



SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETICS



The following guidelines are provided to the administration, athletes, cheerleaders, students and parents of VHSL member schools. These guidelines/expectations will be followed at all event competitions.

Good sportsmanship is a top priority at the Virginia High School League as well as Holston High School. The manner in which our school is represented is far more important than wins and losses. Good Sportsmanship is about respect – respect for oneself, for teammates and coaches, for opponents, contest officials, spectators, and the game itself. Inappropriate behavior is easy to identify. One need ask only two questions: 1. Is the observed behavior respectful of the targeted audience? 2. Does the observed behavior reflect positively on your school? If the answer to either question is no, then the behavior is inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

EXAMPLES OF UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR THAT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

The following list is by no means “all inclusive”, but is provided to draw attention to behaviors often witnessed at athletic contests.

- Booning, taunting, or heckling anyone
- Excessive arguing and yelling at officials
- Singling out an opponent, athlete, official, coach, or spectator and yelling personal remarks
- Using inappropriate gestures or sounds toward anyone
- Using profanity
- Using racial, ethnic or other slurs
- Throwing things onto the court/field toward others
- Artificial noise makers are not permitted at indoor events – this includes bells, whistles, thunder sticks, clappers, megaphones (except cheerleaders), horns, etc. Artificial noisemakers are prohibited by NFHS Rules as well
- Body paint is not permitted at any indoor event. Body painting is not permitted onsite at any outdoor event. Face painting is acceptable provided that it has been done in good taste and prior to entering the gym/school
- Bare chests are not permitted at any indoor events
- No one will be permitted on the court/field during the game
- Hand-held signs/posters are not permitted at indoor events; if displayed at outdoor events, they must in good taste and not obstruct the view of others
- **Individuals who are disruptive, disrespectful, or who fail to comply with stadium/arena and/or VHSL procedures will be escorted from the facility. If this occurs, administration will consider temporary and or permanent banishment from school property.**

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

**REMEMBER THE REASON WHY YOU'RE AT THE GAME...TO CHEER OUR TEAM!
WIN WITH HUMILITY. LOSE WITH GRACE. DO BOTH WITH DIGNITY.**