

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

## Sportsmanship Athletic Department Handbook



Yes Prep Northline  
441 Little York Road  
Houston, Texas 77076

**John Seman**  
Athletic Director  
M. Ed. | CAA | NFHS LEVEL III

O: 713.842.5400 | C: 570.470.7700 | E: [john.seman@yesprep.org](mailto:john.seman@yesprep.org)

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

## Table of Contents

<i>Sportsmanship Philosophy and Overview</i>	<i>Pg. 3</i>
<i>Spectator Expectations for Gym and Outdoor Athletic Events at Yes Prep Northline</i>	<i>Pg. 4</i>
<i>Sportsmanship and Spectator Acceptable Behavior</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>
<i>a. Fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>
<i>b. Acceptable Behavior</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>
<i>c. Unacceptable Behavior</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>
<i>d. Good Sportsmanship Responsibilities of School Administration</i>	<i>Pg. 7</i>
<i>e. Good Sportsmanship Responsibilities of Teachers &amp; Staff</i>	<i>Pg. 7</i>
<i>f. Good Sportsmanship Responsibilities of the Coach</i>	<i>Pg. 7</i>
<i>g. Sportsmanship - Student-Athlete</i>	<i>Pg. 8</i>
<i>h. Sportsmanship – Student Fans</i>	<i>Pg. 8</i>
<i>i. Good Sportsmanship – Parents &amp; Adults</i>	<i>Pg. 8</i>
<i>j. Goals for Parents of Student-Athletes</i>	<i>Pg. 9</i>
<i>k. Signature Page</i>	<i>Pg. 10</i>

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

## Yes Prep Northline Sportsmanship Philosophy and Overview

Good sportsmanship is expected at all Yes Prep Public Schools athletic events. This includes home and away athletic contests. Good sportsmanship is the responsibility of players, coaches, advisers, faculty, cheerleaders, students, adult spectators, and officials. Respect should be demonstrated to all opponents and officials. All people involved in a school event shall maintain self-control throughout the contest. Good sportsmanship enhances the educational quality and athletic program.

Participation in athletic events is a privilege and requires that participants always show exemplary conduct. Participants are representing their schools and must conduct themselves appropriately on and off the court or field. Student participants who violate this policy are subject to removal from the activity at the discretion of the official, coach, adviser, athletic director, principal, or superintendent.

The principal and athletic director shall develop conduct codes consistent with this policy under HCAL and UIL guidelines. These rules will contain a notice to participants that failure to abide by these rules could result in removal from the contest. These rules should be reviewed periodically by the principal and athletic director.

The principal and athletic director will discuss the sportsmanship manual with the superintendent and school board. The athletic director will make sure that the manual is understood by all coaches/advisers prior to the beginning of their season. The coach will then present the players' responsibilities to their teams, as well as their parents, at a pre-season parent meeting. All participants will understand their roles in good sportsmanship established by the Yes Prep Public Schools, HCAL, and UIL.

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

## Spectator Expectations for Gym and Outdoor Athletic Events @ Yes Prep Northline

1. Students may attend athletic contests at Yes Prep Northline but **must show student ID and pay a \$3.00 admission fee.**
2. All **other spectators** may attend athletic contests held at Yes Prep Northline for a **\$5.00 admission fee.**
3. All admission fees will go back into the athletic department to support uniforms, equipment, and other costs.
4. In some instances, tickets may be pre-sold during the school day for athletic contests.
5. Tickets are also available at TicketSpicket.com by searching for Northline.
6. All spectators are to use the gym entrance located at the back of the school building and the school parking lot. This includes students. **Students will not be allowed to enter the gym via the athletic wing and will be directed to leave the school building and enter again via the main gym entrance from outside.**
7. There is a clear bag policy in effect for athletic events at Yes Prep Northline.
8. No food or drink is allowed inside either gym.
9. **Only players and coaches will be permitted to be on team sidelines and locker rooms.**
10. All spectators are to **refrain from using profanity and harassing players, coaches, and officials.**
11. Home and away spectators should be separated on spectator sidelines.
12. Student-athletes may have sports drinks or water on their sideline/bench area.
13. Spectators may purchase concessions within the gym athletic wing if available during the athletic contest.
14. The cafeteria or library will be used to hold visiting teams before and after indoor athletic contests.
15. In some cases, the fields and gyms at Yes Prep Northline may hold multiple athletic events/contests on any given day. This would include athletic teams from schools other than Yes Prep Northline. **It is the expectation that ALL spectators will report concerns and safety issues with security personnel on site and uphold high standards of sportsmanship with opposing schools, spectators, players, and officials as spectators.**
16. All spectators should allow coaches to debrief with the team after athletic contests before attempting to speak or conversate with a student-athlete. It is important for coaches to review the game and adjustments to be made at the next practice while communicating the schedule of events that will follow in the next couple of days.
17. Spectators attending outdoor events must abide by the spectator policies listed above.
18. There will be (1) entrance for entering and departing outdoor athletic contests at Yes Prep Northline.
19. All spectators may park in the back of the school building.
20. **All spectators including students and adults may be refused entry to an athletic contest due to negative sportsmanship or behaviors at prior athletic contests or within the school setting. All students who wish to attend athletic contests must uphold high standards of conduct throughout the school day to attend.**

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

21. It is the expectation that **ALL spectators will remain in the bleachers during athletic contests held in the gym or at the fields at Yes Prep Northline. Spectators are not to stand and watch on the court or on the field while the athletic contest is being played. Spectators standing on the court sideline or field boundary lines will be asked to sit down to always ensure safety.** Safety issues may arise when an athlete is playing at full speed and spectators are on top of the court or field. This will not be allowed during gym or outdoor athletic contests.
22. **At no point should a spectator stand behind or underneath a basket area** during an athletic contest in any of the gyms.
23. **At no point should a spectator stand behind a batting cage** during an athletic contest at any field location.
24. **Officials, Security, and the Director of Athletics have the right to remove spectators who create an unsafe environment for all parties involved in athletic contests.** If a spectator is deemed to be removed from an athletic contest, it is the expectation that the spectator will leave the school premises without causing a distraction to gameplay. In the event the spectator resists removal, the athletic contest will be stopped, and police will be called.

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

## Sportsmanship / Spectator Acceptable Behavior

“Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of High School Sports 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. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.”

### Fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship:

1. Always show respect for yourself and others.
2. Show respect for the officials. Good sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
3. Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
4. **Always maintain self-control. Prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior.**
5. Recognize and appreciate the skill in performance, regardless of team affiliation.

### Acceptable Behavior:

1. Applause during the introduction of players, coaches, and contest officials.
2. Players shaking hands with opponents who foul out while both sets of fans recognize the player's performance with applause.
3. **Accept all decisions of contest officials.**
4. Cheerleaders lead fans in a positive manner.
5. Handshakes between participants and coaches **at the end or beginning of the contest, regardless of the outcome.**
6. Treat competition as a game, not a war.
7. Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for their outstanding performance or coaching.
8. Applause at the end of the contest for the performances of all participants.
9. **Show concern for an injured player, regardless of team.**
10. Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

### Unacceptable Behavior:

1. **Yelling or waving arms or objects during the opponent's free throw attempt.**
2. **Disrespectful or derogatory cheers, chants, songs, or gestures.**
3. **Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.**
4. Cheers that antagonize opponents.
5. **Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.**
6. Blaming the loss of a contest on officials, coaches, or participants.

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

7. Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
8. **Use of profanity** or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
9. **Doing own cheers instead of the lead of the cheerleaders.**
10. Wearing extreme or unusual clothing or excessive face or body painting, which detracts from the action on the playing surface.
11. Throwing objects onto the playing surface.

## **Good Sportsmanship Responsibilities of School Administrators:**

1. Provide appropriate supervision at all athletic events.
2. Support participants, coaches, and fans that display good sportsmanship.
3. Discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
4. Set a good example for modeling good sportsmanship.
5. Apply sportsmanship policies/rules equitably at all times.

## **Good Sportsmanship Responsibilities of Teachers & Staff:**

1. Attend athletic events when possible.
2. Support student involvement in athletics.
3. Notify appropriate school personnel of any negative behaviors or safety concerns.
4. Set a good example by modeling good sportsmanship at all times.
5. Use positive cheers and uphold high standards of conduct.

## **Good Sportsmanship Responsibilities of the Coach:**

The actions of the coach have a great deal to do with how sportsmanship is valued by members of the team. In order for good sportsmanship to become a reality, the coach should:

1. **Respect the judgment of contest officials.** The officials of any contest are impartial arbiters 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 contest. We should not rationalize our own poor or unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on an official. You should accept and abide by the decisions made.
2. Always set a good example for members of the team and fans to follow.
3. Instruct members of the team in proper sportsmanship.
4. **Display no behavior that could incite fans.**
5. Treat opposing coaches, participants, and fans with respect.
6. Shake hands with officials and opposing coaches in public.
7. Develop consequences for those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

## Sportsmanship – Student Athlete:

The responsibility of the players for sportsmanship is second in importance only to the coach. Because players are admired and respected, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of the spectators. The student-athlete should:

1. Treat opponents with the respect that is due as guests and fellow human beings.
2. **Shake hands with opponents and wish them good luck before the contest and/or after.**
3. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them.
4. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials. Never argue or make gestures indicating a dislike for a decision.
5. Accept both victories and defeat with pride and compassion, being neither boastful nor bitter.
6. Congratulate the opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.

## Sportsmanship – Student Fans:

1. Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support the school.
2. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
3. Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to cheerleaders.
4. **Respect the property of the school and the authority of school officials.**
5. **Stimulate desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs, and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents.**
6. Show respect for an injured player when he/she is removed from the contest.
7. Do not applaud errors by opponents or penalties inflicted upon them.
8. **Do not heckle, jeer, or distract members of the opposing team.**
9. Respect opposing spirit groups, fans, coaches, and participants.
10. Never criticize the players or coaches for the loss of the game.
11. Respect yourself, your team, officials, coaches, opponents, and fans.
12. **Refrain from using profanity, racial or sexual comments, intimidating language, or negative actions directed at others.**

## Good Sportsmanship – Parents & Adults:

### Parents:

The role of the parent in the education of a student is vital. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school and in life.

There is a value system – established in the home, nurtured in the school – which young people are developing. Their involvement in the classroom and other activities contributes to that development. Trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness, and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics and activities. These are the principles of good sportsmanship and



# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

character. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of the results.

## Goals for Parents of Student-Athletes:

- Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game.
- **Encourage students to perform their best**, just as we would urge them on with their classwork.
- **Participate in positive cheers** that encourage our student-athletes; and discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus – including those that taunt and intimidate opponents, their fans, and officials.
- Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer them, and their decisions.
- **Respect the tasks our coaches face as teachers and support them** as they strive to educate our youth.
- **Respect our opponents as student-athletes**, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best.
- Develop a sense of dignity and civility under all circumstances.

## **Parents can have a major influence on students' attitudes toward academics and athletics.**

The leadership role parents take will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come.

In addition, parents and adults must be mindful of the following when attending athletic contests:

1. Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support school activities. **It is not a license to verbally assault anyone or act in an outrageous manner.**
2. Realize that athletics is part of the educational experience and that the benefits go beyond the final score of the contest.
3. **Respect the decisions made by the officials and learn the rules of the game to better understand their decisions.**
4. Participate in positive cheers and refrain from those that take away from the spirit of the contest.
5. **The use of profanity or harassment towards opposing players, teams, and officials is prohibited.**
6. Respect the opponents as students and acknowledge them for striving to do their best.
7. Be a parent your child would be proud of. **Be a fan, not a fanatic!**
8. **Officials, Security, and the Director of Athletics have the right to remove spectators who create an unsafe environment for all parties involved in athletic contests.** If a spectator is deemed to be removed from an athletic contest, it is the expectation that the spectator will leave the school premises without causing a distraction to

# Yes Prep Northline Athletics

gameplay. In the event the spectator resists removal, the athletic contest will be stopped and police will be called.

**By signing below, I agree to the policies and procedures in the student-athlete, sportsmanship, and concussion handbooks. I have read the handbooks and do not have any questions regarding the policies and procedures for my child's involvement in athletics or the spectator policies in place for athletic-sanctioned activities at Yes Prep Northline. I understand all the information outlined in the handbooks in its entirety and will uphold all expectations as set forth by the athletic department at Yes Prep Northline.**

**Student-Athlete Signature:**

**Parent First & Last Name:**

**Parent Signature:**

**Parent Phone Number:**

 (  ) -  -