



## **Lawrence Township Public Schools Athletics Code of Conduct**

### **Good Sportsmanship**

Good sportsmanship is a fundamental expectation for all athletic practices and events.

Athletic directors and coaches play a crucial role in fostering sportsmanship by setting the standard for self-control, respect, and dignity. Coaches should actively discuss and reinforce good sportsmanship during pre-game activities. Student-athletes must recognize that their conduct reflects Lawrence High School, and poor sportsmanship will result in disciplinary action.

Parents, guardians, and other spectators should serve as role models by demonstrating self-control, respect, and dignity at all athletic events. Unsportsmanlike behavior, including verbal abuse, obscene gestures, taunts, profanity, and throwing objects, will not be tolerated from any participant, staff member, or spectator. Per New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) rules, consequences may include removal from competition and suspension from future events.

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### **The Fundamentals of Sportsmanship**

#### **Understand and Respect the Rules**

- All participants, including players, coaches, and spectators, should be well-informed of the game rules.
- Uninformed individuals should refrain from criticizing officials, coaches, or administrative decisions.
- True sportsmanship requires adherence to both the letter and spirit of the rules.

#### **Exemplify Respectful Conduct**

- Sportsmanship begins with self-awareness and personal responsibility.
- Individuals must recognize their behavior's influence on others and strive to uphold positive values.

- The integrity of interscholastic competition relies on maintaining a proper perspective and respect for all involved.

### **Appreciate Skill and Effort**

- Recognizing and applauding an opponent's good performance demonstrates class and respect.
- Acknowledging excellence, regardless of team affiliation, reflects a true appreciation for the sport.

### **Respect Officials and Their Decisions**

- Officials serve as impartial mediators and perform to the best of their ability.
- Players and spectators should not blame officials for unsuccessful performances.
- Good sportsmanship means accepting and abiding by official decisions.

### **Respect Opponents at All Times**

- Opponents should be treated as guests and provided with a welcoming and respectful atmosphere.
- Everyone represents their team, school, and community and should act accordingly.

### **Take Pride in Your Conduct**

- Every participant—athlete, coach, educator, or administrator—must maintain composure and responsibility as a representative of Lawrence High School.
- The way one conducts themselves on and off the field speaks to their character and values.

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## **NJSIAA Sportsmanship Policies**

The NJSIAA Constitution mandates that all member schools promote and uphold good sportsmanship at all levels of competition. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in disciplinary action for individuals and may extend to their affiliated school if institutional actions or negligence contribute to the behavior.

### **Unsportsmanlike Conduct Includes, but Is Not Limited To:**

- **Physical abuse** of officials, coaches, players, or spectators.
- **Inciting violence** or disruptive behavior among participants or spectators.
- **Use of obscene language, gestures, or provocative actions** towards officials, opponents, or spectators.
- **Harassment** based on race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.

- **Public criticism of officials, opponents, or coaching staff** by school or athletic staff members.
  - The administration of a member school will be responsible for the unsportsmanlike conduct of that school's fans or spectators.
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## **Athletic Events Code of Conduct**

### **Expectations for Spectators**

- Spectators must conduct themselves with courtesy, respect, and sportsmanship.
- As the host school, Lawrence High School spectators should warmly welcome visitors and foster a safe, inclusive environment.
- When attending events as visitors, students and supporters should act in a manner that reflects positively on their school and community.
- Rude, vulgar, or inappropriate language and gestures will result in immediate removal from the event.
- Taunting, name-calling, and any form of belittling or humiliating opponents are strictly prohibited.
- Fighting, disorderly arguing, or provoking opponents is unacceptable.
- Spectators must remain off the playing area at all times.
- Officials' judgment and integrity should be respected.

### **Prohibited Behaviors and Items**

- No smoking or consumption of alcohol is permitted on school property in accordance with NJ State Law.
- The use of electronic noise-making devices is prohibited inside gymnasiums.
- Unauthorized signs, banners, or posters are not permitted within athletic facilities.

### **Expectations for Athletes**

- Athletes must serve as positive role models through their actions on and off the playing field.
- Win with humility and lose with grace.
- Encourage positive fan engagement and maintain respect for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators.

By adhering to these principles, Lawrence Township Public Schools fosters an environment that upholds respect, fairness, and integrity in all athletic activities.