

**Sportsmanship**  
**is**  
**EVERYONE'S**  
**Responsibility!**



**The Role of  
Student Pep Groups**

All support organizations share the responsibility for promoting sportsmanship at games and events. Their intended purpose is to provide support, despite the outcome, in a positive manner. They have an enormous influence on behavior and are an important part of the educational process.

- Establish yourselves as leaders in your conduct before, during and after contests and events. Always provide positive support.
- Assist with yells, chants, etc., and be a working part of pep assemblies with preparation, organization and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, fans and support groups with respect and enthusiasm.
- Conduct yourselves in an exemplary manner. Remember, you represent your school both home and away.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of your group, your team and the community in the eyes of all people at the event.
- Only use positive cheers in support of your team.
- Work within the guidelines established by the administration, and cooperatively contribute to the coach's efforts whenever possible.
- Remember that you are at a contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
- Remember that interscholastic athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Remember that a ticket to an interscholastic athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.

**SPORTSMANSHIP  
FOR STUDENT  
PEP GROUPS**



**A Quick Guide To  
Assist In  
Sporting Behavior**

## A Message From The OHSAA Commissioner

### Dear Student Pep Group Member:

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the interscholastic athletic programs of Ohio High School Athletic Association member schools as well as for the individuals who participate. People involved in all facets of the interscholastic athletic programs are expected to demonstrate respect for others and display good sportsmanship.

It is essential that student-athletes, coaches, parents, student groups and fans in general are constantly reminded that **Good Sports Are Winners!** People seriously believe sportsmanship to be an important issue of concern in interscholastic athletics. Positive experiences do not occur by chance, rather they are a result of the educational structure, the right perspective, the right leadership and the true understanding of sportsmanship.

Good sportsmanship is not merely a campaign — it is the essence of what educational athletics is about. Let all of us who have the opportunity promote the ideals of sportsmanship so that today's students and tomorrow's citizens may build a better society.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee trust that you will do your part in promoting good sportsmanship within your school and community. Remember, **Sportsmanship is EVERYONE's responsibility!**

Sincerely,



Daniel Ross, Commissioner  
Ohio High School  
Athletic Association

## Acceptable and Unacceptable Behavior

1. Remember that young people play sports for **THEIR** enjoyment, not to entertain you.
2. Do not have unrealistic expectations and understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. Understand that ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.
3. Respect the official's decisions and encourage all participants to do the same.
4. Respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.
5. Encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. Show respect for my team's opponents and realize there would be no game without them.
7. Do not use bad language and harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
8. Always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.

## Sportsmanship Pledge

Young people need to know that integrity, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics, and these are the principles of good sportsmanship.

We need good sportsmanship

- To prevent violent action towards officials, opponents and other spectators which are becoming commonplace in today's society and sports.
- To decrease the emphasis on just winning and losing an athletic event.
- To promote ethics, respect and integrity in all walks of life.
- To promote the ideal of intrinsic rewards of athletics.
- To learn the attitudes necessary for responsible behavior.

You can make proper behavioral choices while participating in your school's athletic events.

Those who pledge agree

- To be a proper role model for other young people.
- To be clear and firm about rules concerning our conduct and behavior while participating in an athletic contest.
- To understand that good sportsmanship is a responsibility that each individual must bear.

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### The Student Pep Group Pledge

As a student pep group member, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics are an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for students. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, officials and support groups. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and that good sportsmanship is expected by our school, our conference and the OHSAA. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being a fan of this school.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sport \_\_\_\_\_

( ) New Pledge ( ) Renewal Pledge

You may publish my name along with other students who support "The Student Pep Group Pledge."

( ) Yes ( ) No