

## **SPORTSMANSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **To Be Read During Breaks In The Action**

So you want to be a good sport? If you do, you'll have to follow the rules, and follow them without exception. OK . . . the first rule of good sportsmanship is to show respect. Rule number two is . . . see rule number one! When you really think about it, it's not that hard to be a good sport!

In a day and age where it seems that almost anything goes, there's an old-fashioned value that's still in style – it's called respect. In sports, respect translates into sportsmanship. There's nothing wrong with treating people the way you'd like to be treated, whether it's in the gym or out in the community. Respect and sportsmanship are a way of life.

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

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.

Pretend for a moment that you are the only person in attendance at a high school game or match. 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.

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.