

## Parental Oath of Sportsmanship

I agree to practice and promote good sportsmanship. I also agree that if I fail to abide by the following guidelines and goals, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but not limited to: verbal warning by school personnel, written warning, removal and/or suspension from game(s), or legal prosecution or action with record of incident kept on file.

- \* I will learn and understand the rules of the game and the policies of the conference and WIAA.
- \* I will be responsible for my actions and the actions of my guests as a positive role model for my student-athlete and will encourage sportsmanship by showing respect, courtesy and positive support for players, coaches, officials and all other spectators.
- \* I will not engage in any unsportsmanlike actions directed at any official, coach, player or other spectators to include booing, taunting, using profane or rude language or gestures.
- \* I will discourage any behaviors or actions that would endanger the health of all spectators and athletes.
- \* I will teach my child to play within the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to violence or hostility. In addition, I will demand that he/she treat other players, coaches and officials with respect.

In addition, I will accept and abide by the enforcement of all penalties for school athletic code violations imposed on my son/daughter for their failure to abide by the code.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

### What is Expected of Me as a Parent?

Essential elements of character and ethics are embodied in sportsmanship principles, including loyalty, respect, modesty, honesty, trustworthiness, responsibility, self-control and discipline, and good citizenship.

To be a supportive and valued parent fan, we ask you to review and abide by the following sportsmanship goals and guidelines.

- \* Realize that athletics is part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond results and standings.
- \* Encourage your son/daughter and other student-athletes to give their best effort, just as you would expect them to do in their classroom, with the realization others will often perform better or worse.
- \* Extend respect to all those involved with your child's participation in interscholastic activities including game officials, coaches, opposing team and opposing team supporters.
- \* Maintain your dignity under any circumstance. Participate in only positive cheers encouraging our teams; discourage cheers or outbursts that redirect that focus and confront those who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior.



# Parental Guide to Sportsmanship



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## Introduction

This guide was designed to assist parents to evaluate their attitudes about their son's and daughter's participation and put them in proper perspective. By doing this, parents can better understand and support the sportsmanship initiatives and guidelines. Our assumption is that we all want what's best for our children.

## Role of Parents

As a parent and role model for your student-athlete, you have a significant influence on the education and personal growth of your son or daughter.

Whether you realize it or not, the support and environment at home, as well as your conduct at interscholastic activities, assists your child accept the opportunities and challenges presented in the classroom and during athletic competition with dignity.

It is your obligation as a parent to nurture and educate your son or daughter and equip them with the knowledge, wisdom and inner strength to succeed in their lifelong endeavors. That includes setting an appropriate example of how to react in pressure- and stress-filled situations resulting in either positive (win) or negative (loss) outcomes.

Your son's or daughter's participation in interscholastic athletics is testimony to your belief that high school activities provide benefits to those who participate. It is important to understand that participation in and attendance at interscholastic

athletic activities are a privilege and not a Constitutional right.

## Chip off the Old Block

Your attitude and behavior has a major impact on your son's or daughter's outlook about academics, athletics and sportsmanship. The sportsmanship you practice will influence them now and throughout their lives.

## Be Involved; Not Obsessed

Parents often take an active role in their son's or daughter's athletic participation. An active interest in their child's development and activities is commendable and encouraged, but when parental involvement becomes too demanding and critical, a child's enjoyment in participating is diminished.

A U.S. Department of Education report reveals the number one reason boys and girls participate in high school sports is to have fun. In addition, skill development was actually considered a more important aspect of fun than winning, even among the best athletes.

The purpose of your involvement with your son's or daughter's participation in athletics should be for their well-being, not as an attempt to live vicariously through your child or to fulfill an unfulfilled dream of yours.

## Exercising Self-Control

Parents in control of their emotions and attitudes toward their son's or daughter's participation and the circumstances

involving that participation are considered ideal program supporters and leaders. Their good sportsmanship reveals character and self-discipline. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true. That may be of no consequence to you, but your actions and behavior reflect back on your son or daughter participating and those associated with you.

## Are You a Good Sport?

Forget about peer pressure; forget about your own biases; and forget about what you have seen at other events.

No excuses. Nobody is responsible for your actions but you -- not the officials, not the coach, not the opponents or their fans, not even the weather. Nor is ignorance to what sportsmanship is an excuse, because we can define it for you now.

Sportsmanship is defined as "playing by the established rules of a contest; competing and accepting the result without complaining, gloating or taunting; and cheering in only an enthusiastic and supportive manner that does not disrespect, taunt, distract, ridicule, or attempt to intimidate an opponent; its fans or game officials."

A good sport is a true leader. As a parent of a student-athlete at our school, your sportsmanship goals and objectives must include:

- \* Athletics are part of the educational experience, and its benefits of participation and involvement

go beyond the final score or outcome of a game.

- \* Encourage student-athletes to perform to the best of their abilities and efforts, just as we urge them with their classwork, realizing someone may turn in better or lesser performances.

- \* Participate in positive cheers that encourage our team, and discourage any actions that would reflect that focus in a negative or disrespectful nature to anyone.

- \* Learn, understand and respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions.

- \* Respect the efforts and tasks our coaches face as teachers; and support them as they work to educate our children.

- \* Respect our opponents and acknowledge them for striving to do their best with positive cheers or by simply refraining from any negative cheers, actions or disrespect toward them.

- \* Maintain a sense of dignity and character under all circumstances.

- \* Enjoy your son's or daughter's participation
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