

**Sportsmanship**  
**is**  
**EVERYONE'S**  
**Responsibility!**



**The Role of  
Student-Athletes**

An essential role in the development and maintenance of sportsmanship is that of the student-athlete. Because student-athletes are admired and respected, their behavior significantly influences the actions and behavior of fans of all ages.

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing the school and the community.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students and elementary school students. This will assist them in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated—as a guest or friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the hard work and effort that is required of your sport? Never direct remarks at opponents in a taunting manner.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Refrain from taunting, trash talking or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
- Win with humility and lose with grace. Do both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or at the end of a game.

**SPORTSMANSHIP  
FOR STUDENT-  
ATHLETES**



**A Quick Guide To  
Assist In  
Sporting Behavior**

## A Message From The OHSAA Commissioner

Dear Student-Athlete:

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the interscholastic athletic programs of Ohio High School Athletic Association member schools as well as for the individuals who participate. People involved in all facets of the interscholastic athletic programs are expected to demonstrate respect for others and display good sportsmanship.

It is essential that student-athletes, coaches, parents, student groups and fans in general are constantly reminded that **Good Sports Are Winners!** People seriously believe sportsmanship to be an important issue of concern in interscholastic athletics. Positive experiences do not occur by chance, rather they are a result of the educational structure, the right perspective, the right leadership and the true understanding of sportsmanship.

Good sportsmanship is not merely a campaign — it is the essence of what educational athletics is about. Let all of us who have the opportunity promote the ideals of sportsmanship so that today's students and tomorrow's citizens may build a better society.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee trust that you will do your part in promoting good sportsmanship within your school and community. Remember, **Sportsmanship is EVERYONE's responsibility!**

Sincerely,



Daniel Ross, Commissioner  
Ohio High School  
Athletic Association

## Acceptable and Unacceptable Behavior

1. Participate because you want to, not just because your parents or coaches want you to.
2. Play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
3. Control your temper since fighting and disrespect can spoil the activity for everyone.
4. Respect your opponents.
5. Do your best to try to be a true team player.
6. Remember that winning isn't everything. Having fun, improving your skills, making friends and doing your best are also important.
7. Acknowledge all good plays or performances by both your teammates and your opponents.
8. Remember that coaches and officials are there to help you. Accept their decisions, show them respect and understand they have given their time to be with you.

## Sportsmanship Pledge

Young people need to know that integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics, and these are the principles of good sportsmanship.

We need good sportsmanship

- To prevent violent action towards officials, opponents and other spectators which are becoming commonplace in today's society and sports.
- To decrease the emphasis on just winning and losing an athletic event.
- To promote ethics, respect and integrity in all walks of life.
- To promote the ideal of intrinsic rewards of athletics.
- To learn the attitudes necessary for responsible behavior.

You can make proper behavioral choices while participating in your school's athletic events.

Those who pledge agree

- To be a proper role model for other young people.
- To inform our fellow students and teammates that we have taken the pledge and why.
- To be clear and firm about rules concerning our conduct and behavior while participating in an athletic contest.

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## The Student-Athlete Pledge

As a student-athlete, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard and trying my best. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of my school, my conference and the OHSAA, and I hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student-athlete.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sport \_\_\_\_\_

( ) New Pledge                      ( ) Renewal Pledge

You may publish my name along with other student-athletes who support "The Student-Athlete Pledge."

( ) Yes                                      ( ) No