

January 16, 2006

From: Merrimack Valley Youth Basketball League Coordinators

To: All League Coaches

Subject: Good Sportsmanship

We want to take this opportunity to communicate our thoughts on the importance of good sportsmanship in games that are not close. We have seen a number of blowouts this year. While we understand that some blowouts are inevitable, there are things the winning and losing coach can and should do to minimize the margin of victory. We have provided some recommendations below and ask that you apply these whenever appropriate.

The team that is losing can minimize the final margin of the deficit by not doing things that increase the tempo of the game when they are on defense. As a result, we recommend that the team that is losing:

- Do not press
- Do not play a tight man to man

The team that is winning by a wide margin can minimize the final margin by doing things to slow down the tempo of the game both on offense and on defense. We recommend the team that is winning do the following:

- Do not press
- Play a compact zone defense
- Do not fast break
- Require your players to pass a minimum 5 times before a shot is taken
- Do not take 3 point shots
- Play your least talented players more than usual

Good sportsmanship is much more important than wins and losses. So, we thank you for taking these actions whenever appropriate. We also ask that you notify your league coordinator if, in the future, you witness a coach not following this guidance.

Sincerely,

Brian Levesque, 8th Grade Coordinator
Rick Gorman, 7th Grade Coordinator
Larry Machado 6th Grade Coordinator
Dave Ruffen 5th Grade Coordinator