



Tools & Ideas to Help School Administrators Prior to Contests and Events

Supporting COACHES and Student-Athletes

- Meet with all coaches prior to the season and remind them of your sportsmanship expectations and consequences and to set a good example for members of the team and fans to follow (*this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement*).
- Remind coaches that winning is their goal, but the purpose of interscholastic athletics participation is the human growth and development of their athletes so that they can develop skills they can use throughout their lives.
- Remind coaches to respect the judgment of contest officials and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Require coaches to instruct members of the team on their responsibilities to display proper sportsmanship and to develop consequences for those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
- Remind coaches to treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect and to shake hands with officials and opposing coaches in public.
- Meet with the visiting team athletic administrator and/or coaches upon arrival to the contest/event to provide reminders, provide them with the communications plan and discuss any special needs.
- Ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the respective team and/or coaches' lockerrooms.
- Hang posters in lockerrooms and/or coaches' offices reviewing and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- Consider having coaches sign a "contract" to confirm their obligation to promote and display good sportsmanship.
- Consider requiring coaches to take the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online sportsmanship course (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sportsmanship-2>).

Supporting Coaches and STUDENT-ATHLETES

- Conduct a preseason meeting with student-athletes (and include parents) and review sportsmanship expectations and consequences (***this is an OHSAA Bylaw requirement***).
- Remind student-athletes of their responsibilities to display proper sportsmanship.
- Remind student-athletes that winning is their goal, but the purpose of interscholastic athletics participation is the human growth and development of the participants so that skills can be developed that they can use throughout their lives.
- Remind student-athletes to respect the judgment of contest officials and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Remind student-athletes to treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect.
- Ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the respective participants' lockerrooms.
- Hang posters in lockerrooms reviewing and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- Consider having student-athletes sign a "contract" to confirm their obligation to promote and display good sportsmanship.
- Consider requiring student-athletes to take the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online sportsmanship course (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sportsmanship-2>).