

### **SPORTSMANSHIP - THE PARTICIPANT'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Respect, commitment, dedication and hard work - these are the qualities that describe you, the athlete, and these are the same attributes your opponent brings to the competition. Your opponent is exactly that, an opponent, not your enemy. By treating your opponent with courtesy and respect, you demonstrate respect for yourself, your family, your community and your school. As an athlete you bring to every competition an attitude that you will do your best to win, that you will strive to achieve, to excel, and this is the way it should be. But, competition is designed to be played by the highest standards of fair play, and within the rules of the game. To win by bending the rules of the game means that you were not able to win by playing by the rules.

Some things participants can do to see that the game is played well and that indicate a willingness to practice good sportsmanship include:

1. Participants should not argue with officials. First of all, you never win and seldom does an official change their call. Your chances of picking up a technical or unsportsmanlike penalty are increased. Your performance is affected because you are emotionally upset and your mind is not on the game and what needs to be accomplished. You incite the crowd and create a negative attitude.
2. Participants should never make negative comments to an opposing player or coach.
3. Treat an opponent as you would like to be treated, especially if you are the home team. Remember, being friendly doesn't mean you can't be competitive.
4. Participants should cheer for their own team. Negative comments about an opposing player's performance are never appropriate.
5. If you see a play by an opponent that you feel was well done, there is nothing wrong with a positive acknowledgement of that.
6. Participants leaving the playing site after a victory should refrain from gloating after a victory. You should be happy you won, but it is not necessary to do so at the expense of your opponent. You create negative feelings and can cause a very hostile situation. You may also be giving your opponents that extra edge they need to beat you the next time around.

Coaches must pass out a copy of this form to players and parents, and the student athlete must sign said form.

I have read this document on sportsmanship and agree to abide by the outlined requested conduct.

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Student Athlete's Signature

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Date

Adopted By The  
Hadley School Committee: September 22, 2014