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; who better can 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