

Sportsmanship A to Z

- A**cept 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 your players to play hard and fair.
- F**ollow the rules of the contest at all times.
- G**ood sportsmanship is the "Golden Rule" in action.
- H**old assemblies before a contest to encourage students to display proper conduct.
- I**ntervene to let others know the ethnic, disability or sexist jokes, racial or religious slurs, taunting, trash talk and intimidating behavior will no be tolerated at events sponsored at your school.
- J**udgment calls on the part of the officials are not subject to question or discussion.
- 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 or coaches 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 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 the contest and wish them good luck.
- T**each sportsmanship and demand that your students or players be good sports.
- U**se cheerleaders, pep groups, and other student leaders to help develop a sportsmanship programs.
- V**ictory celebrations and unscheduled game rallies should not be permitted at events sponsored at your school.
- W**ork cooperatively with officials and other contest personnel for an efficient contest.
- e**Xercise self-control and be a good example for players and spectators.
- Y**elling, booing or heckling an official's decision is unacceptable behavior.
- Z**ero in on sportsmanship—it is priority NUMBER ONE.

Source: Michigan High School Association