

Serena Community Unit School District #2

Sportsmanship Policy & Expectations

What is sportsmanship?

Sportsmanship is playing fair, taking a loss or defeat without complaint, not gloating when winning, and generally treating opponents and officials with courtesy, generosity and fairness.

❖ *Expectations of Behavior* ❖

Of School Board Members...

1. Adopt the policies, upon recommendation of the administration, which reflect the community's educational objectives and that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.
2. Remain a policy-making board and allow the administration to do its job. The Board's role is to develop policies, which are interpreted and administered by other school officials.
3. Attend local school activities, serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants and coaches.
4. Support and reward participants, coaches, school administration and fans that display good sportsmanship.
5. Recognize the value of school activities as a vital part of the education process.

Of School Administrators...

1. Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
2. Support participants, coaches and fans that teach and display good sportsmanship.
3. Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
4. Attend events whenever possible and function as a model of good sportsmanship.
5. Communicate with spectators during an event on what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

Of the Coach...

1. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership. Adhere to strong ethical standards. Practice being a good citizen.
2. Set a good example for players and spectators: Please refrain from arguments in front of the players and spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing; no throwing of objects in disgust. Shake hands with opposing coaches and officials before and after each contest. Demand the same of your players.
3. Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials. Avoid public criticism of game officials.
4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting with the media.
5. Teach sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship. Define respectful and disrespectful behavior for your team. Stress that disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated from anyone.
6. Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
7. Respect the integrity and personalities of the individual athletes.
8. Do not use profanity, obscene language, or improper actions at any time.

Of the Student Athlete...

1. Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school and coaching staff.
2. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or end of a contest.
3. Learn and follow the rules of the game. Share this knowledge with parents and fans to help them have a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
4. Respect your opponent. Treat them the way you would wish to be treated, as a guest or friend; who better can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of the participants.
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials. Avoid public criticism of game officials. Accept the decision of contest officials.
6. Remember there is a difference between gamesmanship and sportsmanship. Try not to push the limits of the rules to gain an advantage in competition. Refrain from taunting, trash talking or making derogatory remarks to your opponents.
7. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.

Of Spectators...

1. A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest and not a license to verbally assault others. Remember that you are at the contest to support your team and enjoy the competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team, fans, or officials.
2. Remember that interscholastic activities are an extension of the classroom and a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student athletes in their attempt to improve themselves.
3. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand the game and appreciate the effort of the participants.
4. Avoid criticism of game officials and sideline coaching, which detracts from the performance of the student athletes. Understand that the officials are doing their best.
5. Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team.
6. Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
7. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.

Of Parents...

1. Understand the purpose of educational athletics. School sports are about kids learning and having fun. They are not about attempting to earn a college athletic scholarship.
2. Don't live your life through your child's activities. This is their time. Accept all decisions of officials.
3. Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches, and officials. Make your cheers supportive and not instructions as to how to play.
4. Be a positive role model through your own actions. Remain calm and composed during games. There is enough pressure on kids to perform as it is. Your added pressure from reacting to mistakes they make, being critical and negative, and just too emotional create unneeded stress and take away from the fun of the game.

Of Officials...

1. Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
2. Know the rules of the game thoroughly.
3. Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants or coaches when enforcing the rules.
4. Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
5. When watching a game as a spectator, give the official the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.
6. Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.