



## Ohio High School Athletic Association

4080 Roselea Place  
Columbus, OH 43214  
Main: 614-267-2502  
Fax: 614-267-1677  
www.ohsaa.org

Commissioner Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D.

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# OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity School Awards Program

The 2011-12 school year represents the second year that a **newly revised, tiered Ohio High School Athletic Association School Sportsmanship Program** will be in place.

The OHSAA has awarded the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Award for the past 20 years. To win the award, schools must verify that they completed an eight-part sportsmanship, ethics and integrity program within their school community. Until recently, this was done by submitting a three-ring binder that verified the criteria was met and providing examples of the school's program. What follows are the modifications that have been made to the program.

The **first part of the program** is the "*Respect The Game Challenge*." Schools must complete a form that confirms they have emphasized sportsmanship, ethics and integrity within their school. Besides developing a well-planned, educational program on sportsmanship, the form reminds schools to develop a comprehensive student-athlete campaign; a coaches campaign; a student body, student support group, parents and fan campaign; and a public address announcers campaign, and three examples of innovative sportsmanship ideas must be submitted.

If schools submit the form, they will receive a peel off "Respect The Game" sportsmanship message that can be displayed in a prominent area. Meeting the "Respect The Game Challenge" is the precursor to being considered for the Harold A. Meyer Award.

The **second part of the tiered system** is the *Harold A. Meyer Award*. The criteria remains the same as in the past with two changes: a.) Rather than submitting a three-ring binder, schools must submit a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation; and b.) Entrees will be judged by the student-run Sportsmanship Council at The Ohio State University rather than the OHSAA SEI Committee. Winners will continue to receive the Harold A. Meyer banner and/or appropriate numerals signifying the year and will also receive the OHSAA's "Respect The Game Respect Yourself" on-line program that the Association partnered with Dr. Mike Thomson to develop. This program sends coaches, captains, athletes and parents weekly sportsmanship, ethics and integrity audio and video podcast messages.

The **third and final segment of the tiered award system** is the *Commissioner's Award for Exceptional Sportsmanship*. From the entrees submitted for the Harold Meyer award, the Ohio State Sportsmanship Council will select the top 10 to 12 submissions. Then, members of the OHSAA administrative staff will narrow that number to a **maximum** of six schools, and they will be honored with the Commissioner's Award for Exceptional Sportsmanship.

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In determining who has the top programs, OHSAA administrators will follow up with administrators from league opponents, OHSAA tournament managers, conference commissioners and contest officials to find out about the school's overall sporting behavior. Also, to be considered for this award, schools must submit a Public Service Message on sportsmanship, and additional criteria will be that they cannot have had any ejections during the previous year.

Winners will receive a crystal award that will be presented at the 2013 OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament.

The deadline to submit the applications is July 1, 2012. **Remember, to be considered for the Harold A. Meyer Award (and for possibly winning the Commissioner's Award for Exceptional Sportsmanship), schools must first submit the Respect The Game Challenge form.** Winners will be announced next fall. A template has been posted on the OHSAA web site regarding the PowerPoint presentation on the Harold Meyer Award along with samples of Public Service Announcements.

**Additional Information:**

- The *Respect The Game Challenge* form is also available on the OHSAA web site. It can be accessed by clicking the "Respect The Game" logo.
- The *Harold A. Meyer Award* application is also available on the OHSAA web site. It can be accessed by clicking the "Respect The Game" logo.
- Included in this mailing and on the OHSAA web site are *Ideas To Promote Sporting Behavior*.
- Posted on the OHSAA web site is a template showing what is to be included in the Harold A. Meyer Award PowerPoint presentation.
- Posted on the OHSAA web site are sample Public Service Announcements to give schools ideas for submissions if they choose to be considered for the *Commissioner's Award for Exceptional Sportsmanship*.
- In submitting your Harold A. Meyer Award application and PowerPoint Presentation, please remember:
  1. Your SEI program, committee and examples should be as comprehensive as possible.
  2. Your SEI program must provide evidence that it includes students, staff, coaches and parents.
  3. Your SEI committee should consider including team captains, leaders of student support groups, coaches, booster club representatives, parents and community members, school administrators and local news media members.

Thanks in advance to those who choose to participate in the new OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee's School Awards Program. Your school community, and especially the students, will be the beneficiaries of your leadership in this program and, hopefully, will become better citizens as a result!

For questions, please contact:

**Roxanne Price, Assistant Commissioner**  
Chair, OHSAA SEI Committee  
[rprice@ohsaa.org](mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org)

**Bob Goldring, Associate Commissioner**  
Chair, OHSAA SEI Subcommittee on School Awards  
[bgoldring@ohsaa.org](mailto:bgoldring@ohsaa.org)

**\*Dana Bushong, Administrative Assistant**  
OHSAA Staff  
[dbushong@ohsaa.org](mailto:dbushong@ohsaa.org)

\* employment at the OHSAA begins Sept. 12