

# TODAY'S YOUTH TOMORROW'S LEADERS

## **Sportsmanship Program Manual**

The Illinois Elementary School Association's vision for sportsmanship is built on expectations that the entire school community will teach and promote the values of good sportsmanship. Students, coaches, administrators, board members, and spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship and respect for others.

Not only is good sportsmanship necessary for a successful inter-scholastic activity, it is a character quality that contributes to successful life endeavors. IESA member schools have a mission to provide a respectful and caring environment for today's youth that fosters the development of tomorrow's leaders. The IESA strives to provide leadership and resources that complement the mission of our member schools.

This manual was developed to assist member schools in establishing a sportsmanship program in their school. It includes easy to grasp concepts such as codes of conduct and behavioral expectations that schools can use in their efforts to emphasize sportsmanship in their school. Tips for promoting sportsmanship in your school's community are also included in public address announcements to be read at games and public service announcements to share with local radio stations.

We all have the opportunity to promote the ideals of sportsmanship so that Today's Youth and Tomorrow's Leaders raise the expectations of our communities and our world.

The IESA is committed to aiding our member schools in developing the strong leaders of tomorrow.

**The Illinois Elementary School Association** believes that we all have the opportunity and the responsibility to promote the ideals of sportsmanship to the youth of our schools.

# PROGRAM CRITERIA

The Illinois Elementary School Association strongly encourages every member school to participate in the good sportsmanship program. It is important for each school to implement a year long program on sportsmanship.

The information and resources in this manual are here to help your school develop and implement a program. You can use the resources however is easiest for your school.

*This manual was developed to help member schools of the IESA establish and promote a year round sportsmanship program.*

## TIMETABLE

### July/August

- \* **FALL** Pre-Season Meeting to discuss the values of sportsmanship with **FALL** coaches and athletes. \*
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans and parents of fall sports teams to emphasize the rule changes and the good sportsmanship program that the school has developed and promotes. Involve fall student-athletes and coaches to emphasize points.
- Include sportsmanship message on all material distributed from school office.
- Put together event security plan for all home events and discuss with individuals who will be implementing the plan.

### September/October

- Emphasize in school announcements and publications the sportsmanship message as fall tournaments approach.
- Develop story for school newsletter and/or morning announcements.

### October

- **WINTER** Pre-Season Meeting to discuss the values of sportsmanship with **WINTER** coaches and athletes.
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans and parents of winter sports teams to emphasize the rule changes and the good sportsmanship program that the school has developed and promotes. Involve winter student-athletes and coaches to emphasize points.

### November/December

- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for **FALL** sports and activities.
- Emphasize in school announcements and publications the sportsmanship message as winter tournaments approach.

### January/February

- After the Holiday break discuss the values of sportsmanship with **WINTER** coaches and athletes again.
- If you feel it necessary, sponsor an evening assembly for fans and parents of winter sports teams again to emphasize the rule changes and the good sportsmanship program that the school has developed and promotes. Involve winter student-athletes and coaches to emphasize points.

### \* Special Note:

*It is important that the message that you give each pre-season meeting is consistent. The IESA recommends that an administrator give the expectations for behavior to the general group at each meeting. This way a consistent message is being provided to each group involved in interscholastic activities at your school.*

## TIMETABLE

- March**
- Emphasize in school announcements and publications the sportsmanship message as winter tournaments continue
  - **SPRING** Pre-Season Meeting to discuss the values of sportsmanship with **SPRING** coaches and athletes.
  - Sponsor an evening assembly for fans and parents of spring sports teams to emphasize the rule changes and the good sportsmanship program that the school has developed and promotes. Involve spring student-athletes and coaches to emphasize points.
- April**
- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for **WINTER** sports and activities.
  - Emphasize in school announcements and publications the sportsmanship message as winter tournaments approach.
- May**
- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for **SPRING** sports and activities.
  - Conduct follow-up sportsmanship meeting to evaluate your efforts and to set goals for the next year.

## IESA BYLAWS

- Ejections**
- 5.121 *Any player ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IESA or school may assess. Any player ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct a second time in any activity during the school year, shall be ineligible for all remaining interscholastic contests the day of the ejection and the next two interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred, in addition to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess.*
- 5.122 *Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IESA or school may assess. Any coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct a second time in any activity during the school year, shall be ineligible for all remaining interscholastic contests the day of the ejection and the next two interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred, in addition to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess.*
- 5.123 *Any player or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct who fails to sit out the remaining interscholastic contest(s) as required in By-Laws 5.121 and 5.122 shall cause the team (s) to forfeit that contest and possibly receive other penalties as determined by the Board of Directors.*
- 5.124 *If a school has any coach ejected from two contests for unsportsmanlike conduct in a school year, that school's administration shall be required to communicate in writing with the Sportsmanship Review Panel on the steps the school is taking to address the issue. The panel may recommend additional sanctions to the Board of Directors if they deem necessary.*
- 5.1241 *The Sportsmanship Review Panel shall consist of an IESA administrative staff member, a member of the sportsmanship advisory committee as well as no less than one member of the Board of Directors.*
- 5.125 *Any school that receives two ejections in a school year, that school administration shall be required to communicate in writing with the Sportsmanship Review Panel on the steps the school is taking to address the issue. The panel may recommend additional sanctions to the Board of Directors if they deem necessary.*

# SAMPLE CODES OF CONDUCT

## For Coaches

(Name of Junior High) and the IESA 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 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 sportsmanship and character to include: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.
3. The coach will respect participants, officials, opponents, parents and all others 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 Student-Participants

(Name of Junior High) and the IESA 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 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 sportsmanship and character to include: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.
3. Student-participants will respect peers, officials, opponents, parents and all others 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.

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 and Spectators

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

1. Parents/Spectators will promote academics, and the emotional, physical and moral well being of the student participants above the desires and pressures to win.
2. Parents/Spectators will teach, enforce, advocate, model and promote the development of good sportsmanship and character to include: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.
3. Parents/Spectators will respect participants, officials, opponents and all others associated with the event.
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

## ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- ✓ Handshakes after the event between participants and coaches regardless of the outcome of the game.
- ✓ Applause during player introductions.
- ✓ Accept all decisions of officials.

## UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- ✓ Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- ✓ Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- ✓ Criticizing officials.
- ✓ Blaming the loss of a game on officials, coaches or participants.
- ✓ Use of profanity.
- ✓ Taunting or name calling to distract an opponent.

# EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

## Of the Coach

- Set a good example for players and spectators: Please refrain from arguments in front of the players and spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing; no throwing of objects in disgust.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials. Avoid public criticism of game officials.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting with the media.
- Teach sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship.
- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Respect the integrity and personalities of the individual athletes.

## Of the Student-Athlete

- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials. Avoid public criticism of game officials. Accept the decision of contest officials.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Teach sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship.
- Learn and follow the rules of the game. Share this knowledge with parents and fans to help them have a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Respect your opponent. Treat them the way you would wish to be treated, as a guest or friend; who better can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of the participants.

## Of the Spectators

- Avoid criticism of game officials and sideline coaching which detracts from the performance of the student.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest and not a license to verbally assault others.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand the game and appreciate the effort of the participants.
- Remember that the school athletic experience is a learning experience for students and mistakes are sometimes made.
- Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team.

***Fans are not at an event to intimidate or ridicule, but to support and enjoy the competition.***

# EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOR

## Of the Officials

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Know the rules of the game thoroughly.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants or coaches when enforcing the rules.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.

## Of the Cheerleaders

- 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.
- Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances by both teams.
- Treat opposing cheerleaders the way you would wish to be treated, as a guest or friend.

## Of the School Administration

- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event. Develop a crowd control plan for both home and away games.
- Support participants, coaches and fans who teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
- Develop a program for teaching and promoting good sportsmanship.

# ASEP COACHING EDUCATION

The Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) has partnered with ASEP to offer IESA member schools and their coaches ASEP's Level-One Coaching Education Program.

Approved and recommended by the IESA, ASEP's Level-One Coaching Education Program is designed specifically for coaches of youth grades one through eight and provides coaches a solid foundation in coaching principles, sport first aid, and sport-specific techniques and tactics. Delivered conveniently online, ASEP's *Coaching Youth Sport* courses are available for baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball, and wrestling.

To access the courses visit the IESA website at [www.iesa.org](http://www.iesa.org), click on Today's Youth Tomorrow's Leaders, and then click on ASEP Coaching Education. This will direct you to the ASEP website and IESA sponsored courses.

# PROMOTIONAL STRATEGIES

- ◇ Develop a good recognition program to reward coaches, players and fans for showing good sportsmanship.
- ◇ Create a 'warning ticket' to hand to those fans who exhibit poor sportsmanship.
- ◇ Send public service announcements (PSA's) and news releases to local radio stations and newspapers.
- ◇ Develop an in-school public address announcement for morning PA's.
- ◇ Have your public address announcer read PA's throughout the game promoting sportsmanship.
- ◇ Develop in-school programs, pep rallies, assemblies etc. emphasizing sportsmanship.
- ◇ Include examples of good sportsmanship in district and school newsletters.

# SAMPLE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRIOR LINEUPS

GOOD EVENING, (name of school) WELCOMES YOU TO (name of gym/stadium/field) FOR TONIGHT'S GAME. WE REMIND YOU THAT INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES ARE AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM, AND THAT LESSONS ARE BEST LEARNED WHEN THE PROPER RESPECT IS SHOWN TO ALL. PLEASE, LET YOUR GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP SHOW DURING THE GAME. AND NOW LET'S MEET THE STARTING LINE-UPS....

.....

GOOD EVENING, (name of school) WELCOMES YOU TO (name of gym/stadium/field) FOR TONIGHT'S GAME. ONE OF THE GOALS OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS IS LEARNING LIFETIME VALUES. SPORTSMANSHIP IS ONE SUCH VALUE THAT MAKES THESE GAMES AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. REMEMBER TO SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE. AND NOW LET'S MEET THE STARTING LINE-UPS....

.....

## AFTER LINEUPS

THE OFFICIALS FOR TONIGHT'S GAME ARE (name of official) AND (name of official). THEIR EXPERIENCE AND INTEGRITY QUALIFY THEM TO ADMINISTER THE RULES OF THE GAME. AN ATTITUDE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP SHOULD BE UPHOLD BY ALL SPECTATORS, PLAYERS, COACHES, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR PERSONAL FEELINGS OR LOYALTIES MAY BE IN THIS CONTEST.

.....

THIS GAME IS BEING PLAYED UNDER THE RULES OF THE ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION. THESE RULES PROVIDE FOR FAIR COMPETITION AMONG PLAYERS. SPECTATORS CAN HELP PROMOTE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP BY OBSERVING THE RULES OF FAIR PLAY. EVERYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THIS GAME AT A HIGH LEVEL OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.

# **SAMPLE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.**

## **FOR USE DURING A BREAK IN ACTION**

ADMISSION TO AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY IS A PRIVILEGE AND WITH THAT PRIVILEGE COMES RESPONSIBILITY. RESPONSIBILITY TO CONDUCT ONESELF IN A MANNER WHERE THE GAME IS ENJOYABLE FOR OTHER FANS AND PARTICIPANTS. (name of school) REMINDS YOU THAT ADD A TUDE IS FOR EVERYONE ON THE COURT (field) AND IN THE STANDS.

.....

GOOD PEOPLE MAKE GOOD SPORTS. SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE TODAY. INTERSCHO-  
LASTIC ACTIVITIES ARE AN EXTENSION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, AND THE ATH-  
LETIC AREA IS THE COACH'S CLASSROOM. BE SMART, SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE AND  
GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP. REMEMBER, ADD A TUDE IS FOR EVERYONE.

# **SAMPLE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSA)**

## **TO SEND TO RADIO STATIONS**

WHEN (name of school) SPONSORS AN ATHLETIC EVENT, IT CONSIDERS THAT EVENT TO BE AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM, WITH LESSONS TO BE LEARNED AS IMPROTANT AS THOSE COMING OUT OF A TEXTBOOK. AMONG THOSE LESSONS IS GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, A COURSE WHICH WILL SERVE EVERYONE WELL IN THE GAME OF LIFE. REMEMBER, SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE. A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school ) AND (stations call letters).

.....

IN OUR SOCIETY, WINNING HAS COME BEFORE EVERYTHING. BUT IF WINNING COMES AT THE EXPENSE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, THEN NOTHING IS GAINED IN THE LONG RUN. GOOD SPROTSMANSHIP IS THE RESULT OF A DISCIPLINED EFFORT TO RESPECT YOURSELF, YOUR OPPONENTS, AND TO PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE. REMEMBER SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE. A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school ) AND (stations call letters).

.....

THE SCORE OF ANY ATHLETIC EVENT IS GENERLALY FORGOTTEN OVER TIME, BUT THE ACTIONS OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS ARE REMEMBERED. SO, THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL EVENT, PLEASE REMEMBER, SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE. A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school ) AND (stations call letters).

.....

ROLE MODELS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER IN TODAY'S SOCIETY. YOU CAN SERVE AS A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHERS THE NEXT TIME YOU DISPLAY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT AN INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENT. IT'S THE KIND OF POSITIVE VALUES POR-TRAYED BY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP THAT EVERYONE APPRECIATES. SPORT A WINNING ATTITUDE. A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM (name of school ) AND (stations call letters).

# CROWD CONTROL

## PLANNING

1. Establish written expectations for coaches, players, students, cheerleaders, spectators, and management personnel. Communicate them in a variety of different ways, expect them to be followed and do something when they are not.
2. Establish and communicate policies and emergency procedures regarding:
  - a) fire
  - b) drinking of alcoholic beverages
  - c) possession, use, or sale of drugs
  - d) medical emergencies
  - e) lost and found articles
  - f) bomb threats
  - g) alternatives in case of equipment failure
  - h) transportation problems
3. Anticipate Problems (known rivalries) Contact local law enforcement prior to these contests for assistance during the game or post game escorts. Note: Rural areas should contact county law enforcement to see if they have auxiliary officers that could attend their games.
4. If possible designate parking for officials away from general fan parking.

*Although there are no magical secrets to crowd control the important crowd control suggestions listed to the right need to be emphasized by administrators and event personnel.*

## GENERAL ITEMS

1. Identify supervisors to the crowd. Expect them to be active and visible to discourage problems quickly.
2. Be consistent in applying sportsmanship policies and rules equitably at all times.
3. Avoid seating bands and spectators near the visiting team bench.
4. Actions speak louder than words. When someone is behaving in an undesirable way, do something about it. Be proactive.
5. Establish precise job description, expectations and authority of all working personnel. Inform them of all the rules, regulations and emergency procedures.
6. Supervise restrooms.
7. Develop a contingency plan to respond to critical contest situations. Be flexible.
8. Escort visiting team and officials post game. If they are ready to leave at the same time simply ask the officials if they would mind waiting until you have the visiting team safely on their bus.

## UNRULY SPECTATORS

1. Timing is critical. Get to the problems quickly.
2. Sit next to the offender and explain their options: a) Stop the behavior and explain sportsmanship expectations and consequences. b) Being escorted out.
3. At the stage where the patron is not listening ask to see them in the hallway for a few minutes. Try and take them out of the public eye and discuss their options again.
4. If that is unsuccessful, say: "I am 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."
5. Don't hesitate to call local law enforcement to assist in an ejection.
6. Communicate with the school administration of the difficult person by phone.
7. Follow-up with difficult people in writing with the difficult individual and send a copy to the individual's school administration.
8. Use a non-threatening manner.
9. Discuss other ways they might handle their disappointment or frustration in writing post event. Include this information in the follow-up letter.
10. Document all dealings with the spectator and involve your superior.