

MAINLAND REGIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL
Athletic Department



SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDE

Athletes:

Mainland Regional High School Athletic Department requires every coach and participant to conduct themselves as a student/athlete:

- On the field of play
- Off the field of play
- Within the community

Parents/fans: Also need to abide by the behaviors of sportsmanship outlined in this guide.

Thank you,

Mike Gatley,
Athletic Director

COACHES: We ask that you remember that this game will be played by young student-athletes who have the courage to display their abilities in this public forum before you. We ask that you enhance the experience for the players, and yourself by abiding by the guidelines set forth in this pamphlet.

We define sportsmanship 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.”*

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS

As fans, we ask that you:

- Treat opponents the way you would want to be at their school. Remember, they are out guests
- Only use positive cheers that encourage your team
- Encourage injured players
- Appreciate and applaud outstanding plays by players of both teams
- Learn and understand the rules of the game
- Respect game officials. They will make fewer mistakes than the players of coaches from either team. Without them, this game could not be played
- Realize that officials, coaches, and players have the courage to display their skills before an often critical public

Remember that praise for a good decision or play is a better motivator than derogatory comments about a poor decision or play

PARENTS: Remember that players are evaluated by coaches; coaches are evaluated by administrators; officials are evaluated by administrators, coaches, and their own officials' organizations. A fan's role is to encourage his/her own team and to enjoy the competition, not to evaluate the players, the coach, or the officials.

- Remember that the players are amateurs playing for the love of the game, not professionals
- Realize that athletics are a part of the educational experience and coaches are teachers
- Realize that surveys have shown that the two top reasons high school athletes play sports are to improve their skills and to have fun
- Remember that only one team will end the year as state champions
- Welcome visitors and not create an atmosphere of intimidation
- A person banned from attendance to an athletic event may be required to; but may not be limited to:

-Written apology to AD, Principal, BOE, and person(s) who were the subject of the behavior.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS

As fans, we ask that you do not:

- Use noisemakers (bells, air horns, coin-filled bottles, etc.)
- Use degrading or taunting language directed at players, officials, coaches or any opponent
- Try to disrupt foul shots or penalty shots
- Flaunt victory ("warm-up on the bus," "scorebook," "na-na-na-na-na, goodbye," etc.)
- Remove your shirt
- Interrupt games by throwing objects on the court or by entering the playing surface
- Commit any act that would embarrass your school, its coaches, or its players
- Chant negative, derogatory, or intimidating cheers that demean opponents

Rush onto the playing surface at the end of a game putting players, coaches, and other fans at risk for injury.

At the end of a well-played, hard-fought contest, we hope that the players, coaches, and supporters of both teams will leave:

- Respecting the skill, determination and effort of their opponents
- Being proud of their part in displaying a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship
- Realizing that while players, coaches and officials are subject to human error, the court or playing field is a classroom that reflects the educational mission of the school and that all of the participants will strive to learn from their mistakes and to improve for the next contest.

"For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name, he marks-not that you won or lost-but how you played the game."

-Grantland Rice

