



# SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL

## DEVELOPING A SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM

The SIJHSAA’s vision for sportsmanship is built on expectations that the entire school community will teach and promote the values of good sportsmanship. Students, coaches, administrators, board members, and spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship and respect for others.

Not only is good sportsmanship necessary for a successful interscholastic activity, but it is also a character quality that contributes to successful life endeavors. Member schools of SIJHSAA have a mission to provide a respectful and caring environment for today’s youth that fosters the development of tomorrow’s leaders.

This manual was developed to assist member schools of SIJHSAA in establishing a sportsmanship program in their school. It includes easy-to-grasp concepts, such as codes of conduct and behavioral expectations that schools can use in their efforts to emphasize sportsmanship in their school.

Tips for promoting sportsmanship in your school’s community are also included in public address announcements to be read at games and public service announcements to share with local radio stations.

**We all have the opportunity to promote the ideals of sportsmanship and citizenship in our communities and schools. *Do What’s Right!***

*\*\*\* The information and resources in this manual are here to help your school develop and implement a sportsmanship program. You can use the resources in any way that is easiest for your school \*\*\**

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# Sportsmanship

*Sportsmanship is playing fair, taking a loss or defeat without complaint, not gloating when winning, and generally treating opponents and officials with courtesy, generosity and fairness. These ideals represent the role of interscholastic activities included in your school. When these concepts are followed, interscholastic activities are shown as a positive and productive part of the total educational system.*

## **Sportsmanship is:**

- Citizenship
- Integrity and Ethics
- Respect for Opponents and Officials
- Moral Character
- Fair Play
- Acceptance of Results
- Appreciation for all Performances

*The SIJHSAA believes that every member school must actively teach, promote, and model good sportsmanship and ethical behavior.*



## ***Examples of Good and Poor Sportsmanship***

If individuals play within the established rules of the game, competing without complaint, winning without gloating, and fans cheer positively showing no disrespect, taunting, ridicule, or intimidation, then the interscholastic contest will be a positive atmosphere for all.

<b>Good Sportsmanship</b>	<b>Do What's Right! Expectations</b>
Competitors helping teammates and opponents up after a play	Represent your school and community well with positive interaction with opposing fans and players
Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and officials for both teams	Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
Cheerleaders leading fans in positive cheers	Use positive cheers, yells, songs, and gestures
Applause at the end of contest for both teams	Respect and acknowledge the integrity and judgment of the officials
Encouraging all fans to display only sportsmanlike behavior	Exhibit positive behavior with opponents and fans before, during, and after the contest
Treat competition as a game, not a war	
<b>Poor Sportsmanship</b>	<b>What this Behavior Means</b>
Booing or heckling official's call or a player's actions and negative cheers	This is disrespectful of the official's judgment and/or the players competing. Both are doing their best in the way they were trained. Everyone makes mistakes. Fans are not at an event to intimidate or ridicule – they are there to enjoy the competition.
Competitors not shaking hands after a contest, criticizing a teammate or coach, trash-talking during or before a contest	These actions do not show winning or losing with dignity and does not show respect for your opponent, teammate, or coach.
Damaging bleachers or facilities at the host school	This is disrespectful and criminal behavior.
Profanity at any time during a contest	This is disrespectful to all in attendance. Profanity has no place in any interscholastic activity.
Blaming the loss of a game on officials, coaches, or participants	This is disrespectful to all involved in the game. Everyone did the best they could that given day.

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## ***Why Implement a Sportsmanship Program?***

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Sportsmanship is one of the most important concepts or values of interscholastic sports. It promotes fair play, respect, and the importance of following the rules.

It can help your athletes, coaches, and parents learn self-control, respect, and treating others the way they wish to be treated.

It conveys the expectations that a school and district have for its students, coaches, parents, and fans. It promotes and teaches ethical behavior.

A program can help elevate the public perception of your school within its community. A good program can offer positive reinforcement for extra-curricular activities.

## ***Implementation Timetable***

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### **July/August**

- Coordinate a fall athletics pre-season meeting to discuss the values of sportsmanship with all fall coaches and athletes
- Emphasize the rules and rule changes (if any) and the good sportsmanship program that the school has developed and promotes; involve fall student-athletes and coaches to emphasize points
- Include sportsmanship message on all material distributed from the school office
- Put together an event security plan for all home events and discuss with individuals who will be implementing the plan (Yes, this is a good idea for all schools!)

### **September**

- Emphasize the sportsmanship message in school announcements and publications
- Develop a story for the school newsletter and/or morning announcements
- Share positive sportsmanship examples with student body and local media (if you have media coverage)

## *Implementation Timetable* (continued)

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### **October**

- Coordinate a winter pre-season meeting to discuss the values of sportsmanship with all winter coaches and athletes
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans and parents of winter sports teams to emphasize the rules and rule changes (if any) and the good sportsmanship program that the school has developed and promotes; involve winter student-athletes and coaches to emphasize points

### **November/December**

- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for fall sports
- Emphasize the sportsmanship message in school announcements and publications

### **January/February**

- Discuss the values of sportsmanship with winter coaches and athletes after winter break
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans and parents of winter sports teams again to emphasize the rules and rule changes and the good sportsmanship program that the school has developed and promotes; involve winter student-athletes and coaches to emphasize points

### **March**

- Emphasize the sportsmanship message in school announcements and publications
- Coordinate a spring pre-season meeting to discuss the values of sportsmanship with spring coaches and athletes
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans and parents of spring sports teams to emphasize the rules and rule changes (if any) and the good sportsmanship program that the school has developed and promotes; involve spring student-athletes and coaches to emphasize points

### **April**

- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for winter sports
- Emphasize the sportsmanship message in school announcements and publications.

### **May**

- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for spring sports
- Conduct a follow-up sportsmanship meeting with coaches to evaluate your efforts and to set goals for the next year



## Expectations of Behavior

### Coaches

- ✓ Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership; adhere to strong ethical standards and practice being a good citizen
- ✓ Set a good example for players and spectators – refrain from arguments in front of the players and spectators, don't make gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing, do not throw objects in disgust, shake hands with opposing coaches and officials before and after each contest and demand the same of your players
- ✓ Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials
- ✓ Avoid public criticism of game officials
- ✓ Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting with media
- ✓ Teach good sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship
- ✓ Define respectful and disrespectful behavior for your team
- ✓ Stress that disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated
- ✓ Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit
- ✓ Respect the integrity and personalities of the individual athletes
- ✓ Do not use profanity, obscene language, or improper actions

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## Expectations of Behavior

### *Spectators*

- Remember that you are at the contest to support your team and enjoy the competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team, fans, or officials
- Remember that interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom and a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made; praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand the game and appreciate the effort of the participants
- Observe the contest and do not verbally assault others
- Avoid criticism of game officials and sideline coaching which detracts from the performance of the student-athletes; understand that the officials are doing their best
- Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial, or sexual nature
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups

### *Parents*

- Understand the purpose of educational athletics and that school sports are about kids learning and having fun; they are not about attempting to earn a college athletic scholarship
- Don't live your life through your child's activities – this is the student's time
- Accept all decisions of officials
- Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches, and officials
- Make your cheers supportive and not instructions as to how to play
- Be a positive role model through your actions by remaining calm and composed during games – there is enough pressure on kids to perform as it is and your added pressure from reacting to mistakes they make, being critical and negative, and your high emotions create unneeded stress and take away from the fun of the game

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## Expectations of Behavior

### *Student-Athletes*

- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school and coaches
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a contest
- Learn and follow the rules of the game and share this knowledge with parents and fans to help them have a better understanding and appreciation of the game
- Respect your opponents and treat them the way you would wish to be treated, as a guest or friend
- Understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of the participants
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials and avoid public criticism of game officials; accept the decision of contest officials
- Remember there is a difference between gamesmanship and sportsmanship; try not to push the limits of the rules to gain an advantage in competition; refrain from taunting, trash talking, or making derogatory remarks to your opponents
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat

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## Expectations of Behavior

### *Cheerleaders*

- Select positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents
- Encourage a positive crowd alternative when booing or an inappropriate chant begins by starting a popular cheer
- Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances by both teams
- Treat opposing cheerleaders the way you would wish to be treated
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials – treating them with respect will make a positive impression of your team and community in the eyes of the officials and event management
- Wish opposing cheerleaders good luck before the game and work with them to share time-outs for group cheers; support the opposing crowd by applauding when they perform during a time-out

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## Expectations of Behavior

### *School Board Members*

- Adopt the policies, upon recommendations of the administration, which reflect the community's educational objectives and that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity
- Remain a policy-making board and allow the administration to do its job
- The Board's role is to develop policies which are interpreted and administered by other school officials
- Attend local school activities, serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants, and coaches
- Support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators and fans who display good sportsmanship
- Recognize the value of school athletics as a vital part of the educational process

### *School Administrators*

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting the fundamentals of sportsmanship within the school
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event
- Develop a crowd control plan for both home and away games
- Support participants, coaches, and fans who teach and display good sportsmanship
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans
- Attend events whenever possible and function as a model of good sportsmanship

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## *Tips for Teaching and Promoting Sportsmanship*

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1. Hold mandatory parent meetings to reinforce the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and cooperation
2. Teach athletes to be responsible for their own behavior
3. Educate your players on the rules and spirit of the game
4. Let your athletes know that winning and losing are a part of the game
5. Give examples of good and bad sportsmanship
6. Support officials in their efforts
7. Have coaches, students, and parents sign a code of conduct before the start of the season and hold each to the expectations of behavior
8. Address problems early and let everyone know there are consequences for unacceptable behavior. Explain possible consequences of unacceptable behavior (Ejection . . . suspension).
9. Develop a recognition program to reward coaches, players, and fans for showing good sportsmanship
10. Create a “warning ticket” to hand to those fans who exhibit poor sportsmanship. Keep good records.
11. Send public service announcements and news releases to local radio stations and newspapers (if you have media coverage)
12. Develop an in-school announcement for morning PAs
13. Have your public address announcer read PAs throughout the game promoting good sportsmanship
14. Develop in-school programs, pep rallies, assemblies, etc. emphasizing good sportsmanship
15. Include examples of good sportsmanship in district and school newsletters
16. Meet with student leaders to set expectations for games

## *Tips for Leading an Effective Parent Meeting*

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1. Make them mandatory.
2. Provide advance communication that is timely and upbeat.
3. Explain to parents that they are leaders and need to lead in the stands.
4. Distribute and explain expectations and consequences, including suspension in the case of an ejection.
5. Have students explain what proper conduct is.
6. Review the privileges and disciplines of athletics.
7. Have all students and parents sign a Code of Conduct.



## ***Teaching and Promoting Good Sportsmanship***

### ***Parents Should . . .***

- Reinforce with their child to be a good sport
- Let kids know that they are interested in all facets of their lives and not just sports
- Support the coach and keep it fun
- Follow through on commitments and working hard
- Have their child play for his/her reasons and not others
- Remain calm and composed during games
- Support their child and listen to them when they need to be heard
- Make their love and support unconditional

### ***Parents Should Not . . .***

- Coach their child from the sidelines
- Criticize their child or give a game analysis
- Treat their child differently depending on the outcome of the game
- Consider their child's sport as an investment
- Exert extra pressure to win
- Put their interests ahead of the child's interests
- Control all the decision-making relating to sports
- Tell their child the opposing team is no good and they should beat them

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# *Codes of Conduct*

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*The following are sample Codes of Conduct forms that can be copied from the manual to implement in your school program.*

## *For Student-Athletes*

(Name of School) believes that sportsmanship is a core value, and its promotion and practice are essential. Student-athletes have a responsibility to ensure that their team promotes the development of good character. This Code of Conduct applies to all student participants involved in interscholastic athletics.

1. Student participants will support the value of academics and the educational process.
2. Student participants will advocate, model, and promote the development of good sportsmanship and character to include: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship
3. Student participants will respect peers, officials, opponents, parents, and all others associated with each event.
4. Student participants will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. Student participants will model appropriate behavior at all times.

*I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined if I violate any of its provisions.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

## *Codes of Conduct (continued)*

*The following are sample Codes of Conduct forms that can be copied from the manual to implement in your school program.*

### *For Coaches*

(Name of School) believes that sportsmanship is a core value, and its promotion and practice are essential. Coaches have a responsibility to assure that their team promotes the development of good character. This Code of Conduct applies to all coaches involved in interscholastic activities.

1. The coach will promote academics and the educational process.
2. The coach will teach, enforce, advocate, model, and promote the development of good sportsmanship and character to include: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.
3. The coach will respect participants, officials, opponents, parents, and all others involved with each event
4. The coach will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. The coach will model appropriate behavior at all times.

*I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined if I violate any of its provisions.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

## *Codes of Conduct (continued)*

*The following are sample Codes of Conduct forms that can be copied from the manual to implement in your school program.*

### *For Parents/Spectators*

(Name of School) believes that sportsmanship is a core value, and its promotion and practice are essential. This Code of Conduct applies to all parents/spectators involved in interscholastic activities.

1. Parents/Spectators will promote academics, and the emotional, physical, and moral well-being of the student participants above the desires and pressures to win.
2. Parents/Spectators will teach, enforce, advocate, model, and promote the development of good sportsmanship and character to include: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.
3. Parents/Spectators will respect participants, officials, opponents, and all others associated with each event.
4. Parents/Spectators will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. Parents/Spectators will model appropriate behavior at all times.

*I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be forbidden from attending games and/or practices if I violate any of its provisions.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

## *Codes of Conduct (continued)*

*The following are sample Codes of Conduct forms that can be copied from the manual to implement in your school program.*

### *For Officials*

The SIJHSAA believes that sportsmanship is a core value, and its promotion and practice are essential. This Code of Conduct to all officials involved in interscholastic activities.

1. Officials will demonstrate respect towards players, coaches, spectators, and all involved.
2. Officials will be knowledgeable.
3. Officials will perform at their best regardless of the level of participants.
4. Officials will promote fair play.
5. Officials will model appropriate behavior.
6. Officials will take control in an unassuming manner.

*I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**



# *Crowd Control*

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## **Planning**

1. Establish written expectations for coaches, players, students, cheerleaders, spectators, and management personnel. Communicate expectations in a variety of different ways, expect them to be followed and act when expectations are not followed.
2. Establish and communicate policies and emergency procedures regarding:
  - Fire
  - Drinking of alcoholic beverages
  - Possession, use, and/or sale of drugs
  - Medical emergencies
  - Lost and found items
  - Bomb threats
  - Alternatives in the event of equipment failure
  - Transportation problems
3. Anticipate Problems (known rivalries, etc.) and contact local law enforcement prior to these contests for assistance during the game or post-game escorts.

Note: Rural areas should contact county law enforcement to see if they have auxiliary officers that could attend their games.
4. If possible, designate parking for officials away from general fan parking.

## **General Items**

1. Identify supervisors to the crowd.
2. Expect supervisors to be active and visible to discourage problems quickly.
3. Be consistent and equitable in applying sportsmanship policies and rules at all times.
4. Avoid seating music bands and spectators near visiting team bench
5. Actions speak louder than words. When someone is behaving in an undesirable way, do something about it.
6. Be proactive.
7. Establish precise job descriptions, expectations, and authority of all working personnel.
8. Inform working personnel of all the rules, regulations, and emergency procedures.
9. Supervise restrooms.
10. Develop a contingency plan to respond to critical contest situations but maintain a level of flexibility.
11. Escort the visiting team and officials after a contest. If they are ready to leave at the same time, ask the officials if they would mind waiting until you have the visiting team safely on their bus.

## *Crowd Control (continued)*

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### **Unruly Spectators**

1. Timing is critical – get to the problems quickly!
2. Sit next to the offender and explain their options – stop the behavior or be escorted out.
3. At the stage where the patron is not listening, ask to see him/her in the hallway for a few minutes. Try and take them out of the public eye and discuss their options again.
4. If that is unsuccessful, say something like this, “If you return to the gym and continue to exhibit inappropriate behavior, you will have to leave. If you refuse to leave, then I will be forced to contact law enforcement to escort you out.” The individual can also be informed, “If you are ejected, you will receive at least a two-game suspension from the SIJHSAA.”
5. **Don’t hesitate to call local law enforcement to assist in an unruly spectator and/or an ejection.**
6. Communicate by phone with the school administration of the difficult person.
7. Follow-up in writing with the individual’s school administration (may be via e-mail)
8. Complete an SIJHSAA report and send to Associate Director, Tracy Lauderdale, [tlauderdale@sijhsaa.com](mailto:tlauderdale@sijhsaa.com) or call (618) 920-9963.
9. Use a non-threatening tone of voice and demeanor.
10. Document all dealings with the spectator and involve your superior.

### **Home Game Management**

The role of the Home Team Administrator: The administration of the home team shall designate a game manager on site prior to the start of each contest. Additionally, each school should have an emergency action plan in place to deal with unusual circumstances.

#### **Game Manager Responsibilities:**

- Be knowledgeable of the emergency action plan put in place by the school.
- Meet with the officials during the pre-game period, making officials aware of the game manager’s primary location for the entire contest.
- Provide proper security at each event.
- Assume responsibility for all aspects of crowd control such as ensuring that only authorized personnel are allowed in the team bench area.
- Make sure all fans remain in stands.
- Escort unruly or disruptive fans from the facility when necessary.
- Provide a safe and secure area for officials to change before and after each contest.
- Ensure that officials are safely escorted from the playing field/court after the contest.
- Meet with student leader prior to game to set expectations and help with student sections.

## *Hosting Officials*

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Quality officiating makes any athletic contest run smoothly. It also creates a positive experience for the players, coaches, and fans. As the host school, it is your responsibility to make officials feel welcome and comfortable when they are working a contest at your facility.

Always remember that these individuals are working these contests because of their love for their particular sport and the enjoyment they receive from working with the junior high athlete.

It is the school administration's responsibility to provide the necessary information prior to the official's assigned contest as well as being available during and following the contest.

Fine officiating and good game management often go unnoticed, but together, the officials and administration can make the competitive aspect of the game a positive one. Proactive individuals control ALL situations.

### **Prior to the Contest**

1. Provide officials with directions and inform them of any special activities that might be occurring.
2. Give the official a number they can call in case of an emergency or weather delay
3. Have competent workers assigned at all contests (scorers, timers, announcers) – these people are of great assistance to officials during the contest.
4. Have someone assigned to meet the officials as they arrive. This person should do the following for officials:
  - a. Provide parking
  - b. Take them to their dressing room
  - c. Have water available
  - d. Ask for any additional needs
  - e. Introduce game workers
  - f. Know name pronunciations
  - g. Discuss with the officials any special events, SIJHSAA rules, national anthem time, etc. that would affect the game.
5. Provide the name of the adult supervisor for that contest and where he or she can be found in the event a challenging situation should occur.
6. Direct the game manager to be in the gym for the entire contest.
7. Make sure all bench personnel are properly attired.
8. Check on game scoreboards and lighting systems prior to the game or contest.
9. Make sure the playing area is properly marked and meets NFHS guidelines for that contest.

## *Hosting Officials (continued)*

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### **During the Contest**

1. Insist coaches display good sportsmanship and are proper examples for your players and crowd.
2. Have your public address announcer remain unbiased during the contest.
3. Make sure the event supervisor understands the duties and responsibilities pertinent to that contest.
4. Make sure the playing area is maintained during any break of each contest.
5. Make sure proper crowd control is visible and in place.
6. Observe the crowd during the contest and prevent any disturbances that may occur.
7. Work with the official during the game regarding crowd control.
8. Retrieve the game ball at the end of the contest.
9. Escort the officials back to the dressing room at the halftime and/or at the conclusion of the contest.

### **After the Contest**

1. Escort the officials safely back to the dressing room and parking lot.
2. Do not allow unauthorized people in the dressing room after the game.
3. Have water available for the officials.
4. Thank the officials for their time and effort.
5. Make sure arrangements for paying the officials have been completed.
6. Ensure that the officials are not confronted by anyone after the contest.

## Sample Letters

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*The following letters can be used to send or hand out to all individuals at your pre-season meetings, along with the Codes of Conduct for them to sign. The SIJHSAA hopes these letters help start an open communication with your constituents when promoting with sportsmanship.*

### *Letter to Coaches*

Dear Coach \_\_\_\_\_,

The privilege of coaching young people carries with it many responsibilities. As an interscholastic coach, your responsibilities go well beyond the wins and losses. Interscholastic activities are a great way to teach and promote values such as sportsmanship, honesty, dedication, teamwork, self-discipline, and cooperation. Taking a leading role in our school's effort to promote sportsmanship will send a clear and powerful message to your players.

Please take a few moments to review the **Expectations of Behavior** we expect our coaches to display as leaders of student-athletes we serve in our school. Good sportsmanship requires as much work as any play or skill you will teach an athlete this season. It is more important in the respect that the values instilled by good sportsmanship will serve our community for years to come. We hope the upcoming season will be rewarding for you!

## Sample Letters (continued)

*The following letters can be used to send or hand out to all individuals at your pre-season meetings, along with the Codes of Conduct for them to sign. The SIJHSAA hopes these letters help start an open communication with your constituents when promoting with sportsmanship.*

### *Letter to Parents/Guardians*

Dear Parent/Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_,

We are asking for your support in providing positive role-modeling for our student-athletes. The involvement of our students in athletics contributes to the development of their values system. Trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness, and respect are lifetime values that are taught through interscholastic athletics and activities and are principles of good sportsmanship and character. With these principles, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and grateful acceptance of the results.

The following are the expectations of parents/guardians of our student-athletes:

- Understand the purpose of educational athletics.
- School sports are about students learning and having fun.
- School sports are not about attempting to earn a college athletic scholarship.
- Don't live your life through your child's activities. This is their time.
- Accept all decisions by officials.
- Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Make your cheer supportive and not instructions as to how to play.
- Be a positive role model through your actions. Remain calm and composed during games.
- There is enough pressure on kids to perform as it is. Your added pressure from reacting to mistakes they make, being critical and negative, and heightened emotions create unneeded stress and take away from the fun of the game.

We have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators at all athletic events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the event site. **If a spectator's inappropriate behavior results in an ejection from a contest, SIJHSAA By-Laws will be enforced and a suspension will be given.**

Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship!

## *Sample Letters (continued)*

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*The following sample letters can be used when dealing with ejections. These letters are only samples and you can use them, tweak them, or change them to work best for your school.*

### *Letter to Coach after Ejection*

Dear Coach \_\_\_\_\_,

This letter is being written in response to the ejection you received in the game this week. This type of representation of our school is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

**As per the SIJHSAA By-Laws, any coach ejected from a game will be ineligible to coach the next two (2) interscholastic contests at that level and all other levels in the interim. The coach is also required to complete the NFHS Online Sportsmanship Course, and submit the certificate to the local school. We regret that your actions have deemed this necessary.**

As a representative of our school, you have the responsibility to lead by example and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship to our students. Please also review the Code of Conduct that you signed prior to the start of the season.

1. The coach will promote academics and the educational process.
2. The coach will teach, enforce, advocate, model, and promote the development of good sportsmanship and character to include:  
Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.
3. The coach will respect participants, officials, opponents, parents, and all others involved.
4. The coach will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. The coach will model appropriate behavior at all times.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter and hope that we can continue to support our students in a positive manner in the future.

## *Sample Letters (continued)*

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*The following sample letters can be used when dealing with ejections. These letters are only samples and you can use them, tweak them, or change them to work best for your school.*

### *Letter to Parent/Spectator after Ejection*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ ,

It has come to my attention that you were recently **ejected** from a game. Please take a moment to review the school handbook and the Code of Conduct attached to this letter.

These pages outline the expectations and policies for our parents and spectators. Be advised that we expect our fans, coaches, and players to follow the guidelines that have been set forth.

**As per the SIJHSAA By-Laws, any fan ejected from a game/contest will be ineligible to attend the next three (3) interscholastic contests at that level and all other levels in the interim. The fan is also required to complete the NFHS Online Sportsmanship Course, and submit the certificate to the local school. We regret that your actions have deemed this necessary.**

If you are ejected from another game/contest in any sport this school year, a recommendation will be submitted to the Board of Education that you be excluded from all athletic events for the remainder of the year.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter and hope that we can continue to support our students in a positive manner in the future.



## *Public Service Announcements*

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### **Prior to Lineups**

Good evening and welcome to (name of school/gymnasium) for tonight's contest between (home team) and (visiting team). We remind you that interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom; lessons are best learned when the proper respect is shown to all. Please let your good sportsmanship show during the contest. Now, let's meet the starting lineups of both teams.

Good evening and welcome to (name of school/gymnasium) for tonight's contests between (home team) and (visiting team). One of the goals of junior high athletics is learning lifetime values. Sportsmanship is one such value that makes these games an educational experience. Remember to sport a winning attitude! Now, let's meet the starting lineups of both teams.

Good afternoon and welcome to (name of school/gymnasium). We would like to extend a special welcome to the parents, fans, players, and coaches from (visiting school). Good luck to everyone tonight! It is our expectation that all fans will conduct themselves, at all times, with a level of sportsmanship and respect that expresses positive support for your team. Adults, please remember that you are our role models. Again, you are here to cheer for our teams, not against anyone. Thank you and enjoy the game!

### **After Lineups**

The IHSA-licensed officials for tonight's contest are (name of official #1) and (name of official #2). Their experience, IHSA certification, and their integrity qualify them to administer the rules for tonight's contest. An attitude of good sportsmanship should be upheld by all spectators, players, and coaches no matter their loyalties, personal feelings, or understanding of the rules of play.

This game is being played under the rules of the Southern Illinois Junior High School Athletic Association. These rules provide for fair competition amongst players. Spectators can promote good sportsmanship by observing the rules of fair play and choosing to use respectful and positive language toward coaches, players, and the officials – everyone has a role in maintaining a high level of sportsmanship during this contest.

## *Public Service Announcements (continued)*

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### **For Use During a Break in Action**

Admission to an interscholastic activity is a privilege and with that privilege comes the responsibility to conduct oneself in a manner where the game is enjoyable for other fans and participants (Name of school) reminds you that displaying a good attitude is for everyone involved in today's contest whether you are cheering for your team or you are in the contest.

Good people make good sports. Sport a winning attitude today. Interscholastic activities are an extension of the educational process and the athletic arena is the coach's classroom. Be smart, sport a winning attitude and good sportsmanship. Don't forget – Add A. Tude is for everyone!

### **To Send to Radio Stations** (if you have coverage)

When (name of school) sponsors an athletic event, it considers that event to be an extension of the classroom. Students will learn lessons in the contests area that are just as important as those they learn in the classroom and from a textbook. Among these lessons is good sportsmanship – this is a course that will serve everyone well in the game of life. Remember to always sport a winning attitude. This is a public serve message from (name of school) and (station's all letters).

In our society, winning has come before everything. If winning comes at the expense of good sportsmanship, then nothing is gained in the long run. Good sportsmanship by adults and students is the result of a disciplined effort to respect yourself, your opponents, and to practice the Golden Rule. Remember to sport a winning attitude today! This is a public service message from (name of school) and (station's call letters).

The score of any contest is generally forgotten over time, but the actions of players, coaches, and spectators are remembered. The next time you attend a junior high school event, please remember to sport a winning attitude. This is a public service message from (school name) and (station's call letters).

Positive role models are more important than ever in today's society. You serve as a role model for others every time you display positive sportsmanship at an interscholastic event. It's the kind of positive values portrayed by good sportsmanship that everyone appreciates. This is a public service message from (name of school) and (station's call letters).



## ARTICLE VIII: SPORTSMANSHIP

**Section 1.** THE SIJHSAA PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATHLETIC COMPETITION FOR GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS. WE DO SO WITH THE INTENT OF ENHANCING THEIR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND HOPEFULLY INSTILLING IN THEM POSITIVE QUALITIES IN THE AREAS OF INTEGRITY, SPORTSMANSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY, AND COMPETITION.

**Section 2.** ANY (coach) ejected from a SIJHSAA contest shall not be permitted to attend the next two (2) interscholastic contests at that level (JV/Varsity) of competition, or any other SIJHSAA interscholastic contests at any level in the interim. The coach must also complete the NFHS Online Sportsmanship Course, and submit the certificate to the local school. During a suspension coaches may not attend contests or travel with the team to and from contests from which sport they are suspended. Additional penalties may be assessed by the school and/or the SIJHSAA.

**Section 3.** Any (fan) ejected from a SIJHSAA contest shall not be permitted to attend the next three (3) interscholastic contests at that level (jv-7th/varsity-8th) of competition, at the school that they are representing, or any other SIJHSAA interscholastic contests at any level in the interim. The fan must also complete the NFHS Online Sportsmanship Course, and submit the certificate to the local school. Additional penalties may be assessed by the school and/or the SIJHSAA. (Example: A fan is ejected from a game by the official. The school you are there with is Bloomington 8th grade girls. The ejected fan may not attend the next two (2) Bloomington 8th grade girls games - and in addition may not attend any SIJHSAA events in the interim of the suspension)

**Section 4.** Any player ejected from a SIJHSAA contest shall not be permitted to participate in the next two (2) interscholastic contests at the level (JV/Varsity) of competition, or any other SIJHSAA interscholastic contests at any level in the interim. The player must also complete the NFHS Online Sportsmanship Course and submit the certificate to the local school. During a suspension player may attend contests and travel with the team to and from contests from which sport they are suspended. The player may sit on the bench in street clothes (not in uniform) while in attendance. Additional penalties may be assessed by the school and/or the SIJHSAA.

**Section 5.** Any player, coach, or fan that is ejected by an official for unsportsmanlike conduct during a 6th grade game that is held in conjunction with a 7th or 8th grade game - will not be permitted to participate the remainder of the night (player) and a (fan or coach) who is ejected will need to leave the facility the remainder of the event.

**Section 6.** In the event of an ejection of a player, coach, or fan due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the host school Athletic Director or Principal shall be required to send a written report of the incident to SIJHSAA Associate Director, Tracy Lauderdale. This report shall be received by the SIJHSAA Director no later than noon the day following the ejection. Unsportsmanlike Conduct Ejection Forms may be found on the SIJHSAA Website ([www.sijhsaa.com](http://www.sijhsaa.com)) under the Administrative Section - Forms and Documents.