

# **SPORTSMANSHIP FROM A TO Z**

- A**ccept and abide the decisions of the contest officials.
- B**e a good host to opponents and treat them as guests.
- C**ooperate with the coach, players, and cheerleaders in trying to promote sportsmanship.
- D**o unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- E**ncourage players to play hard and fair.
- F**ollow the rules of the contest at all times.
- G**ood sportsmanship is the “Golden Rule” in action.
- H**old assemblies before contests to encourage students to display proper behavior.
- I**ntervene when inappropriate language or behavior is observed.
- J**udgment calls on the part of the officials are not reason for inappropriate behavior.
- K**now, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- L**ose without excuses, win without boasting.
- M**odel language and behavior that is non-biased and is inclusive of individuals regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, sex, or disability.
- N**ever criticize players or coaches for the loss of a game.
- O**pposing coaches, participants, cheerleaders, and fans must be respected at all times.
- P**rovide opportunities for informing student and adult spectators of their responsibility to uphold the standards of sportsmanship.
- Q**uestioning of official’s call or making negative comments about an official is unacceptable behavior.
- R**ecognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play regardless of the team the player is on.
- S**hake hands with opponents prior to the contest and wish them good luck.
- T**each sportsmanship and demand that your players be good sports.
- U**se cheerleaders, pep groups, and other student leaders to help develop a sportsmanship program.
- V**ictory celebrations and unscheduled game rallies should not be permitted at events sponsored by your school.
- W**ork cooperatively with officials and other contest personnel for an efficient contest.
- eX**ercise self-control and be a good example for players and spectators.
- Y**elling, booing, and heckling an official’s decision are unacceptable.
- Z**ero in on sportsmanship – it’s priority #1.

Remember, in athletics, as in life, **CHARACTER COUNTS!**

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