



# SPORTSMANSHIP

## STUDENT-ATHLETES' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Treat opponents with the respect they deserve just as you would want to be treated.
- Exercise self control at all times, accepting decisions by officials, coaches and teammates and abiding by them. Display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials. Never argue or make gestures indicating the dislike of a decision.
- Always set a good example for your teammates and fans to follow.
- Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, being neither boastful nor bitter.
- Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either a win or a loss.



## PARENTS' AND FANS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school athletics. It is not a license to verbally assault anyone or act in an outrageous manner.
- Conduct yourself as a positive role model and encourage other fans to follow suit.
- Realize that interscholastic athletes are part of the educational experience and that its benefits go beyond the final score of the contest.
- Realize that everyone's goal is to win, but winning is not our purpose. Our purpose in interscholastic athletics is the human growth and development of the participants so that they can develop skills they can use throughout their lives.
- Respect the decisions made by officials and learn the rules of the game to better understand their decisions.
- Respect and support the task of the coaches.
- Respect opponents as students, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best.
- Be a fan, not a fanatic. If you are a parent, be a parent that your child can be proud of.

## STUDENT FANS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school athletics. It is not a license to verbally assault anyone or generally be obnoxious.
- Conduct yourself as a positive role model and encourage other students to follow suit.
- Respect the property of the school and the authority of school officials and game administrators. Also respect yourself, your team, coaches, fellow fans and spirit groups.
- Use only positive cheers, signs and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents.
- Show respect for an injured player when they are removed from the contest.
- Do not applaud errors by opponents or penalties inflicted upon them.
- Do not heckle, jeer or distract members of the opposing team or contest officials.
- Never criticize the players or coaches for the loss of the game.
- Refrain from using profanity, racial or sexual comments and intimidating language or actions directed to others.



FOR A MORE INFORMATION ON SPORTING BEHAVIOR AND THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM, VISIT THE OHSAA'S WEBSITE AT [WWW.OHSAA.ORG](http://WWW.OHSAA.ORG).