



The School Administrator Should:

1. Encourage and promote friendly relationships and good sportsmanship throughout the school by requiring courtesy and proper decorum at all times, by acquainting students and others in the community with ideals of good sportsmanship and by so publicizing these concepts and attitudes that all members of the school community will understand and appreciate their meaning.
2. Insist upon implicit compliance with all rules and regulations of the Virginia High School League.
3. Secure qualified officials for all contests.
4. Insist upon adequate safety provisions for all activities, for both participants and spectators.
5. Approve only those activities and schedules which are educationally and physically sound for the school pupil.
6. Encourage all to judge the success of the athletic program on the basis of the attitude of the participants and spectators, rather than on the basis of the number of games won or lost.
7. Insist that the school cheerleaders exemplify the highest standard of good sportsmanship as a means of inculcating desirable spectator attitudes.
8. Provide adequate hygienic, sanitary and attractive facilities for the dressing and housing of visiting teams and officials.
9. Provide for the efficient handling of all athletic funds, with such safeguards as audits, insurance and proper bookkeeping, in order that maximum benefits may be had from available funds.
10. Review with staff the Sportsmanship Rule.

The Spectator Should:

1. Realize that he/she represents the school just as definitely as does the member of a team and, therefore, has an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through this behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
2. Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
3. Recognize that since the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the players through the medium of contests, victory or defeat is in reality of secondary importance.
4. Treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending to them every courtesy.
5. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
6. Respect the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them.

The Athlete Should:

1. Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.
2. Play hard and to the limit of his/her ability, regardless of discouragement. The true athlete does not give up nor does he/she quarrel, cheat, bet or grandstand.
3. Retain his/her composure at all times and never leave the bench or enter the playing field/court to engage in a fight.

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4. Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true sportsman does not offer excuses for failures.
5. Maintain a high degree of physical fitness by observing team and training rules conscientiously.
6. Demonstrate loyalty to the school by maintaining a satisfactory scholastic standing and by participating in or supporting other school activities.
7. Play for the love of the game.
8. Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
9. Set a high standard of personal cleanliness.
10. Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without questions.
11. Respect the facilities of host schools and the trust entailed in being a guest.

The Coach Should:

1. Exemplify behavior that is representative of the educational staff of the school and a credit to the teaching profession.
2. Demonstrate high ideals, good habits and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards of the players.
3. Emphasize to his/her players and bench personnel the importance of proper sideline behavior and the necessity of restraining from entering the playing field/court to engage in a fight.
4. Recognize that the purpose of competition is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of the individual players and that the most important values of competition are derived from playing the game fairly.
5. Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.
6. Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or of dissatisfaction with the officials.
7. Cooperate with the school principal in the planning, scheduling and conduct of sports activities.
8. Employ accepted educational methods in coaching; giving all players an opportunity to use and develop initiative, leadership and judgment.
9. Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of players, refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving his team's chances to win.
10. Teach athletes that it is better to lose fairly than win unfairly.
11. Discourage gambling, profanity, abusive language and similar violations of the true sportsman's code.
12. Refuse to disparage an opponent, an official or others associated with sports activities and discourage gossip and questionable rumors concerning them.
13. Properly supervise student athletes under his/her immediate care and specifically observe a coach's responsibilities in conjunction with district and state contests.

The Official Should:

1. Know the rules and their interpretations and be thoroughly trained to administer them.
2. Maintain self-control under all conditions.
3. Report for duty well in advance of game time, in a rested condition and with an alert mind, and dressed appropriately in the specified uniform.

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4. Make clear all interpretations and rulings during the progress of a game, yet conduct the game in an unobtrusive manner.
5. Be impartial and fair, yet firm, in all decisions. A good official does not attempt to compensate later for an unpopular decision.
6. Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play or game situation with those not immediately concerned.
7. So conduct the games as to enlist the cooperation of players, coaches and spectators in the interests of good sportsmanship.
8. Honor all commitments and abide by all school, district, conference, regional and League regulations in a professional manner.
9. To assist schools in the implementation of this program, the Code for Interscholastic Athletics must be in place.

27-11-9 Procedure

Unsportsmanlike action must be reported to the League. A copy of the report shall be transmitted to the principal of the school or schools involved. Each principal concerned shall report such information or answers to the report as he/she deems appropriate to the League or a member of the Sportsmanship Committee. In some situations the League will provide schools and officials with specially designed forms to facilitate the proper reporting of possible violations. Upon receipt of all reports the League shall refer copies of all documents advising of any suggestions made to the school or schools involved, and to the Chairman of the League who may in turn refer the matter to the Sportsmanship Committee to investigate and adjudicate what appears to be a violation of this rule. The League is specifically directed to pursue any items which on the surface have implications of being sportsmanship violations. A League staff member or Sportsmanship Committeeman may be assigned the responsibility of holding personal interviews with the principal parties involved. Actions such as seeking reports and holding interviews is not to be interpreted in any way as casting reflection upon a school adhering to League regulations, but as an effort to keep all parties properly informed. Penalties up to and including suspensions of member schools may be imposed by the Executive Committee and/or the Sportsmanship Committee. The Sportsmanship Committee shall review at a time and place set by the League Office such available evidence as it deems necessary to reach a conclusion. A copy of the Sportsmanship Committee's action shall be filed with the chairman of the districts concerned.