

Idaho High School Activities Association

**SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE
CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTS MANUAL**

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Acknowledgement

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PURPOSE OF A CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTS PROGRAM

In order for sports to serve a purpose in the educational system, students must obtain positive educational benefits from athletics such as; responsibility, self discipline, sportsmanship, teamwork, work ethics, integrity and personal sacrifice for the good of others.

The goal of a Citizenship Through Sports program is to encourage and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship and good citizenship throughout the athletic department and the entire high school community.

Information found in this manual is provided to assist schools in developing high levels of citizenship and sportsmanship and to provide materials that will assist in achieving high scores on the Schools' Self Evaluation form for the Citizenship component of the Schools of Excellence Award.

CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTS - WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **MODEL DESIRED SPORTSMANSHIP BEHAVIORS**
- **INSTRUCT COACHES IN EXPECTED AND ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS.**
- **PROVIDE MATERIALS THAT WILL ASSIST COACHES IN ACHIEVING HIGH LEVELS OF SPORTSMANSHIP IN THEIR ATHLETIC PROGRAMS.**
- **DEVELOP PROGRAMS FOR TEACHING AND PROMOTING THE IDEALS AND FUNDAMENTALS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP WITHIN THE SCHOOL, LEAGUE, DISTRICT AND STATE.**
- **SUPPORT AND REWARD PARTICIPANTS, COACHES, SUPPORT GROUPS AND FANS WHO DISPLAY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND ACTIVELY DISCOURAGE UNDESIRABLE CONDUCT.**
- **INCLUDE SPORTSMANSHIP CRITERIA IN THE COACHES' END OF SEASON EVALUATIONS.**
- **PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL FOR EACH CONTEST.**
- **PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SERVICES FOR VISITING TEAMS FOR EACH HOME CONTEST.**
- **SUPPORT COACHES AND PARTICIPANTS - ATTEND EVENTS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.**

SPORTSMANSHIP DEFINITIONS

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS VIEWED BY THE NFHS AND THE IHSAA AS A COMMITMENT TO FAIR PLAY, RESPECT FOR OTHERS AND SELF, ETHICAL BEHAVIOR AND INTEGRITY.

IN PERCEPTION AND PRACTICE, SPORTSMANSHIP IS DEFINED AS THOSE QUALITIES THAT ARE CHARACTERIZED BY GENEROSITY AND GENUINE RESPECT FOR OTHERS.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS USUALLY DEMONSTRATED BY ONE WHO IS FAIR, GENEROUS, A GOOD LOSER, AND A GRACIOUS WINNER.

THE PRACTICE OF PLAYING FAIR, OF TAKING LOSS OR DEFEAT WITHOUT COMPLAINT OR VICTORY WITHOUT GLOATING.

TREATING OPPONENTS WITH RESPECT FAIRNESS, GENEROSITY, COURTESY, ETC.

TREATING OTHERS AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED (GOLDEN RULE).

IDEAS FOR PROMOTING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

- ENCOURAGE COACHES TO DISCUSS THE DEFINITION, MEANING AND MECHANICS OF SPORTSMANSHIP WITH THEIR PLAYERS
- ENCOURAGE COACHES TO RECOGNIZE AND REWARD GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP
- SEND COACHES REMINDERS AND EXAMPLES OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR PLAYERS
- REQUEST COACHES TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION FOR SPORTSMAN/WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
- FEATURE AN ARTICLE ON THE WINNER OF THE SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD IN THE ATHLETIC NEWSLETTER
- PRESENT A PLAQUE TO THE SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR AT THE ATHLETIC AWARD PROGRAM

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM

Suggested Time Table for Athletic Directors

AUGUST

- Discuss the value of sportsmanship with coaches
- Distribute materials for "Schools of Excellence" Program
- Distribute memos to coaches introducing the sportsmanship program (pgs. 6-7)
- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Select a public address announcer and discuss his/her role in the sportsmanship program
- Send a letter to each fall athlete regarding citizenship/sportsmanship expectations (pg. 18)
- Send a letter to parents explaining the citizenship/sportsmanship program (pg. 19)

SEPTEMBER

- Require all coaches to include a section on sportsmanship in their team handbook
- Visit at least one practice for each fall sport
- Distribute Coaches Expectations (pg. 8)
- Distribute Student Athlete Expectations (pg. 9)
- Distribute Spirit Groups (Expectations (pg. 10)
- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Distribute sportsmanship t-shirts to reward positive behavior at athletic events
- Attend as many athletic events as possible

OCTOBER

- Encourage coaches to present a sportsmanship award at their end of the season banquets.
- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Distribute sportsmanship t-shirts to reward positive behavior at athletic events
- Attend as many athletic events as possible

NOVEMBER

- Send a letter to each winter athlete regarding citizenship/sportsmanship expectations (pg. 18)
- Send a letter to parents explaining the citizenship/sportsmanship program (pg. 19)
- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Distribute sportsmanship t-shirts to reward positive behavior at athletic events
- Attend as many athletic events as possible

DECEMBER/JANUARY

- Visit at least one practice for each winter sport
- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Distribute sportsmanship t-shirts to reward positive behavior at athletic events
- Attend as many athletic events as possible

FEBRUARY

- Distribute sportsmanship t-shirts to reward positive behavior at athletic events
- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Encourage coaches to present a sportsmanship award at their end of the season banquets
- Attend as many athletic events as possible

(suggested sportsmanship timetable continued)

MARCH

- Send a letter to each spring athlete regarding citizenship/sportsmanship expectations (pg. 18)
- Send a letter to parents explaining the citizenship/sportsmanship program (pg. 19)
- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Attend as many athletic events as possible

APRIL

- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Accept nominations for Sportsperson of the Year
- Attend as many athletic events as possible

MAY

- Attend as many athletic events as possible
- Distribute a "SPORTSMANSHIP HINT" (pgs. 13-24)
- Encourage coaches to present a sportsmanship award at their end of the season banquets
- Thank coaches for their help in promoting the sportsmanship program.
- Select the Sportsperson of the Year.
- Present Sportsmanship of the Year Award.
- Recognize Sportsperson of the Year in athletic newsletter.

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN SUGGESTED PROMOTIONAL IDEAS AND SAMPLE LETTERS. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE AND/OR MODIFY AS NEEDED

(sample memo - coaches' introduction to manual)

**HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: ALL COACHES
FROM: _____, Athletic Director

SUBJECT: Citizenship Through Sports Manual

The Idaho High School Activities Association is committed to the development and promotion of good citizenship/sportsmanship among our student-participants. The information contained in this Citizenship Through Sports manual is taken from the "Citizenship Through Sports Alliance", which includes all major high school, college and professional sports organizations.

Because of the size of our state and the IHSAA Board's commitment to the promotion of citizenship and sportsmanship, we have a unique opportunity to make a tremendous, positive impact on our student athletes and our communities.

In order for sports to serve a purpose in the educational system, students must obtain positive educational benefits from athletics. These benefits include: responsibility, self-discipline, respect for self and others, teamwork, work ethic, sportsmanship, integrity and personal sacrifice for the good of others.

According to student athletes, the coach is the single most influential person in determining the behavior of participants . Take that responsibility very seriously!!

What you can do:

- Always set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship a top priority.
- Respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by the rules of the event and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect. Shake hands with the officials and opposing coaches in public.
- Develop and enforce penalties for participants who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

(sample memo - coaches' introduction to school sportsmanship program)

**_____ HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: ALL COACHES
FROM: _____, Athletic Director

SUBJECT: Sportsmanship Program

One of the athletic department's goals for this school year is to implement and promote a Sportsmanship Program. We all know that when two schools or programs compete against each other there are really two objectives. One objective is to determine which school or program has the better team, and the other is to determine which school or program has instilled in its student athletes the desirable qualities of good sportsmanship, courtesy and fair play.

As educators and role models we have an obligation to teach and maintain good sportsmanship within our athletic programs. We must not only demonstrate adherence to the standards of good sportsmanship but we must also instill in our student athletes their responsibility to abide by these standards.

Listed below are a few additional things we can do to promote good sportsmanship.

DURING THE SEASON:

- MODEL AND TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP
- ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE SPORTSMANSHIP AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY
- REWARD DISPLAYS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP (T SHIRTS, FREE COUPONS, DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS, ATHLETIC NEWSLETTER, ETC.)

POST SEASON:

- PRESENT A SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD AT EACH ATHLETIC BANQUET
- NOMINATE AN ATHLETE FROM YOUR PROGRAM FOR THE SPORTSMANSHIP OF THE YEAR AWARD
- HIGHLIGHT AN ATHLETE WHO DISPLAYS GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IN AN ARTICLE IN THE ATHLETIC NEWSLETTER

END OF THE YEAR:

- PRESENT A SPORTSMANSHIP OF THE YEAR AWARD AT THE AWARDS PROGRAM
- PRESENT THE RECIPIENT OF THE SPORTSMANSHIP OF THE YEAR AWARD A \$100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM SPORTING GOODS STORE.

Hopefully, the Sportsmanship Program will be another step toward maintaining our quality athletic programs. Thanks in advance for your support of this program and please feel free to submit any recommendations or suggestions to my office.

Thanks once more for your time, effort and commitment to athletics at _____High School.

Athletic Director

(sample memo - expectations for coaches)

**_____ HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: ALL COACHES
FROM: _____, Athletic Director

SUBJECT: Citizenship/Sportsmanship Expectations for Coaches

The following are expected behaviors of coaches at ____ High School and will be part of the criteria your end-of-season evaluations will be based on:

- Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards.
- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Describe and define respectful and disrespectful behavior. Stress that disrespectful behavior, especially taunting, trash talking and intimidation, will not be tolerated.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow please refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing or talking about; no throwing of any objects in disgust. Shake hands with the officials and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public. Demand the same of your players.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote athletics and the student/athlete. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the people at the event.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in public and in meeting/talking with the media. Please confine your remarks to game statistics and to the performance of your team.
- Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the No. 1 priority.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
- Be no party to the use of profanity, obscene language, or improper actions.

(sample memo - expectations for athletes)

_____ **HIGH SCHOOL**
ATHLETIC OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL COACHES
FROM: _____, Athletic Director

SUBJECT: Citizenship/Sportsmanship Expectations for Student Athletes

Coaches: You are responsible for letting your athletes know what is expected of them in terms of Sportsmanship by the coaching staff and the school administration. The following are expectations we support:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the coaching staff and the school administration.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students and elementary students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than yourself can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Refrain from taunting, trashing talking or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
- Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity.
- Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or at the end of a game.

(sample memo - expectations for spirit groups)

_____ **HIGH SCHOOL**
ATHLETIC OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: SPIRIT COACH AND/OR ADVISOR

FROM: _____, Athletic Director

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS FOR SPIRIT GROUPS

Spirit Coaches: You are responsible for letting your students know what the school administration and coaching staff expect of them in terms of Sportsmanship. The following are expectations we support:

- Stimulate the desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs and praise without antagonizing or demeaning the opponents.
- Keep the crowd focused with positive cheers, especially in tense situations.
- Treat opposing cheerleaders, players and fans with respect.
- Respect contest officials and their decisions.
- Recognize outstanding performance on either side of the playing field or court.
- Know the rules and strategies of the contest in order to cheer or play at the proper times.
- Maintain enthusiasm and composure - remembering that they are role models.
- Know and follow the appropriate school/league/state sportsmanship rules at all times

(sample memo - reminders for coaches)

_____ **HIGH SCHOOL**
ATHLETIC OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL COACHES
FROM: _____, Athletic Director

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP/SPORTSMANSHIP REMINDERS

Just a reminder about the role each coach plays in our citizenship/sportsmanship program. Each coach should do the following:

- At the beginning and during each season talk with your student athletes about the importance of good sportsmanship.
- Each week select an athlete on your team that displays good sportsmanship and present him/her a sportsmanship award of your choosing in front of his teammates.
MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT!!!!
- Submit the name of the athlete you've selected to the athletic office.

That's it!!!!

Remember, as educators and role models we have an obligation to teach and maintain good sportsmanship within our athletic programs.

Thanks for your assistance and cooperation.

(sample memo - sportsmanship hints)

_____ **HIGH SCHOOL**
ATHLETIC OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL COACHES
FROM: _____, Athletic Director

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINTS

One element of our sportsmanship program that we will utilize to help promote good sportsmanship will be "SPORTSMANSHIP HINTS". These are short and simple informational messages. As you receive these short messages throughout your season, please take a few minutes to share these thoughts with your athletes.

Thanks for your cooperation and assistance.

(sample sportsmanship hints)

TO: ALL COACHES
FROM: _____, Athletic Director

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #1

What is SPORTSMANSHIP?: It is the practice of playing fair, of taking loss or defeat without complaint or victory without gloating, and treating opponents with respect, fairness, generosity, courtesy, etc.

Thanks for the extra effort!!

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #2

Don't allow your student athletes to taunt other athletes.

What is taunting?:

"Any actions or comments by coaches, players or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates or threatens based on gender, ethnic origin or background, and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs or personal matters."

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #3

Use every practice as an opportunity to demonstrate the characteristics of good citizenship and sportsmanship.

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #4

When spontaneous acts of sportsmanship occur, praise the player at your first opportunity.

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #5

Remind your athletes that they are never to be the first or third person in an altercation. If they unwillingly become the second person in a fight someone pushes them or swings at them they are to walk away.

They should either walk towards an official or towards their bench. Walking away is the difficult choice; it's easier to fight.

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #6

Remind your athletes why honest, spontaneous celebration of achievement is not only allowed, but also welcomed, and why preplanned, showy displays designed to insult the other team are not.

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #7

Make it a team goal to have no technical fouls (in basketball) or unsportsmanlike conduct fouls (in football) or ejections (in softball or soccer) for the entire season.

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #8

Discuss sportsmanship in depth with your captains. They are your representatives with the team, and they need to be in step with you regarding sportsmanship. It's important for them to set an example for their teammates on displaying good sportsmanship.

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #9

Remind your athletes that. . .

**“WINNING IS FOR A DAY.
SPORTSMANSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP ARE FOR A LIFETIME.”**

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #10

Remind your athletes that.....

Sportsmanship is more important than wins or losses, because it reflects very accurately their depth and quality of character.

SUBJECT: SPORTSMANSHIP HINT #11

Coaches, you:

- set the tone for the importance of sportsmanship in your sport's program.
- establish ground rules.
- define acceptable and unacceptable behavior, what a player can do after a score or a sack, and what actions are unsportsmanlike in your judgement.
- set the standard for sportsmanship behavior by what you say and do and by establishing expectations of your athletes.
- are the pivotal, most influential figure in heightening the code of sportsmanship among your athletes.
- have the tools necessary - time with the athletes and the inherent authority of your role to set a high standard of sportsmanship.

SPORTSMANSHIP SELF-EVALUATION FOR COACHES

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SPORT / LEVEL: _____ / _____

Please complete the following evaluation and submit to the Athletic Director.

A. Please rate yourself in the following areas:

1 needs improvement

4 very good

2 fair

5 excellent

3 good

- | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Encourage players to play within the spirit of the rules | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. | Encourage players to respect officials | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. | Encourage players to treat opposing teams with respect | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. | Encourage players to react properly to spectators | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. | Encourage players to handle winning and losing in an appropriate manner | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. | Supervise players in a manner that helps to prevent sportsmanship problems | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. | Set a proper example for players concerning sportsmanship | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

B. 1. The thing that I did this year for my team that most promoted sportsmanship was...

2. The area of sportsmanship that I could most improve in as a coach is...

3. The biggest problem that we had this year with sportsmanship was...
(include your opinion - was this preventable?)

4. Coaches' comments

SAMPLE P. A. ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO _____HIGH SCHOOL.

TONIGHT'S EVENT WILL FEATURE THE _____(mascot)_____OF

_____HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUR _____(mascot)_____.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SPORTSMANSHIP IS A TOP PRIORITY OF OUR SCHOOLS AND THE IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION. YOUR PAID OR COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION TO THIS EVENT ENTITLES YOU TO ENJOY AND EXHIBITION OF SKILLS DEVELOPED BY OUR STUDENTS IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING. PLEASE GIVE THE PARTICIPATING ATHLETES YOUR POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT. YOUR EFFORT TO APPLAUD THE TALENTS OF ALL PLAYERS WILL BE APPRECIATED. BOOING, TAUNTING OR INTIMATING THE OFFICIALS AND OPPONENTS IS UNFRIENDLY AND UNACCEPTABLE.

PLEASE BE AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE AROUND YOU!

WELCOME TO TODAY'S CONTEST BETWEEN _____(mascot)_____OF

_____HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUR _____(school & mascot)_____.

AS MEMBER SCHOOLS OF THE IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION, WE REMIND YOU THAT SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE A TOP PRIORITY! YOUR COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE VALUES OF RESPECT AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP IS APPRECIATED.

PLEASE BE AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE AROUND YOU!

(Sample letter to student athlete)

August 23, 2010

Dear Sally Smith:

On behalf of _____ High School's Athletic Department, I would like to congratulate you on your recent selection to the _____ High School volleyball team. I'm sure you already know that athletic competition builds character and shapes lifetime attitudes. Our school Sportsmanship Program reinforces and promotes the principles of good sportsmanship, which are integrity, fairness, and respect.

As an athlete at _____ High School, your sportsmanship goals should include:

- Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances;
- Respecting the rules of the game the officials who administer the rules, and their decisions;
- Respecting opponents as fellow students; and acknowledging them from striving to do their best while you seek your best at the same time;
- Refraining from engaging in all types of disrespect behavior, specifically taunting, trash talk and other forms of intimidation
- Looking at athletic participation as a potentially beneficial learning experience, whether you win or lose;
- Educating other students and fans to understand the rules of the game, and the value of sportsmanship.

You are the spokesperson for our school when you represent us in athletic competition. Your actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing fans, the local community and media. Your display of good sportsmanship will show the most positive things about you and our school.

We hope the upcoming season is a rewarding one for you.

Athletic Director

(Sample letter to parents of student athlete)

August 23, 2010

Mr & Mrs. John Doe
3800 Eastern Ave.
Caldwell, ID 83605

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Doe:

On behalf of _____ High School's Athletic Department, I would like to congratulate you on your daughter's recent selection to the volleyball team.

I'm sure you already know that athletic competition builds character and shapes lifetime attitudes. Our school's sportsmanship program promotes and reinforces the principles of good sportsmanship, which are integrity, ethical behavior, fairness, and respect.

A good sport, whether a student or a parent, is a true leader in the community. As a parent of a student at our school, your sportsmanship goals should include:

- Realizing that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game.
- Encouraging our students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their class work, knowing that others will always turn in better or lesser performances.
- Participating in positive cheers that encouraging our youngsters, and discouraging any cheers that would redirect that focus including those that taunt and intimidate opponents, their fans and officials.
- Learning, understanding and respecting the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions;
- Respecting the task our coaches face as teachers, and supporting them as they strive to educate our youth.
- Respecting our opponents as student athletes, and acknowledging them for striving to do their best.

Develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances. **Be a fan not a fanatic!** The leadership role you take in sportsmanship will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support.

Athletic Director

(Sample letter to parent of student athlete receiving an award)

October 1, 2010

Mr & Mrs. John Doe
3800 Eastern Ave.
Caldwell, ID 83605

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Doe:

Recently, Sally was chosen by her coach to receive a "GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP" award. She was chosen not only for displaying good sportsmanship but also for exercising self-control and consistently acting in a fair and courteous manner.

In addition to being recognized in front of her teammates, Sally will be acknowledged in the school's Athletic Newsletter.

Congratulations to you and your daughter.

Sincerely,

Athletic Director

SPORTSMANSHIP “GOLDEN RULES” FOR HOSTING AN ATHLETIC CONTEST

When hosting an athletic contest the home team should:

- Provide an environment that is free of safety hazards.
- Provide appropriate number of supervisory personnel for the activity.
- Develop a plan of action to address inappropriate behavior at interscholastic contests. This procedure should be discussed and explained to all involved.
- Make contact with the visiting school's administrator and/or coaching staff.
- Meet and accompany visiting schools and officials to their locker rooms.
- Assure that visiting team and officials' locker rooms are secure.
- Escort officials and visiting team from playing area to their locker rooms at the completion of the contest.
- Provide the same services that are available to the home team to the visiting team, such as trainer, filming area, access to press box, whiteboards, etc.
- Provide beverages and food to officials prior to, during and after contests whenever possible.
- Display only signs that welcome opponents or that are positive toward your own school/team. No signs should be displayed that are derogatory.
- Allow only positive cheers that boost their own team/spirit without antagonizing the opponents or the officials.
- Establish a designated area for cheerleaders to stand that causes the least distraction to players. At no time should cheerleaders be stationed directly underneath the basket.
- Provide students & fans from the visiting school adequate seating and cheering areas.
- Monitor the music played by bands, performance groups or over the PA system to ensure that it is appropriate and is played at the proper time during the athletic contest.
- Have the public address announcer read a prepared citizenship/sportsmanship message prior to each contest.
- Assure that the announcer acts in a professional manner absent of emotional favoritism and editorial comment.
- Remain at the site upon completion of contest to assure that all needs and concerns are met.

SPORTSMANSHIP RULES IHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

FACE PAINTING Full and/or half face painting is not permitted. Partial face painting is permitted, such as small markings on cheeks, nose, and forehead.

POSTERS/BANNERS All signs must show only positive support for your team. Those that direct negative comments toward opponents, or are unsportsmanlike, are not permitted.

ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS Artificial noisemakers are not permitted. These include items such as megaphones, air horns, bells, whistles, thunder sticks and clickers. Exception: Cheerleaders (only) may use megaphones at outdoor football games.

BALLOONS Balloons are not permitted at any IHSAA play-in or state championship event.

BEHAVIOR The following behaviors are not permitted:

- ✓ Entering the playing area before, during or after a contest.
- ✓ Throwing objects onto the playing area before, during or after a contest.
- ✓ Verbal harassment or derogatory remarks directed towards any player, coach, opponent or official.

ATTIRE Bare chests are not permitted. Shirts must be worn