



SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL



DEVELOPING A SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM

The IESA and IHSA’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 interscholastic activity, it is a character quality that contributes to successful life endeavors. Member schools of both organizations have a mission to provide a respectful and caring environment for today’s youth that fosters the development of tomorrow’s leaders.

This manual was developed to assist member schools of the IESA and IHSA 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 and citizenship in our communities and schools. Do What’s Right!

What is Sportsmanship?

Sportsmanship is playing fair, taking a loss or defeat without complaint, not gloating when winning, and generally treating opponents and officials with courtesy, generosity and fairness. These ideals represent the role of interscholastic activities included in your school. When these concepts are followed, interscholastic activities are shown as a positive and productive part of the total educational system.

Sportsmanship is:

- Citizenship
- Integrity and Ethics
- Respect for Opponents and Officials
- Moral Character
- Fair Play
- Acceptance of Results
- Appreciation for all Performances

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Examples of Good and Poor Sportsmanship

If individuals play within the established rules of the game, competing with out complaint, winning without gloating, and fans cheer positively showing no disrespect, taunting, ridicule or intimidation then the interscholastic contest will be a positive atmosphere for all involved.

Good Sportsmanship	Do What's Right! Expectations
Competitors helping teammates and opponents up after a play	Represent your school & community well with positive interaction with opposing fans and players
Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials for both teams	Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
Cheerleaders leading fans in positive cheers	Use positive cheers, yells songs and gestures
Applause at the end of contest for both teams	Respect and acknowledge the integrity and judgment of the officials
Encouraging all fans to display only sportsmanlike conduct.	Exhibit positive behavior with opponents and fans before, during and after the contest
Treat competition as a game not a war	
Poor Sportsmanship	What this Behavior Means
Booing or heckling official's call or a players actions and negative cheers	This is disrespectful of the official's judgment and/or the players competing. Both are doing their best in the way they were trained. Everyone makes mistakes. Fans are not at an event to intimidate or ridicule - they are there to enjoy the competition.
Competitors not shaking hands after a contest, criticizing a teammate or coach, trash talking during or before a contest	These actions do not show winning or losing with dignity and does not show respect for your opponent, teammate or coach.
Damaging bleachers or facilities at the host school	This is disrespectful and criminal behavior.
Profanity at any time during a contest	This is disrespectful to all in attendance. Profanity has no place in any interscholastic activity.
Blaming the loss of a game on officials, coaches, or participants	This is disrespectful to all involved in the game. Everyone did the best they could that given day.

THE IESA AND IHSA BELIEVE THAT EVERY MEMBER SCHOOL MUST ACTIVELY TEACH, PROMOTE, AND MODEL SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EACH SCHOOL TO IMPLEMENT A YEAR- LONG PROGRAM ON SPORTSMANSHIP.

Why Implement a Sportsmanship Program

Sportsmanship is the most important concept or value of interscholastic sports.

It promotes fair play, respect, and the importance of following the rules.

It can help your athletes, coaches, students, and parents learn self control, respect, and treating others the way they wish to be treated.

It conveys the expectations that a school and district have for its students, coaches, parents, and fans. It promotes and teaches ethical behavior.

A program can help elevate the public perception of your school within its community.

A good program can offer positive reinforcement for extra-curricular activities.

Effective Parent Meeting

1. Make them mandatory.
2. Provide advance communication that is timely and upbeat.
3. Explain to parents that they are leaders and need to lead in the stands.
4. Distribute and explain expectations and consequences.
5. Have students explain what proper conduct is.
6. Review the privileges and disciplines of athletics.
7. Have all students and parents sign a code of conduct.

I CAN ACCEPT

FAILURE.

EVERYONE FAILS

AT SOMETHING.

I CAN'T ACCEPT

NOT TRYING.

- MICHAEL
JORDAN

Implementation Timetable

JULY/AUGUST

- Coordinate a fall athletics/activities pre-season meeting to discuss the values of sportsmanship with all fall coaches and athletes
- 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 the school office
- Put together an event security plan for all home events and discuss with individuals who will be implementing the plan

SEPTEMBER

- Emphasize the sportsmanship message in school announcements and publications
- Develop a story for the school newsletter and/or morning announcements
- Share positive sportsmanship examples with student body and local media

Implementation Timetable

OCTOBER

- Coordinate a winter pre-season meeting to discuss the values of sportsmanship with all 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 the sportsmanship message in school announcements and publications

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Discuss the values of sportsmanship with winter coaches and athletes after winter break
- 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

MARCH

- Emphasize the sportsmanship message in school announcements and publications
- Coordinate a 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 the sportsmanship message in school announcements and publications

MAY

- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for spring sports and activities
- Conduct a follow-up sportsmanship meeting with coaches to evaluate your efforts and to set goals for the next year

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.

Expectations of Behavior

The next several sections are the expectations that a school or district has for all involved in extra-curricular activities. Each district should have the support of the local school board and should expect the following from their board, administration, students and communities.

School Board Members

- Adopt the policies, upon recommendation of the administration, which reflect the community's educational objectives and that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity
- Remain a policy-making board 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
- Attend local school activities, serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants and coaches
- Support and reward participants, coaches, school administration and fans who display good sportsmanship
- Recognize the value of school activities as a vital part of the educational process

School Administrators

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting the fundamentals of sportsmanship within the school
- 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
- 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

Coaches

- Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership; adhere to strong ethical standards and practice being a good citizen
- Set a good example for players and spectators - refrain from arguments in front of the players and spectators, don't make gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing, do not throw objects in disgust, shake hands with opposing coaches and officials before and after each contest and demand the same of your players
- 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 media
- Teach sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship
- Define respectful and disrespectful behavior for your team
- Stress that disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated
- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit
- Respect the integrity and personalities of the individual athletes
- Do not use profanity, obscene language, or improper actions

Student-Athletes

- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school and coaches
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a contest
- Learn and follow the rules of the game and share this knowledge with parents and fans to help them have a better understanding and appreciation of the game
- Respect your opponents and treat them the way you would wish to be treated, as a guest or friend
- Understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of the participants
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials and avoid public criticism of game officials; accept the decision of contest officials
- Remember there is a difference between gamesmanship and sportsmanship; try not to push the limits of the rules to gain an advantage in competition; refrain from taunting, trash talking or making derogatory remarks to your opponents
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat

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
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials - treating them with respect will make a positive impression of your team and community in the eyes of the officials and event management
- Wish opposing cheerleaders good luck before the game and work with them to share time-outs for group cheers; support the opposing crowd by applauding when they perform during a time-out

Of Spectators

- Observe the contest and do not verbally assault others
- Remember that you are at the contest to support your team and enjoy the competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team, fans, or officials
- Remember that interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom and a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made; praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand the game and appreciate the effort of the participants
- Avoid criticism of game officials and sideline coaching which detracts from the performance of the student athletes; understand that the officials are doing their best
- Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups

Of Parents

- Understand the purpose of educational athletics and that school sports are about kids learning and having fun; they are not about attempting to earn a college athletic scholarship
- Don't live your life through your child's activities - this is the student's time
- Accept all decisions of officials
- Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches, and officials
- Make your cheers supportive and not instructions as to how to play
- Be a positive role model through your own actions by remaining calm and composed during games - there is enough pressure on kids to perform as it is and your added pressure from reacting to mistakes they make, being critical and negative, and your high emotions create unneeded stress and take away from the fun of the game

Of 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
- When watching a game as a spectator, give the official the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest

I NEVER THOUGHT
ABOUT LOSING,
BUT NOW THAT IT'S
HAPPENED, THE
ONLY THING IS TO
DO IT RIGHT.

- MUHAMMAD ALI

Tips for Teaching and Promoting Sportsmanship

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Hold mandatory parent meetings to reinforce the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation | 6. Support officials in their efforts | 10. Create a “warning ticket” to hand to those fans who exhibit poor sportsmanship | 14. Develop in-school programs, pep rallies, assemblies etc. emphasizing sportsmanship |
| 2. Teach athletes to be responsible for their own behavior | 7. Have coaches, students and parents sign a code of conduct before the start of the season and hold each to the expectations of behavior | 11. Send public service announcements and news releases to local radio stations and newspapers | 15. Include examples of good sportsmanship in district and school newsletters |
| 3. Educate your players on the rules and spirit of the game | 8. Address problems early and let everyone know there are consequences for unacceptable behavior | 12. Develop an in-school announcement for morning PAs | 16. Meet with student leaders to set expectations for games |
| 4. Let your athletes know that winning and losing are a part of the game | 9. Develop a recognition program to reward coaches, players and fans for showing good sportsmanship | 13. Have your public address announcer read PAs throughout the game promoting sportsmanship | |
| 5. Give examples of good and bad sportsmanship | | | |

Parents Should...

- Reinforce with their child to be a good sport
- Let kids know that they are interested in all facets of their lives and not just sports
- Support the coach and keep it fun
- Follow through on commitments and working hard
- Have their child play for his/her reasons and not theirs
- Remain calm and composed during games
- Support their child and listen to them when they need to be heard
- Make their love and support unconditional

TEAMWORK IS THE
FUEL THAT ALLOWS
COMMON PEOPLE
TO PRODUCE
UNCOMMON
RESULTS.

Parents Should Not...

- Tell their child the opposing team is no good and they should beat them
- Coach their child from the sidelines
- Criticize their child or give a game analysis
- Treat their child differently depending on the outcome of the game
- Consider their child’s sport as an investment
- Exert extra pressure to win
- Put their interests ahead of the child's interests
- Control all the decision-making relating to sports

- UNKNOWN

Codes of Conduct

The following are sample Codes of Conduct forms that can be copied from the manual to implement in your school.

For the Student-Athlete

(Name of School) believes that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. Student-athletes have a duty to ensure that their team promotes 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 Coaches

(Name of School) believes that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. Coaches have a duty to assure that their team promotes 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

Codes of Conduct

For Parents/Spectators

(Name of School) 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

For Officials

The IESA and the IHSA believe that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. This code of conduct applies to all officials involved in interscholastic 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 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

Crowd Control

PLANNING

“LEADERSHIP AND
LEARNING ARE
INDISPENSABLE
TO EACH OTHER.”

- JOHN
FITZGERALD
KENNEDY (JFK)

1. Establish written expectations for coaches, players, students, cheerleaders, spectators, and management personnel. Communicate expectations in a variety of different ways, expect them to be followed and act when expectations are not followed.
2. Establish and communicate policies and emergency procedures regarding:
 - Fire
 - Drinking of alcoholic beverages
 - Possession, use, and/or sale of drugs
 - Medical emergencies
 - Lost and found items
 - Bomb threats
 - Alternatives in the event of equipment failure
 - Transportation problems
3. Anticipate Problems (known rivalries, etc.) and 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.

GENERAL ITEMS

BUT RULES

CANNOT

SUBSTITUTE

FOR CHARACTER.

- ALAN
GREENSPAN

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

Crowd Control

UNRULY SPECTATORS

1. Timing is critical—get to the problems quickly.
2. Sit next to the offender and explain their options—stop the behavior or be escorted out.
3. At the stage where the patron is not listening, ask to see him/her 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 in writing with the difficult individual and send a copy to the individual’s school administration.
8. Use a non-threatening tone of voice and demeanor.
9. Discuss in writing via a follow-up letter after the event other ways he/she might handle disappointment or frustration.
10. Document all dealings with the spectator and involve your superior.

Home Game Management

The Role of the Home Team Administrator: The administration of the home team shall designate a game manager on site prior to the start of each contest. Additionally, each school should have an emergency action plan in place to deal with any unusual circumstances.

Game Manager Duties:

- Be knowledgeable of the emergency action plan put in place by the school.
- Meet with the officials during the pre-game period, making officials aware of the game manager’s primary location for the entire contest.
- Provide proper security at each event.
- Assume responsibility for all aspects of crowd control such as ensuring that only authorized personnel are allowed in the team bench area.
- Make sure all fans remain in the stands.
- Escort unruly or disruptive fans from the facility when necessary.
- Provide a safe and secure area for officials to change before and after each contest.
- Ensure that officials are safely escorted from the playing field/court after each contest.
- Meet with student leader prior to games to set expectations and help with student sections.

ALTHOUGH THERE
ARE NO MAGICAL
SECRETS TO
CROWD CONTROL,
THE IMPORTANT
SUGGESTIONS
LISTED ON THESE
PAGES NEED TO BE
EMPHASIZED BY
ADMINISTRATORS
AND EVENT
PERSONNEL.

Hosting Officials

Quality officiating makes any athletic contest run smoothly. It also creates a positive experience for the players, coaches and fans. As the host school, it is your responsibility to make the officials feel welcome and comfortable when they are working a contest at your facility.

Always remember that these individuals are working these contests because of their love for their particular sport and the enjoyment they receive from working with the junior high athlete.

It is the school administration's responsibility to provide the necessary information prior to the official's assigned contest as well as being available during and following the contest.

Fine officiating and good game management often go unnoticed, but together, the officials and administration can make the competitive aspect of the game a positive one. Proactive individuals control ALL situations.

PRIOR TO THE CONTEST	DURING THE CONTEST
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide officials with directions and inform them of any special activities that might be occurring. 2. Give the official a number they can call in case of an emergency or weather delay. 3. Have competent workers assigned at all contests (scorers, timers, announcers) - these people are of great assistance to officials during the contest. 4. Have someone assigned to meet the officials as they arrive. This person should do the following for the officials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide parking • Take them to the dressing room • Have water available • Ask for any additional needs • Introduce game workers • Know name pronunciations • Discuss with the officials any special events, IESA rules, national anthem time, etc. that would affect the game. 5. Provide the name of the adult supervisor for that contest and where they can be found in the event a challenging situation should occur. 6. Direct the game manager to be in the gym for the entire contest. 7. Make sure all bench personnel are properly attired. 8. Check on game scoreboards and lighting systems prior to the game or contest. 9. Make sure the playing area is properly marked and meets NFHS guidelines for that contest. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insist coaches display good sportsmanship and are proper examples for your players and crowd. 2. Have your public address announcer remain unbiased during the contest. 3. Make sure the event supervisor understands the duties and responsibilities pertinent to that contest. 4. Make sure the playing area is maintained during any break of each contest. 5. Make sure proper crowd control is visible and in place. 6. Observe the crowd during the contest and prevent any disturbances that may occur. 7. Work with the official during the game regarding crowd control 8. Retrieve the game ball at the end of the contest. 9. Escort the officials back to the dressing room at halftime and/or at the conclusion of the contest.
	<p style="text-align: center;">AFTER THE CONTEST</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Escort the officials safely back to the dressing room and parking lot. 2. Do not allow unauthorized people in the dressing room after the game. 3. Have water available for the officials. 4. Thank the officials for their time and effort regardless of the outcome of the game. 5. Make sure arrangements for paying the officials have been completed. 6. Ensure that the officials are not confronted by anyone after the contest.

Sample Letters

The following letters can be used to send or hand out to all individuals at your pre-season meetings along with the Codes of Conduct for them to sign. The IESA and the IHSA both hope these letters help start an open communication with your constituents when promoting with sportsmanship.

Letter to Coaches

Dear Coach _____,

The privilege of coaching young people carries with it many responsibilities. As an interscholastic coach, your responsibilities go well beyond the wins and losses. Interscholastic activities are a great way to teach and promote values such as sportsmanship, honesty, dedication, teamwork, self-discipline, and cooperation. Taking a leading role in our school's effort to promote sportsmanship will send a clear and powerful message to your players.

Please take a few moments to review the expectations of behavior we expect our coaches to display as leaders of the student-athletes we serve in our school. 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 rewarding for you!

Letter to Parents/Guardians

Dear Parent/Guardian of _____,

We are asking for your support in providing positive role-modeling for our student-athletes. The involvement of our students in athletics and activities contributes to the development of their values system. Trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness and respect are lifetime values that are taught through interscholastic activities and are principles of good sportsmanship and character. With these principles, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and grateful acceptance of the results.

The following are the expectations of parents/guardians of our student-athletes:

- Understand the purpose of educational athletics.
- School sports are about students learning and having fun.
- School sports are not about attempting to earn a college athletic scholarship.
- Don't live your life through your child's activities. This is their time.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Make your cheers supportive and not instructions as to how to play.
- Be a positive role model through your own actions. Remain calm and composed during games.
- There is enough pressure on kids to perform as it is. Your added pressure from reacting to mistakes they make, being critical and negative, and heightened emotions create unneeded stress and take away from the fun of the game.

We have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches and spectators at all athletic events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the event site. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship!

Sample Letters

The following sample letters can be used when dealing with ejections. These letters are only samples and you can use them, tweak them or change them to work best for your school.

Letter to Coach after Ejection

This letter is being written in response to the ejection that you received in the game this week. This type of representation of our school is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

As per the IESA By-Laws, any coach ejected from a game will be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level and all other levels in the interim. We regret that your actions have deemed this necessary.

As a representative of our school, you have the responsibility to lead by example and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship to our students. Please also review the Code of Conduct that you signed prior to the start of the season:

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.
4. The coach will respect participants, officials, opponents, parents and all others involved.
5. The coach will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
6. The coach will model appropriate behavior at all times.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter and hope that we can continue to support our students in a positive manner in the future.

Letter to Parent after Ejection

It has come to my attention that you were recently ejected from a game. Please take a moment to review the school handbook and the Code of Conduct attached to this letter.

These pages outline the expectations and policies for our parent and fans. Be advised that we expect our fans, coaches and players to follow the guidelines that have been set forth. If you are ejected from another game in any sport this school year, a recommendation will be submitted to the Board of Education that you be excluded from all athletic events for the remainder of the year.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter and hope that we can continue to support our students in a positive manner in the future.

Public Service Announcements

PRIOR TO LINEUPS

Good evening and welcome to (name of school/gymnasium) for tonight's contests between (home team) and (visiting team). We remind you that interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom; lessons are best learned when the proper respect is shown to all. Please let your good sportsmanship show during the contest. Now, let's meet the starting lineups of both teams...

Good evening and welcome to (name of school/gymnasium) for tonight's contests between (home team) and (visiting team). One of the goals of junior high athletics is learning lifetime values. Sportsmanship is one such value that makes these games an educational experience. Remember to sport a winning attitude! Now, let's meet the starting lineups of both teams...

Good afternoon and welcome to (name of school/gymnasium). We would like to extend a special welcome to the parents, fans, players and coaches from (visiting school). Good luck to everyone today! It is our expectation that all fans will conduct themselves, at all times, with a level of sportsmanship and respect that expresses positive support for your team. Adults, please remember that you are our role models. Again, you are here to cheer for our teams, not against anyone. Thank you and enjoy the game!

ONE MAN
PRACTICING GOOD
SPORTSMANSHIP IS
FAR BETTER
THAN 50 OTHERS
PREACHING IT.
- KNUTE ROCKNE

AFTER LINEUPS

The IHSA-licensed officials for tonight's contest are (name of official #1) and (name of official #2). Their experience, IHSA certification, and their integrity qualify them to administer the rules for tonight's contest. An attitude of good sportsmanship should be upheld by all spectators, players and coaches no matter their loyalties, personal feelings or understanding of the rules of play.

This game is being played under the rules of the Illinois Elementary School Association. These rules provide for fair competition amongst players. Spectators can promote good sportsmanship by observing the rules of fair play and choosing to use respectful and positive language toward coaches, players and the officials - everyone has a role in maintaining a high level of sportsmanship during this contest.

FOR USE DURING A BREAK IN ACTION

Admission to an interscholastic activity is a privilege and with that privilege comes the 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 involved in today's contests whether you are cheering for your team or you are in the contest.

Good people make good sports. Sport a winning attitude today. Interscholastic activities are an extension of the educational process and the athletic arena is the coach's classroom. Be smart, sport a winning attitude and good sportsmanship. Don't forget - Add A. Tude is for everyone!

Public Service Announcements

TO SEND TO RADIO STATIONS

PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENTS
ARE A GREAT WAY TO
GET YOUR MESSAGE
OUT TO YOUR
SURROUNDING
COMMUNITY.
CALLING YOUR LOCAL
RADIO STATION IS A
GREAT WAY TO GET
YOUR SCHOOL
CITIZENSHIP MESSAGE
OUT TO YOUR
COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

When (name of school) sponsors an athletic event, it considers that event to be an extension of the classroom. Students will learn lessons in the contests area that are just as important as those they learn in the classroom and from a textbook. Among these lessons is good sportsmanship - this is a course that will serve everyone well in the game of life. Remember to always sport a winning attitude. This is a public service message from (name of school) and (station's call letters).

In our society, winning has come before everything. If winning comes at the expense of good sportsmanship, then nothing is gained in the long run. Good sportsmanship by adults and students is the result of a disciplined effort to respect yourself, your opponents, and to practice the golden rule. Remember to sport a winning attitude today! This is a public service message from (name of school) and (station's call letters).

The score of any contest is generally forgotten over time, but the actions of players, coaches and spectators are remembered. The next time you attend a junior high school event, please remember to sport a winning attitude. This is a public service message from (name of school) and (station's call letters).

Positive role models are more important than ever in today's society. You serve as a role model for others every time you display positive sportsmanship at an interscholastic event. It's the kind of positive values portrayed by good sportsmanship that everyone appreciates. This is a public service message from (name of school) and (station's call letters).

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