



SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL



Everything Alabama

**The Alabama High School Athletic Association
and The Alabama High School Athletic Directors
and Coaches Association**

gratefully acknowledge and
appreciate the contributions

of the following to our Sportsmanship Manual:

- The Minnesota State High School League – “Team up”
- Arkansas Activities Association
- Kansas State High School Activities Association
- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
- Our Schools – The best in the land!

Dear AHSAA Participant,

As we begin another season of athletics within the Alabama High School Athletic Association, we look forward to continued success on the playing fields and courts.

However, while much of the focus has been on preparing our teams, stadiums and arenas for competition, we must also continue to strive to be better educators of the all aspects of sports, not just what happens during the games.

In an effort to achieve the success that we all want for our players and programs, the AHSAA is committed to educating and promoting the concept of Sportsmanship.



Steve Savarese

Therefore, we have taken the initiative to create the 2008-09 AHSAA Sportsmanship Manual to serve as a guide on our journey to becoming a model state high school athletic association.

This manual contains valuable information and should serve as a key reference not only in planning for the upcoming athletic year, but as a refresher of sportsmanship principles and practices all year round.

Thank you for your commitment to our student-athletes and programs, and we wish you the best during this season of competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Savarese', with a stylized, flowing script.

Steve Savarese
Executive Director
Alabama High School Athletic Association

Dear Friends,

Another year of competition is upon us. The Alabama High School Athletic Directors and Coaches Association is excited and looking forward to serving the greatest membership in the land!

It has been an honor and pleasure to participate in this joint effort to produce this outstanding Sportsmanship Manual. This manual will serve as a great tool in helping to educate our Administrators, Coaches, Officials, Parents and Players.

As we all strive for success in our programs, let us always remember to keep the concept of sportsmanship as our number one goal. In a society where good sportsmanship seems to be fading, let us take the lead in returning this value to our programs.

The AHSADCA proudly stands behind this joint effort to lead our youth into the future. Our number one goal is to prepare them for life. The examples we as adults provide will go with them – good or bad.

As always, thank you for what you do everyday in the “trenches”.

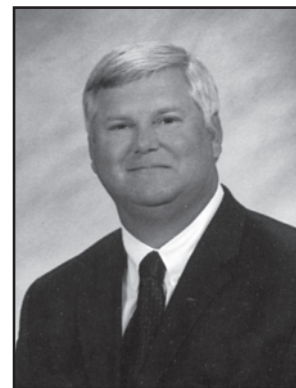
Sincerely,



Steve Bailey

Director

Alabama High School Athletic Directors and Coaches Association



Steve Bailey

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Alabama High School Athletic Association Sportsmanship Manual is to address the seemingly lost art of good sportsmanship. We believe that this effort begins with everyone. Teaching characteristics of generosity, concern for others, and fair play is a responsibility that we cannot take lightly. Knowing that athletics has become an integral part of the total educational program of Alabama High Schools, which then serves to mold our communities, we must embrace the concepts of good sportsmanship. We have a duty to teach and equip our young people for the future. Sportsmanship must be taught, modeled, expected, and reinforced in the classroom and in all competitive activities. The examples we provide as adults can be contagious – good or bad.



The Alabama High School Athletic Association recognizes STAR Sportsmanship as the definitive tool for students, coaches and parents on learning the lessons of sportsmanship.

All participants are required to complete the STAR Sportsmanship program to fulfill eligibility requirements for the upcoming athletic year. For more information on STAR, visit the AHSAA web site, www.AHSAA.com, or Learning Through Sports at www.learningthroughsports.com.

SUGGESTED SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM

Every member school of the AHSAA is strongly encouraged to develop a Sportsmanship Program. It is recommended that in developing your program, the following criteria be considered:

- Codes of conduct for coaches, students, and fans.
- Strategies for promoting the Sportsmanship Program.
- Method(s) to evaluate the effectiveness of the Sportsmanship Program.
- Endorsement by boards of education.
- Statement of beliefs.

SPORTSMANSHIP RECOMMENDED TIMETABLE

August / September

- Discuss the value of sportsmanship with fall coaches and athletes.
- Create a committee consisting of school administrators, coaches, student council members, athletes, parents, etc., to discuss and monitor the sportsmanship effort in your school.
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of fall sports teams using school team members, coaches, and local officials to emphasize rule changes for the coming season. Discuss sportsmanship expectations.
- Talk with your event security staff and public address announcers about their role during contests.
- If necessary, send sportsmanship plan to AHSAA for suggestions.
- Distribute brochures and display posters promoting sportsmanship.
- Hang sportsmanship banners around the school campus.
- Send news release to media announcing school's involvement in a Sportsmanship Program.
- Include sportsmanship messages in printed materials produced at school.
- Send public service announcements to local radio stations.
- Conduct a sportsmanship pep rally to kick off the year.

October / November

- As fall contests approach, emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements and publications.
- Plan competitions between student organizations that promote good sportsmanship (poster contest, etc.).
- Discuss the value of sportsmanship with winter coaches and athletes.
- Develop an editorial on sportsmanship for the school newsletter / newspaper.
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of winter sports teams using school team members, coaches, and local officials to emphasize rule changes for the coming season. Discuss sportsmanship expectations.

December / January

- Send out winter public service announcements to local radio stations.
- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for fall sports.
- Conduct an assembly to recognize and reward acts of good sportsmanship for fall sports.
- Conduct a good sportsmanship assembly with a guest speaker.

PROGRAM AND TIMETABLE

February / March

- Emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements and publications.
- Contact an editor of a local newspaper or host of a local radio or television talk show about an editorial or special program on sportsmanship.
- Discuss the value of sportsmanship with spring coaches and athletes.
- Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of spring sports teams using school team members, coaches, and local officials to emphasize rule changes for the coming season. Discuss sportsmanship expectations.
- Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for winter sports.
- Conduct an assembly to recognize and reward acts of good sportsmanship for winter sports.

April / May

- Send out spring public service announcements to local radio stations.
- Present results of your sportsmanship program to community through letters and newsletters that will reach into the home.
- Ask for suggestions from the community to better the program.
- As spring contests approach, emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements and publications.
- Conduct a follow-up sportsmanship meeting to evaluate your efforts and to set goals for the coming year.

June / July

- Attend seminars or clinics to strengthen your knowledge of good sportsmanship.
- Discuss ideas with your peers in other schools.

“Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.”

– Wayne Gretzky

THE ATHLETE'S PLEDGE

(SPONSORED BY THE ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION)

I believe that athletic ability is a gift which requires daily dedication and hard work, and that anything which harms my body, my mind or my spirit lessens my ability to compete.

I believe in good sportsmanship, honesty and fair play, knowing that without rules there would be no game.

I believe in education, without which I cannot achieve my full potential as an athlete or as a person.

I believe that every person has worth as an individual and is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of skin color, uniform, or any other difference.

Therefore, from this day forward:

I will dedicate my body, mind, and spirit to improving my athletic skills, my education and work skills, and my character.

I will avoid abusing my body, my mind or my spirit with any harmful activity or substance.

I will compete honestly, fairly and by the rules in all that I do, and refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct; and

I will treat all people with dignity and respect, no matter what our differences may be.

These things I believe, and these things I will strive daily to do to the very best of my ability, knowing that by honoring this pledge, no matter the score I will always be a winner, and the world will be a better place because of my effort.

SPORTSMANSHIP CODES OF CONDUCT

ADMINISTRATION

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting sportsmanship.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible.
- Apply sportsmanship policies/rules equitably at all times.
- Develop a crowd control plan for both home and away games.
- Serve as a role model for the school.

COACHES

- Follow the rules of the contest at all times.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials.
- Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Avoid public criticism of game officials.
- Teach sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship.
- Be a role model for your players and the community.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

- Show respect for opponents, coaches, and game officials at all times.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials.
- Avoid offensive gestures and language.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Follow the rules of the game.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.

CHEERLEADERS / BANDS

- Know the rules of the game and cheer/play at proper times.
- Encourage support for any injured participant.
- Show respect for opposing cheerleaders/bands.
- Choose appropriate cheers/music.
- Dress in school-approved uniforms.
- Lead positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.

SPECTATORS

- Take part in cheers with the cheerleaders and applaud good performance.
- Avoid criticism of game officials, players, and sideline coaching which may side track athletes from their performance.
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
- Stay off the playing area at all times.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.

OFFICIALS

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Maintain confidence and poise by controlling the contest from start to finish.
- Know the rules, apply them equitably at all times and keep the game moving.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
- Never show emotions or argue with a player, coach, or fan.
- When watching a game as a spectator, give the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.

CONTEST WORKERS

- Supervise all areas of the facility including parking lots and restrooms.
- Be consistent in applying sportsmanship policies and rules.
- Wear jackets, armbands, and badges so you are easily identifiable.
- Establish/communicate emergency procedures.

**“It takes a lifetime to build a reputation,
but only a second to lose it.”**

– Unknown

BEHAVIORAL IDEAS

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Accept all decisions of contest officials.
- Applause during player, coach, or official introductions.
- Cheerleaders leading fans in positive cheers.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of the contest regardless of the outcome.
- Treat the contest as a game, not a war.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.
- During the National Anthem, students, participants, and fans should stand, remove hats, face the flag, not talk, and remain still until the end of the anthem.
- Thanking coaches for their time and help.
- Helping up a teammate or opposing players who have fallen or been hurt.
- Thanking officials for their effort and work.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Yelling or chanting at opponents.
- Making disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booing or heckling officials or opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or to recognize a good performance.
- Blaming losses on contest officials, coaches, or participants.
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the contest.
- Doing own yells instead of following the lead of cheerleaders.
- Taunting or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Hand-held signs containing derogatory language.
- Performing cheer or tumbling routines in front of the opponents' student body.

**“What you do speaks so loudly that I
cannot hear what you say.”**

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

CHARACTER: THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

- Character is how you act when no one else is around.
- One of the tests of our character is to recognize and admit when we're wrong – in light of the facts – and then have the courage to change our views.
- A person of character takes responsibility for what he or she does.
- A person of character will not let their background or circumstances influence what they become.
- Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are. Your reputation is merely what others think you are.
- A person of character will do what needs to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences and is not concerned about who gets the credit.
- A person of character has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others.
- A person of character will exhibit loyalty to those around them.
- A person of character will exhibit good morals, values, and integrity.
- A person of character will have a personal integrity that has a deep sense of responsibility and dependability.
- A person of character possesses wisdom.
- A person character will have charity. This is the capacity to love. It recognizes that we all have weaknesses; we all make mistakes. To get along with people requires the charity of forgiveness.
- A person of character is sincere. We know where they stand and we know where we stand with them. They are real all the way through.
- A person of character will continuously self-analyze in an effort to improve.
- A person of character will affect the lives of those around them in a positive way.

**“Sometimes our light goes out but is
blown into flame by another human being.
Each of us owes deepest thanks to those
who have rekindled this light.”**

– Albert Schweitzer

CROWD CONTROL PLANNING

CROWD CONTROL PLANNING

Although there are no magical secrets to crowd control, the following ten important suggestions need emphasis by administrators and event managers in crowd control:

1. Establish written behavioral standards and expectations for coaches, players, students, cheerleaders, bands, spectators, and management personnel. Communicate them in a variety of ways, expect them to be followed, and do something when they aren't.
2. Establish / communicate policies and emergency procedures regarding:
 - a) fire
 - b) drinking and possession of alcoholic beverages
 - c) possession, use, or sale of drugs
 - d) medical emergencies
 - e) bomb threats
 - f) lost and found articles
 - g) bringing food, beverages, radios etc. into the gym or stadium
 - h) alternatives in case of score clocks, lights, or other facility failures
 - i) transportation

Written emergency procedures should be clearly understood by the public address announcer.

3. Provide crowd control supervisors for both home and away games and identify them by use of jackets, arm bands, T-shirts or badges. Alert crowd control supervisors to observe behavior and whereabouts of potential problem people. Provide communication devices if possible.
4. Be consistent in applying sportsmanship policies and rules equitably at all times.
5. If possible, avoid seating bands or spectators near the visiting team bench or the visiting team spectator section.
6. Have admissions, ticket sales, and parking lot personnel observe and screen people for possession of alcoholic beverages and / or intoxication.
7. Supervise the restrooms.
8. When someone is misbehaving, in an undesirable way, or violating rules of good sportsmanship, do something about it. Actions speak louder than words. Inaction allows the establishment of undesirable examples and habits that can mushroom, lead to more serious problems, and result in negative learning.
9. Establish precise job descriptions, expectations, and authority of all working personnel and inform them of all rules, regulations, and emergency procedures.
10. Develop a contingency plan to respond to critical contest situations.

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEALING WITH UNRULY SPECTATORS

1. Timing is critical: get to problems quickly.
2. When to go into the stands:
 - a) For abusive or foul language
 - b) For throwing objects
 - c) For obstruction of view
 - d) When a spectator is ignoring the requests of others
 - e) When game management has been informed by the official that a spectator needs to settle down or be asked to leave
3. Sit next to them and explain their options:
 - a) Stop the behavior and explain sportsmanship expectations and consequences
 - b) Final step is being escorted out by security
4. At that stage, say: "I need to see you in the hallway for a few minutes". Talk with them out of public eye.
5. If that's unsuccessful, say: "I'm going to ask you to leave, and if you don't, we may be asking you not to return for the rest of the season."

FOLLOW UP WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT

1. Use a form letter for some situations.
2. For others, meet individually with the person to talk about the situation.
3. Talk to them in a non-threatening manner.
4. Discuss other ways the spectator might have handled his / her disappointment or frustration.
5. Have an established procedure involving the principal and /or superintendent for problems that are unresolved after the initial letter and / or meeting.

"One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than fifty others preaching it."

– Knute Rockne

THE OFFICIAL'S ROLE IN SPORTSMANSHIP

OFFICIAL'S ROLE IN SPORTSMANSHIP

Officials at interscholastic athletic events are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. Officials play a role in sportsmanship as well.

The official must administer the game while exhibiting the highest standard of conduct. An official leads by example. The official is a role model and a teacher.

The official should remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for them.

The official should uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

The official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and creditable service in a fair and unbiased manner.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Officials shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

Officials shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

An official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.

An official must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues and the public to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.

OFFICIAL'S ROLE IN SPORTSMANSHIP (CONT.)

You Are Never:

- so experienced, you've seen everything.
- so smart, you can't learn something.
- so good, you can't get better.
- so sure, you can't miss a call.
- so proud, you can't admit making a mistake.
- so right, you can't listen/talk to players and coaches.
- so superior, you can't mentor someone who wants your help.
- so worthy, someone else should not get the "big game."
- so perfect, you shouldn't seek help when it's needed.

Never Assume Anything, Always Prepare, Concentrate, Anticipate and Hustle.

Remember – If you're not working hard, growing and getting better, you are falling further behind.

TEN STEPS OF DECENCY TOWARD OFFICIALS

1. Greet officials personally, if you are the host school. Do what you can to make them feel at home.
2. Introduce official to the players and staff and, through the use of the P.A. system, to fans. Add biographical details – such as “Bill Davis is a veteran referee with 13 years of experience and was League Referee of the Year in 2001” – to humanize them for fans.
3. Cooperate with the officials throughout the game.
4. Avoid confrontations. During a game, only request information. Never argue or become emotional with officials.
5. Don’t complain about missed calls in front of your athletes.
6. Never let your players see you blame an official for a loss.
7. Be appreciative and pleasant after the game. Thank officials and make sure they have easy access to their lockers.
8. If you are unhappy about an official’s performance, wait two or three days to cool off, then see if your league has an evaluation form to fill out.
9. Know the rules as well as the officials do.
10. Attend meetings of local and state officials. There they discuss the rules and how to interpret them, and you will see the game through their perspective.

Adapted from “Respecting the Ref,” by Keith Mano, in *Athletic Management*, Aug/Sept 2002, p26.

“You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others.”

– Henry Drummond

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS OF ATHLETES

As a parent of a young athlete, it's your job to foster a positive environment for your child – and that takes discipline on your part. Here's a quick checklist to help you:

1. Avoid the P.G.A. (Post Game Analysis). Within minutes following the end of the game, players are usually in the car heading home. It's during the ride home that some well-meaning parents provide a post-game analysis of what the youngster did well, or not so well, during the game.
 - “Why didn't you shoot more when you were open?”
 - “You need to move more on offense so your teammates will pass the ball to you.”
 - “You need to adjust your stance.”
 - “It looked like the other team's defense had you flustered a bit.”
 - “Your time at the split was slow...what happened?”
 - “You didn't hustle on defense much today; were you tired?”
 - “Didn't you see that so-and-so was open all the time?”

From the parent's perspective, these observations seem like very valid points to discuss. “Besides”, says the concerned parent, “it's important to go over what my child did in the game while the game is still fresh on his or her mind.” The problem is that these P.G.A.'s can quickly ruin the fun for your athlete. After all, who wants to be analyzed or criticized moments after leaving the court or field (and if friends are in the car, it can be even more demoralizing)? That's the coach's job. Mom and Dad, give your youngster a break – save your “constructive criticism” for later on in the evening or the next day and bring them up in a two-way conversation about the game – or better yet, not at all. After the game is the time to be positive and brief.

2. Don't position yourself as the “perfect example”. “Here, let me show you how I used to play the game.” Have you ever said something like that to your child? Did you notice them roll their eyes, as in “Oh-uh, here we go again”. Relax. If you're like most parents, you want to help teach your child the basics through the benefit of your own experiences. But how do you do that without sounding like a know-it-all old timer? In the mind of most children, there's a fine line between teaching them the basic skills and trying to show off. Always remember that you're supposed to be there for your son or daughter – not the other way around. Next time, wait until your child comes to you and asks for guidance. That's the most effective approach for you and the child.
3. Avoid screaming or yelling inappropriately from the sidelines or stands at games. If you have to make noise, make sure you are offering praise and support. There's not a young player on the playing surface who wants to hear their parent yelling at the officials, the coach, other players, or worst yet, themselves. Set a good example for other adults by praising good plays on the opposing team as well. In other words, somebody has to be the grown-up at these games – it might as well be you!

SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS OF ATHLETES (CONT.)

4. No need to provide a “play- by- play” broadcast from the stands. Ever hear a parent literally directing every play on the field or court? “Okay Johnny, bring the ball up...now find the open man...that’s right...pass it to Mark...Mark, take the shot! Max, be sure to get in position for the rebound.” You get the idea. Drop the play-by-play. Just let the kids play. They really don’t need your instruction while they are playing and enjoying the game. And, it can make it difficult for your child’s coach to direct the game. After all, that is the coach’s job, right?
5. Don’t take the game more seriously than your child. Your job, as the parent, is to provide positive support for your child; regardless of how well they play or who wins. Whether they score the winning basket, goal or touchdown; or they end up on the wrong end of a lopsided score; give them a sincere pat on the back. Your child is going to monitor your reactions to their performances. If they see your mood go sour after a bad game, they’re going to pick up on that and react in a similar fashion. Teach them to maintain an even balance in the face of victory or defeat, and both of you will benefit.

**“Teach what you are before you teach
what you know.”**

– Unknown

THE PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCER – THE UNSEEN VOICE

At many contests there are a number of behind-the-scenes elements which contribute to the atmosphere for the event. One of these elements is a person infrequently seen, but always heard – the public address announcer. Selecting an announcer is an important decision. The person selected should have some public speaking experience, knowledge of the event, the ability to follow instructions, and the wisdom to know when to speak, and more importantly, when not to speak. The public address announcer should never try to entertain from behind the microphone, and he should always remember that this is an educational event that is taking place in a classroom. The good public address announcer is an individual who sets the proper atmosphere for the event by doing advance preparation for the game, having the proper voice quality, knowing the game, knowing when to speak, and maintaining a professional approach to the game at all times. The unseen, but heard voice is an important part of the administration and the enjoyment of interscholastic events.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING ANNOUNCERS

Voice quality – Select a person with a voice that projects at a pitch where all can understand what is being said.

This is generally someone with a low-pitched voice.

A high-pitched voice is often harder to understand.

Game knowledge – A good public address announcer should know the game to be announced. This includes knowing officials' signals and the appropriate times to be on the microphone.

Emotionally neutral – The public address announcer should handle all calls with equal vigor and delivery, even if the opponent just made the game-winning score.

Follows directions – A good public address announcer works from a script. He or she should deliver the announcements you want when you want them.

“It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy that makes happiness. It is not how much we win but how much we enjoy playing that makes for victory.”

– Charles H. Spurgeon

RECOMMENDED RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Do not attempt to be bigger than the game or event by doing play-by-play or by providing commentary in an effort to draw attention to yourself.
2. Be impartial. Announcements (written or impromptu) are to be made with no show of favoritism, in a positive, not negative or disrespectful manner.
3. Understand that cheers and antics designed to incite the crowd for the purpose of gaining an advantage are inappropriate.
4. Use proper language at all times.
5. Be enthusiastic, but calm.
6. Do not anticipate or second guess calls by the officials or criticize official's decisions, directly or indirectly.
7. Treat the opponents and their fans as guests, not the enemy.
8. Be aware of the entire playing area/field/court so that calm directions can be given in an emergency. Serious situations can often be avoided if the announcer will caution the crowd against coming onto the field/court, throwing things, cutting down nets, taking down goal posts, etc.
9. Be prepared. Know the correct pronunciation of the participants' names, the rules of the sport, the officials' signals and how the game is played.
10. Permit no one to use the microphone, except those in charge of the event. The announcer is responsible for whatever is said over the public address system.

“If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.”

– Booker T. Washington

SAMPLE PRE-GAME ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Good evening, **(name of school)** welcomes you to **(name of field / stadium / gymnasium)** for tonight's game. We remind you that interscholastic events are an extension of the classroom, and that lessons are best learned when respect is shown to all. Please let your good sportsmanship show during the game. And now let's meet the starting lineups...
- Good evening, **(name of school)** welcomes you to **(name of stadium / field / gymnasium)** for tonight's game. One of the goals of high school athletics is learning lifetime values. Sportsmanship is one such value that makes these games an educational experience. Remember, be a good sport! And now let's meet the starting lineups...
- Good evening, **(school name)** welcomes you to today's game between **(team names)**. The educational value of this event is more important than its outcome. Respect for others, including opponents and officials, is one of those values. So, please be a good sport today-the teams are counting on it! And now let's meet the starting lineups...
- This competition is being played according to the rules of the Alabama High School Athletic Association. These rules provide for fair competition among players. Spectators can help promote good sportsmanship by observing the rules of fair play. Everyone is requested to take a personal responsibility for keeping this game at a high level of fair, clean, wholesome competition by exhibiting good sportsmanship.

SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT TO INTRODUCE OFFICIALS

- The officials for tonight's game are **(names of officials)**. These individuals are registered with the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Their experience and integrity qualify them to administer the rules of the game. An attitude of good sportsmanship should be upheld by all spectators, players and coaches no matter what their personal feelings or loyalties may be in this contest.

SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

- The team, coaches, cheerleaders, student body, and fans of **(name of school)** extend to each of you a big welcome! We are pleased that you could be here **(tonight / today)** as our guests. **(Name of school)** and **(name of opponent's school)** are members of the Alabama High School Athletic Association and abide by the rules and regulations as set forth by the association to maintain and improve high standards of conduct, competition, and relations with member schools. These are high school athletes who are performing here **(today / tonight)**. They are friendly rivals as members of opposing teams; they are not enemies. This basically is the theme of interscholastic activities...the idea of friendly competition. This attitude of sportsmanship should be reflected by all spectators, no matter what their personal feelings of loyalty may be to one of the other teams in **(tonight's / today's)** contest.

SPORTSMANSHIP PROMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENTS DURING BREAKS IN ACTION

- Admission to an interscholastic event is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility-responsibility to conduct oneself in a manner where the game is enjoyable for other fans and participants. **(Name of school)** reminds you to sport a winning attitude! – on the field **(court)** and in the stands.
- Please remember that sportsmanship is a top priority of our school and the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Your admission to this event entitles you to enjoy the skills of our student-athletes in an educational setting. Please give all athletes your positive support and encouragement. Booing, taunting, or derogatory remarks directed towards opponents and /or officials is unsportsmanlike and unacceptable.
- As members of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, we remind you that the educational objectives of our school, which include the development of good sportsmanship, are a top priority. Your support of the values of respect and good citizenship is appreciated.
- Fans, did you know that good sportsmanship equals good performance? High school athletes know it. Respect for players, coaches, fans, and officials sends a message athletes carry with them on and off the field of competition. Let's support our team with good sportsmanship.
- Win or lose, the name of the game is sportsmanship in high school athletics. "Good sports are winners no matter what the score" is the lesson learned on the playing field and in the stands. Support high school athletics with good sportsmanship.
- Good sports are winners, no matter what the score. Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. Please keep the standards high and the game enjoyable for all by showing respect for players, coaches, fans, and officials. **(Name of school)** thanks you for being good sports.

“Individual commitment to a group effort, that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”

– Vince Lombardi

SPORTSMANSHIP...WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY

“I would recommend an emphasis to coaches that their actions speak much louder than their speeches or manuals about sportsmanship do. This may be the most effective way to improve things. Notice the correlation between unsportsmanlike coaches and the fans they bring.”

Tony Willis
Mars Hill Bible School

“Sportsmanship in athletics as well as in everyday life is more important than the rewards of winning. For long after the joys of winning have faded, or the sting of defeat is past, it is how we responded to the outcome of the game that people remember. Knowing how to handle victory or defeat says a lot about the person we are, or the person we are becoming.”

Calvin Turnipseed
Phillips Preparatory School

“Sportsmanship is essential at all levels but especially in the school environment. We all say that “athletics teaches life lessons” and that is definitely true when it comes to sportsmanship. Teaching sportsmanship not only helps manage the game environment but it enables coaches and administrators to teach life lessons. Sportsmanship teaches how to treat others, how to handle adversity, how to control what you can control and how to deal with those things or people that you cannot control. It also teaches respect for self, those in authority, property, and for others. The adrenaline rush from a big win or the broken heart from a tough loss will fade to distant memory but the lessons learned from sportsmanship will be used over and over and hopefully passed to future generations.”

Denise Ainsworth
Alabama Christian Academy

“Austin High School values and expects sportsmanship among its many participants, players, coaches, parents, and spectators. Everyone is expected to support and cheer for their team in a responsible and courteous manner that demonstrates fairness, civility, and grace. Disrespect, abusive language, and disorderly conduct are unwelcome and unacceptable. Winning and losing last only a moment – integrity and dignity are characteristics worthy of a lifetime.”

Debra Crowell
Austin High School

SPORTSMANSHIP FROM A TO Z

- A** ccept and abide by the decisions of the contest officials.
- B** e a good host to opponents and treat them as guests.
- C** ooperate with the coach, players and cheerleaders in trying to promote good sportsmanship.
- D** o unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- E** ncourage players to play hard and fair.
- F** ollow the rules of the contest at all times.
- G** ive of yourself to the cause of good sportsmanship.
- H** old assemblies before a contest to encourage students to display proper conduct.
- I** ntervene when inappropriate language or behavior is observed at athletic events.
- J** udgment calls on the part of officials are not reason for inappropriate behavior.
- K** now, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- L** ose without excuses; win without boasting.
- M** odel language and behavior that is non-biased and is inclusive of individuals regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, sex or disability.
- N** ever criticize players, coaches, or officials for the loss of a game.
- O** pposing coaches, participants, cheerleaders, and fans must be respected at all times.
- P** rovide opportunities for informing student and adult spectators of their responsibility to uphold the standards of good sportsmanship.
- Q** uestioning an official's call or making negative comments about an official is unacceptable behavior.
- R** ecognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play.
- S** hake hands with opponents prior to and after the contest.
- T** each sportsmanship and demand that your players be good sports.
- U** se cheerleaders, pep groups, and other student leaders to help develop a sportsmanship program.
- V** isualize good sportsmanship at all times.
- W** ork cooperatively with officials and other contest personnel for an efficient contest.
- EX** ercise self-control and be a good example for players and spectators.
- Y** elling, booing, or heckling an official's call is unacceptable.
- Z** ero in on good sportsmanship.

“Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there.”

– John Wooden

“To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people, and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition, to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, this is to have succeeded.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson



ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL

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ATHLETIC DIRECTORS & COACHES ASSOCIATION

