

SPORTSMANSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

To Be Read During Breaks In The Action

Some people believe in convenience sportsmanship – in other words, to be a good sport only when it's to their advantage. Sportsmanship isn't something you choose to do at certain times, it's something that requires constant effort. The High School Activities Association reminds you that Good Sports Are Winners because they understand sportsmanship in educational athletics is a full-time job.

Finishing first does not always mean you won. In fact, an attitude where you feel you have to win at all costs and show disrespect for your opponents, officials and the rules of the game in the process makes you a loser. The High School Activities Association reminds you there is no excuse for poor sportsmanship.

Many parents, while watching a sporting event with their child, are quick to point out why a play turned out the way it did to teach them something about the game. But too many times, nothing is said about examples of outstanding or poor behavior on the playing surface. Parents, what are you teaching your kids about sportsmanship? The High School Activities Association reminds you that sportsmanship begins at home.

So much has been made lately of athletes and coaches being role models for fans, but in the end, who's a role model for whom? Before you verbally abuse a player, coach or referee at an athletic event – THINK! Maybe it's time for the spectators to become role models for the participants.

Some people say trash talk in sports is harmless – just a “part of the game.” That may be true in college or professional sports, but in high school athletics – educational athletics – showing that kind of disrespect can get you kicked out of a game. It's a punishment that fits the crime. Games are meant to be played – not talked.

Pretend for a moment that you're the only person in attendance at a high school game. Would your behavior include ridiculing impressionable 14 to 17 year olds, openly second-guessing coaches and berating officials? Probably not. So the next time you are in a crowd at a contest, act as if you were the only fan in the stands, and encourage the participants in a positive manner.

Your ticket to an educational athletic event is a privilege – a privilege to watch youngsters learn on the playing surface. One of the lessons taught today is one spectators can benefit from as well – the value of good sportsmanship. This is a classroom where respect should be accorded to all in attendance.

While the scoreboard reveals a winner of a high school athletic event, the real winners are those who display good sportsmanship. The High School Activities Association reminds you that good sports treat competition as a game and not a war, they show genuine concern for an injured player, and they accept and respect the decisions of the officials.

Coaches should set a good example for contestants and fans, always exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior. Participants should treat opponents with respect and shake hands prior to and after contests. Fans should be fans – not fanatics. Sportsmanship. It is vital to the success of the further existence of educational athletic programs.