



Washington City Schools Sportsmanship Policy

Washington City Schools and the OHSAA believe that interscholastic competition involving member schools should be governed by the basic principles of good sportsmanship. This policy has been prepared to ensure that all members have a common understanding of those basic principles.

The promotion of sportsmanship is the obligation of all school personnel (principals, athletic directors, coaches, and staff members) and is directed toward the behavior of parents, spectators, coaches, players, band members and community members. We believe the development of good sportsmanship through the practice of ethical behavior and moral reasoning is one of the pillars of interscholastic athletics. We therefore expect school administrators, coaches, staff members, athletes, cheerleaders, band members, parents and spectators to know and embrace the following fundamentals of sportsmanship.

- 1) Respect should be demonstrated for an athletic opponent and for their school at all times. Host schools should treat visiting teams and their supporters as guests and accord them the consideration all people deserve. When traveling, all participants should respect the property and dignity of their host school and its athletic teams.
- 2) Respect should be demonstrated for the officials at all times. Officials must be assumed to be and accepted as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job and can be expected to do the job to the best of their ability.
- 3) Knowledge of and a proper respect for the current rules of the contest should guide the behavior of all participants. Rules are essential for a fair contest, and good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the “letter” of the rules for that sport.
- 4) All participants should strive to maintain self control at all times. The desire to win should not be accepted as a reason for abandoning rational behavior.
- 5) In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, it is essential that all participants and spectators understand their individual responsibilities and expected modes of behavior before, during, and after contests.

As a result of these beliefs Washington City Schools will implement the following things to help promote an environment of good sportsmanship.

- 1) Pregame announcements at sporting events that will emphasize the proper treatment of opposing players, fans, coaches and officials and a reminder to “Respect the Game.”
- 2) Washington City Schools will have a process in place for recognizing/rewarding/publicizing and drawing attention to acts of good sporting behavior.
- 3) Administrators will monitor students sections at games for good sporting behavior.
- 4) Sportsmanship and issues regarding sportsmanship will be placed on the agenda for discussions at all coaches council meetings.
- 5) Signage will be placed and banners hung in sporting venues emphasizing good sportsmanship and highlighting important sportsmanship policies.
- 6) Good sportsmanship will be addressed by the Athletic Director at all OHSAA pre-season meetings.
- 7) Coaches will emphasize good sportsmanship among their student-athletes as representatives of Washington City Schools.



Players, Staff, Other Team Personnel

Players, staff members and other team personnel are governed by the sportsmanship policy established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). It states that any team member or staff member ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection. (An example of “same level” would be two (2) Freshman games or two (2) Varsity games.)

If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. For the staff member, they shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the same sport during the following season in the next school year. A student or staff member under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).

A student who is ejected a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A staff member who is ejected for a second time shall be suspended indefinitely and required to attend a mandatory conference with the OHSAA Commissioner. The principal of the school shall be required to attend this conference as well. It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced.

Student-Athletes and their parents are also bound by the Washington City Schools Athletic Code of Conduct and the Player-Parent Handbook that is signed off on at the beginning of each season.



Parents/Spectators/Band Members (includes all persons in attendance at the athletic event)

Partisan spectators and parents by their behaviors and reactions determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams and we expect everyone to treat them as such. Spectators should be reminded, too, that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators:

- 1) Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- 2) Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and athletes of all teams.
- 3) Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is unsportsmanlike.
- 4) Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
- 5) Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

Examples of spectator inappropriate behavior:

- 1) Verbal/physical abuse of officials.
- 2) Use of inappropriate (obscene) language during an athletic event.
- 3) Berating players, coaches or other spectators. Examples of this could include, but are not limited to, negative chants, signs, cheers, or gestures.
- 4) Interruption of contest. Examples of this could include, but are not limited to, the throwing of objects on playing area, entering the playing area, and other disruptive behavior.
- 5) Verbal/physical abuse of coach or student-athlete.
- 6) Violations of the parent expectations listed in the Athletic Parent Handbook:
 - a) Parents/Guardians are not to engage the Coach or Athletic Director on topics of strategy or playing time.
 - b) Parents/Guardians will not approach the Coach for a conference before, during or within 24 hours of a contest or during practice.
 - c) Parents/Guardians should remember that student-athletes are playing these sports for their enjoyment, not to entertain you.
 - d) Parents/Guardians shall treat officials and opponents as guest of Washington City Schools thereby showing them respect even when they disagree with a decision.
 - e) Parents/Guardians shall refrain from using inappropriate (obscene) language while attending athletic events.
- 7) Removal from a game by a contest official or administrator.

As a result of inappropriate spectator behavior, any of the following disciplinary actions could occur. The principal, athletic director or designee has the right to vary from this guideline based upon the circumstances.

- 1) Verbal or written warning.
- 2) The spectator/parent will not be permitted to attend any athletic contests for a period of 14 days from the date of the offense.

Adopted January 12, 2015

- 3) The spectator/parent will not be permitted to attend any athletic contests for a period of 28 days from the date of the offense.
- 4) The spectator/parent will not be permitted to attend any athletic contests for the remainder of that sports current season, which could include post-season play.
- 5) The spectator/parent will not be permitted to attend any athletic contests for a period of one year.
- 6) The spectator/parent will not be permitted to attend athletic events permanently.

The Washington City Schools are committed to upholding the ideals of good sportsmanship put forth in this document. It is important that the actions of the school, participants, coaches, and spectators be a positive reflection of our community and school district.