



**ATTICA JUNIOR-SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

Sportsmanship Handbook



“GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE”

WHAT IS SPORTSMANSHIP

A true sport shows a combination of strong values and good attitudes. Respect, fairness, courtesy, and graceful acceptance of the results are all characteristics of good sportsmanship. A good sport reflects fair play in every area of life.

Some may consider sportsmanship an overused term. yet what could be more important in life than good conduct and sportsmanship whether it be in law, business, neighborhoods, education, athletics or any other human interaction? We expect others to respect us and to follow the golden rule, but we must remember to show respect in order to receive it. Respect therefore, is a two-way street.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING YOUR ROLE IN THE CONTEST

Everyone in attendance at an athletic contest has a role to play in making the contest highly successful. By following your role, you will make the contest better for all those around you.

The Coach's Role

A coach's exposure and influence make this role the most important in forming positive attitudes about sportsmanship for students, spectators, and the community.

For good sportsmanship to become a reality, a coach should always strive to:

- Set a positive example for athletes, fans and the community.
- Abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Teach good sportsmanship to athletes and parents, and reward those who abide by your high standards.
- Treat opposing players and coaches with respect.
- Respect the officials, and understand that their contribution to high school athletics is an admirable one.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and with the media.
- Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership.

The Athlete's Role

An athlete is respected and admired by the student body, the spectators, and the children in the community.

It is a role filled with responsibility, and good sportsmanship can be shown by:

- Living up to the standards of sportsmanship established by your coach.
- Learning the rules of the game and discussing them with parents, fans and students of all ages, so they all can have a better appreciation of the game.
- Remembering that you are representing yourself, your school, your family and your community.
- Respecting your opponents. You especially understand the hard work that is put into sports and a team effort.
- Respecting the integrity and judgment of officials.
- Displaying positive actions in public at all times.

The Cheerleader's Role

A cheerleader is a very special representative of the student body and has a leadership responsibility to display good sportsmanship. A cheerleader's actions set the tone for most people in attendance.

A cheerleader can show good sportsmanship by:

- Stimulating positive crowd response using positive cheers and praise--without antagonizing opponents.
- Helping develop a positive reputation of sportsmanship for the team, the school, and the community.
- Treating opposing cheerleaders positively, as guests or friends.
- Recognizing outstanding performances on either side of the playing field or court.
- Understanding the rules and the strategies of the game in order to cheer at the appropriate times and giving members of the opposing squad equal opportunity to cheer.
- Teaching good sportsmanship before an athletic contest, at pep rallies, and in the school hallways.

The Fan's Role

Each spectator at an athletic contest has an extremely important role in displaying good sportsmanship. As a group, fans may have the biggest impact--through their actions--on how others view their school and community.

A fan should always:

- Compliment student-athletes in their attempts to improve and learn.
- Realize that a ticket to an event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Respect both players and fans of opposing teams.
- Know and understand the rules of the game.
- Respect the decision of an official, and admire their willingness to publicly officiate student-athletes, in the best interests of interscholastic sports.
- Cheer good performances, regardless of uniform color.
- Recognize and compliment the efforts of coaches, officials, league and school.

TOP TEN TIPS FOR BEING A GOOD SPORT

1. Respect yourself by treating others the way you want to be treated.
2. Respect not only your teammates, but also your opponents.
3. Respect your coaches and the officials of the game.
4. Respect the rules of the game.
5. Play fair.
6. Accept the judgment calls of the coaches and the officials without argument.
7. Offer encouragement to teammates, especially when they make mistakes.
8. Forgive yourself when you make a mistake and get right back into the game.
9. Lose without pouting.
10. Win without gloating.

GOOD SPORTS SHOW US HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

Leave a Legacy. Be a Good Sport.