The Big North Conference

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game. Unfortunately, in recent years this maxim has not guided our thinking. A win at all costs philosophy and a retreat from the qualities of good sportsmanship have been evident, even in high school sports. Because The Big North Conference believes in the concept of good sportsmanship as the paramount priority in high school athletic programs, we have united as one team to emphasize this goal. The Big North Conference insists that all players, coaches and spectators respect this goal of good sportsmanship at all of our athletic contests.

Competition, especially at the high school level, must be healthy and educationally sound. Our athletic fields are an extension of our classrooms, and the values of respect and fair play must prevail. We must encourage our students to work to their fullest potential and put forth their maximum effort. We must also teach them to respect the other players on the field and understand that, after all, it is only a game! In order to reinforce our commitment to insuring good sportsmanship, any athlete that participates in any act of unsportsmanlike behavior may be subject to penalties above and beyond those imposed by N.J.S.I.A.A.

The parents and the fans that attend the games also have to make a commitment to good sportsmanship. Not only must we talk to our children about sportsmanship in our homes, but we must also display good sportsmanship at all athletic competitions. There have been far too many situations in which the athletes exhibit good sportsmanship while the adults in the stands and on the sidelines let their emotions give way to anger and aggression. We can cheer for our children and friends, and at the same time model appropriate behavior and proper sportsmanship.

The Big North Conference wants to make it clear to athletes and fans of all its member schools that poor sportsmanship is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Parents and fans that engage in negative cheering, or make disparaging remarks toward the officials, players, coaches, or other fans, will be removed from the game. They will also face the possibility of being barred from future athletic events. It is also incumbent upon our fans that they explain these rules to any guests that accompany them to the game to insure that they understand the consequences of their failure to exhibit proper sportsmanship.

A list of general expectations and behaviors (Code of Behavior for Athletic Events) is posted on the MHS Athletics web page as well as at various league athletic venues. All Big North Conference athletic contests, Home or Away, are always "Smoke-Free"… State law prohibits smoking on public school property. Remember, your children may not always listen to you, but they are always watching you! Please model good sportsmanship for them and enjoy the games!

Sincerely,

Roger Pelletier, Athletic Director

Danielle L.Wood, Principal MHS
Brian Cory, Principal RRMS

Code of Behavior for Athletic Events

Adults play a vital role in the development of our student athletes. Therefore, we believe that adults should:

• Be positive role models through actions that ensure that student/athletes have the best athletic experience possible.

• Be supportive of the team as a whole.

• Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.

• Be respectful of all official's decisions.

• Be careful not to instruct players before or during games because your instructions may conflict with the coach's plans and strategies.

• Praise student athletes in their attempts to improve themselves as athletes, students, and people.

• Gain an understanding and appreciation of the rules of the contest.

• Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team.

• Help our student/athletes learn that success is measured by the development of skills, not necessarily wins and losses.

• Take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner at the proper time and in the proper place.

• Reinforce the school's drug and alcohol-free policies.

• Remember that it is a privilege to attend high school athletic contests.