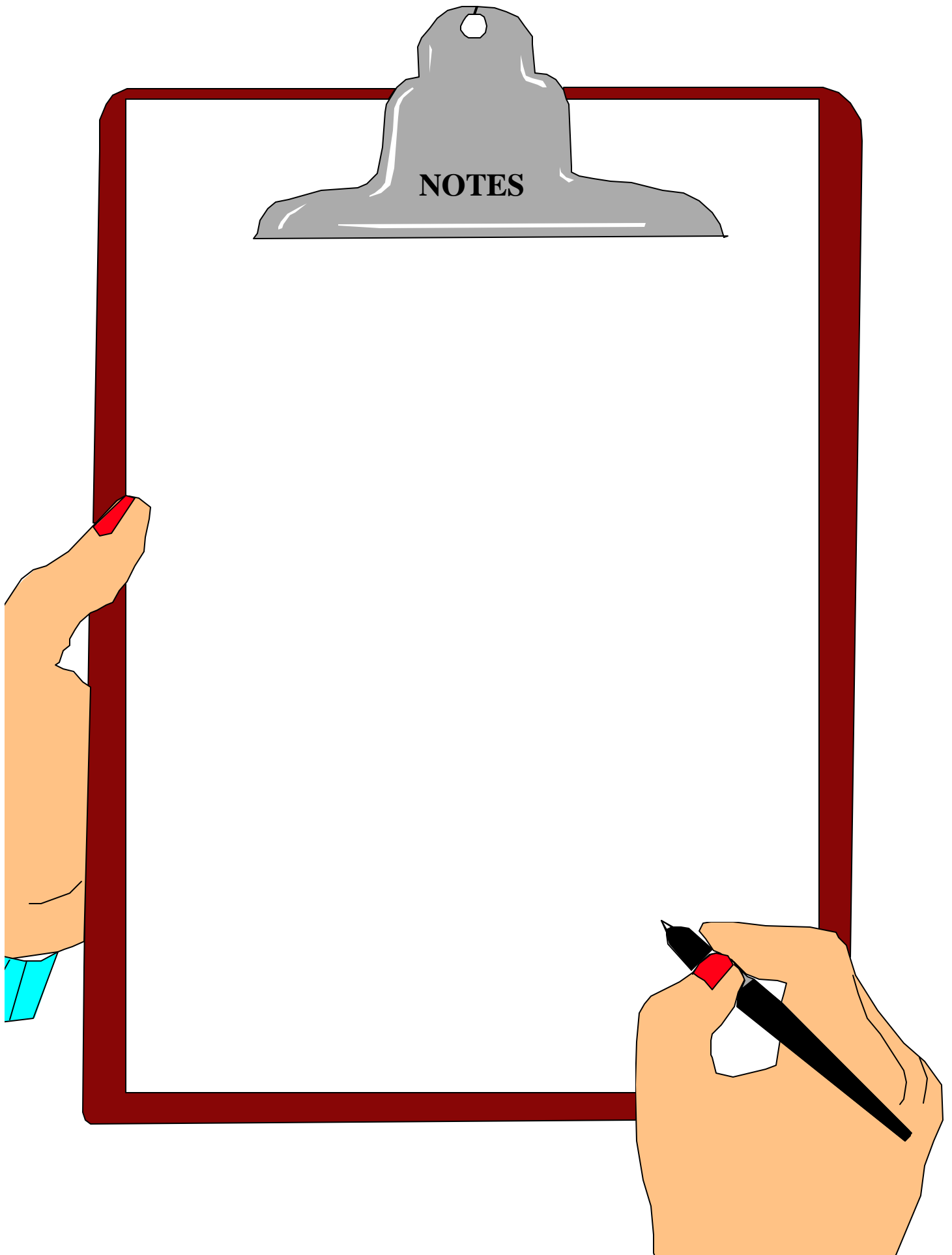
FAX: 517-332-4071

E-Mail: afrushour@mhsaa.com

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! CAMPAIGN SPECIAL THANKS

The **Good Sports Are Winners!** kit is a combined effort of many parties, with information being contributed by the following:

- John Fudukian, Novi High School
- Thomas A. Gauerke, Grosse Pointe North High School
- Lenawee County Athletic Association
- Tri-County Conference
- Western Lakes Activities Association
- Wolverine Conference
- National Federation of State High School Associations
- Illinois High School Association
- Kansas State High School Activities Association
- New Mexico Activities Association
- North Dakota High School Athletic Association
- The Commission for Fair Play, Ottawa, Ontario
- David Fiscella, Detroit Country Day School
- Kathy Hutfilz, St. Louis High School
- Linda Van Tol, Essexville-Garber High School
- Kenneth Groh, Powers-North Central High School
- Nebraska School Activities Association
- Oregon School Activities Association
- Wilbur T. Braithwaite, Manti, Utah
- Minnesota State High School League
- Wyoming High School Activities Association
- Wayne Haver, Southside High School, Fort Smith, Ark.
- Youth Sports Institute, Michigan State University
- Florida High School Activities Association
- Maine Principals' Association
- Earl Hartman, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart Academy High School
- Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Connecticut Association of Schools
- Iowa High School Athletic Association
- North Carolina High School Athletic Association
- Indiana High School Athletic Association
- Colorado High School Activities Association
- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
- Dan McShannock, Midland Dow High School
- Keith Froelich, Okemos High School
- Bill Shellenbarger, Gladwin High School
- Institute For International Sport
- Fred Bies, Lakeview (Mich.) Enterprise
- Jamie Gent and Luann Schaibly, Haslett High School
- F. Blair Douglas, Haslett, Mich.
- Frank L. Smoll and Ronald E. Smith, University of Washington
- Dave Price, Rockford High School
- Stillman Valley High School, Illinois
- National Alliance For Youth Sports
- USA Water Polo
- The Institute for Youth Development, Washington, DC
- Jr. NBA
- Saint Barnbas Health Care System
- Wake County Public School System, Raleigh, NC
- Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service





MHSAA

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MEEMIC Insurance Company

1685 N Opdyke Rd
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Phone: 888-4-MEEMIC (463-3642)
www.meemic.com