

Sportsmanship Guidelines

Focus on Respect for Self and Others

Fundamentals of Sportsmanship

- Show respect for self and others at all times
- Show respect for the officials. Have the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
- Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of team affiliation.

Expectations for Coaches

- Act like an educator and a leader, which is an expectation of the [IHSAA](#) and [RCS](#).
- Set a good example for participant and fans to follow.
- Exemplify the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the number one priority.
- Respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by all rules and do not display behavior that could incite fans.
- Treat opposing coaches, participants, and fans with respect.
- Shake hands before and after contests.
- Develop and enforce penalties for participants who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

Expectations for Student Athletes

- Treat teammates/opponents with respect.
- Respect the judgment of contest officials.
- Abide by all rules and do not display behavior that could incite fans.
- Cooperate with officials, coaches, and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
- Accept the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.
- Display positive behavior at all times.
- Live up to the high standards of sportsmanship established by the [IHSAA](#), [RCS](#) and your coaches.

Expectations for Parents and Spectators

- Realize that athletics are a part of the educational experience and that the benefits go beyond the final score of the contest.
- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support the activities of our youth. It is not a license to verbally assault others.
- Respect decisions made by the contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by supporting teams in a positive manner.
- Respect fans, coaches, officials, administrators, and participants.
- BE A FAN...NOT A FANATIC!!

Expectations for Cheerleaders and Spirit Groups

- Encourage the desired crowd response. Use only positive cheers, signs, and praise.
- Treat opposing spirit groups and fans with respect.
- Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing field or court.
- Know the rules and strategies of the contest in order to cheer at proper times.
- Maintain enthusiasm and composure.

Acceptable Behaviors

- Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Graciously accept all decisions of the officials.
- Shake hands with participants and coaches at the end of a contest, regardless of the outcome.
- Coaches/players should seek out opposing participants to recognize them for an outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applaud at the end of the contest for performances of all participants.
- Show concern for injured players, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display good sportsmanship.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.

Unacceptable Behaviors

- "Coaching" from the stands or sidelines by spectators, fans, or parents.
- Confronting a coach, player, or official after the athletic contest.
- Criticizing officials in any way.
- Cheers that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or trash talking.
- Directing negative comments at opponents to distract and upset them.
- Using profanity, racial comments or displaying anger that draws attention away from the game.
- Throwing objects onto the floor or at an opponent.
- Entering the floor or playing field at any time.
- Refusing to comply with the directives of any school official.
- Blaming the loss of a game on officials, coaches, or athletes.

Consequences

Coaches and Athletes

- Adhere to RHS and IHSAA sportsmanship guidelines.
- Any unsportsmanlike behavior exhibited by an RHS coach or athlete will be subject to a verbal warning to a one game suspension.
- Any RHS Athlete or coach who receives an unsportsmanlike ejection at an athletic contest will be suspended a minimum of one to a maximum of two athletic contests at that level of competition.
- Any subsequent ejections will be reviewed by the Director of Athletics, assistant athletic director and a coaches' representative and may result in more game suspensions and/or dismissal from a team.

Parents and Spectators

Because the actions of spectators, parents and/or fans may warrant sanctions placed by the IHSAA on RHS athletic programs, the following are consequences for unsportsmanlike behavior(s) at RHS athletic events.

- Verbal warning.
- Removal from a competition site by administration or law enforcement.
- Warning letter.
- Suspension from attending future contests.
- Charges filed with law enforcement.
- Exclusion from all extra-curricular events.

*The level of intervention is dependent upon the severity of the unsportsmanlike behavior exhibited.