



*A private, non-profit organization enriching the lives of Oregon students.*

**OSAA SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT**

Interscholastic activities are an integral part of the educational curriculum and experience. High school activities promote the character development of participants, enhance the educational mission and promote civility in society. Therefore, student-athletes, coaches, spectators and all others associated with high school activities programs and events should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty, and responsibility. These values should be established as a priority among all OSAA member high schools.

It is the responsibility of each member high school to establish policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct consistent with the educational mission and goals of that school and to continually educate students, coaches, teachers, parents, and all involved about those policies.

**KEY ELEMENTS OF CITIZENSHIP**

**Honor:** Performs within the letter and spirit of the rules of the game.

**Honesty:** Obeys prohibitions against lying, cheating, stealing, and violence.

**Responsibility:** Accepts duty to behave in a consistent, trustworthy manner.

**Self-Control/Discipline:** Ability to hold disruptive emotions.

**Courage:** Fortitude to stand up for what is right.

**Respect:** The Golden Rule of treating others as we would like to be treated.

**Integrity:** The quality of having strong moral principals.

**Knowledge:** An understanding of the realm of citizenship.

**PARENTS / STUDENTS / SPECTATORS**

- Respect both players and fans of opposing teams.
- Be a role model! Don't harass or trash talk opponents or officials before, during or after a contest.
- Recognize and support the efforts of coaches, officials, leagues, and school administrators.
- Support your child/peer with positive actions and encouragement.
- Respect the officials' judgement and interpretation of the rules.
- Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.
- Applaud all participants' efforts – win or lose.

**YOUR ACTIONS**

**SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS**

**YOUTH SPORTS**

[www.sportsparenting.org](http://www.sportsparenting.org)  
[www.nays.org](http://www.nays.org)

**EVERYONE NEEDS TO TAKE PART IN THE FUNDAMENTALS**

- **Show respect for the opponent at all times.**
- **Show respect for the officials.**
- **Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.**
- **Maintain self-control.**
- **Recognize and appreciate levels of skill attained regardless of affiliation.**
- **Recognize that participation in a contest is a privilege.**
- **Maintain a balance.**
- **Participate in a variety of activities and have fun.**

**ADMINISTRATORS  
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS**

- Establish a positive school environment.
- Emphasize educational goals and publish regulations governing interscholastic activities.
- Inform coaches, student body, and fans of expected behavior.
- Take a stand and uphold codes of conduct.
- Evaluate coaches' performances on the principals of citizenship, not just on win-loss records.

**SUPPORT CITIZENSHIP**

**PARTICIPANTS**

- Treat opponents with respect.
- Exercise self-control.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Accept the judgement of the officials without complaint or unnecessary gestures.
- Congratulate the opponents in a sincere manner following victory or defeat.
- Accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community.

**PLAY FAIR**

**COACHES AND ADVISORS**

- Instruct students on their responsibilities of citizenship / sportsmanship.
- Respect the officials' judgement and interpretations of the rules.
- Publicly shake hands with the officials and opposing coaches before and after each contest.
- Be sensitive to explosive situations; remove player(s) before problems arise.
- Communicate program goals and objectives.

**BE A ROLE MODEL**

*One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than fifty others preaching it.*  
- Knute Rockne

*Winning is for a day – sportsmanship is for a lifetime.*

*Sportsmanship is winning – even if you lose the game.*

*Fans are not at an event to intimidate or ridicule, but to support and enjoy the competition.*

*Good sportsmanship begins with you.*

*Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.*

- Mark Twain

**CHEERLEADERS**

- Always set a good example for spectators to follow.
- Greet the visiting cheerleading squad and treat them as your guests.
- Stimulate and control positive crowd cheers.
- Be sure that words or gestures used in a cheer do not offend the audience.
- Divert the crowd's attention with a popular cheer when booing or other negativity begins.

**BE A POSITIVE LEADER**

**BAND**

- Choose appropriate music and time for performing.
- Show respect at all times for officials, opponents, and spectators.
- Show respect at all times for public property and equipment.
- Avoid offensive gestures and language.

**BE SUPPORTIVE**

**OFFICIALS**

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.
- Do your part to promote sportsmanship within your association and among schools.
- Be consistent in your approach to every game.

**SPORTSMANSHIP MATTERS**

[www.osaa.org](http://www.osaa.org)