

SPORTSMANSHIP

“One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 others preaching it...”

Knute Rockne, Football Coach

[NFHS Learning Center – Sportsmanship Course](#)

[Prep runner carries foe to finish line – Meghan Vogel](#)

Sportsmanship at West Liberty-Salem

- *RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPECTATORS*

- Realize that admission is a privilege to observe a contest and to support West Liberty-Salem activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious. Do not taunt, jeer, or attempt to distract the members of the opposing team.
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Remember that West Liberty-Salem Athletics is a learning experience for students and that mistakes will be made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting the team in every manner possible. Remember that you are at the contest to support, cheer for your team and enjoy the skill and competition.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Recognize an outstanding play by either team.
- Avoid the use of profanity and derogatory or disrespectful yells, chants, songs or gestures. Refrain from offensive or unruly behavior, which reflects poorly on the school you are supporting.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Accept their decisions without public protest. Do not confront a game official at halftime or after the game.

- *RELATIONSHIP WITH OFFICIALS*

All officials are scheduled by an assignor of the particular sport, not by individual teams. Officials agree to and follow a code of ethics. It is important to understand that they are a very necessary part of a game. A contest cannot occur without them.

While you may not agree with all of their decisions, please do not harass or taunt them. They are trained, experienced, unbiased, and are physically closer to the play than spectators – they are more prepared to make the call than any spectator. However, they are not perfect – none of us are. It is up to each of us to control our emotions and not act based on what we want to happen, but accept the decision put forth by the official.

Officials are in charge of the contest and have complete authority to have unruly spectators removed. In many sports, a team will see the same official several times during a season. Coaches, athletic administrators and schools often work hard to establish a rapport and good working relationship that can easily be damaged by disrespectful spectators.

SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

The West Liberty-Salem School District believes good sportsmanship is an integral component of education-based interscholastic athletic competition. In order for good sportsmanship to prevail, coaches, student-athletes, and fans must display respect, fairness, civility, honesty, and responsibility before, during and after all athletic contests. We encourage fans to enthusiastically support their team, recognize the outstanding performance of opponents, and always exhibit good sportsmanship in their words and actions.

EXPECTATIONS

*Profanity, derogatory comments, and other intimidating words or actions directed at the officials, student-athletes, coaches, team representatives, or other spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition.

NOTE: Such comments include negative cheers targeting an individual and cheers intended to sound like an inappropriate word or expression.

WE ASK ALL FANS TO REFRAIN FROM:

- **Intimidating or harassing the players coaches, officials, or fans**
- **Using profanity**
- **Throwing objects**
- **Entering the playing area**
- **Loitering in hallways or on the school ground**

If you fail to abide by the Rules of Conduct and Sportsmanship Expectations, you will be asked to leave the contest.

**Remember...admission is a privilege to observe a contest,
not a license to display insensitive, offensive or uncivil
behavior**

Enjoy the Contest!

Be a fan, not a fanatic!!