

IHSAA

SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL



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IHSAA Mission Statement

The mission of the Idaho High School Activities Association is to coordinate, supervise, and direct interscholastic activities, which enhance and protect the total educational process of all student participants.



IHSAA Sportsmanship Philosophy

The ideals of sportsmanship permeate virtually every aspect of our culture, and the ethics of fair play may be witnessed in all facets of life. However, the origins of sportsmanship have been firmly established in sports as a training ground for good citizenship and high behavioral standards.

The Idaho High School Activities Association, through its member schools, defines sportsmanship as those qualities of behavior that are characterized by generosity, respect and genuine concern for others. Further, an awareness of the impact of one's influence on others' behavior is an important aspect of sportsmanship.

The responsibility for developing sportsmanship rests with many different people. The complexity of this subject, in implementation, extends far beyond the boundaries of our definition. The IHSAA is philosophically and practically committed to the attainment and maintenance of all behavior guidelines addressed in this Manual. These modes of behavior explicitly define what is expected. Compliance is imperative in order to accomplish the real purpose: imparting the value of the other components of education.



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Serving Idaho's Youth Since 1926

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2024-2025 IHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE

District I	Josh Hegstad	Timberlake HS
District II	Katie Ball	Potlatch HS
District III	Dan Lunt	Rocky Mountain HS
District IV	Richard Whitelaw	SV Community School
District V	Hallie Erickson	Century HS
District VI	Zairrick Wadsworth	Skyline HS
Student Council	Owen Tiegs	Moscow HS
Student Council	Kymerli Jensen	North Gem HS
Parent Rep.	Kelli Knowles	Vallivue HS
Parent Rep.	Zach Kelsey	Murtaugh/Kimberly HS
Officials Rep.	Randy Winn	Burley HS

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Gain an Understanding and Appreciation for the Rules

Know the rules. The spirit of good sportsmanship depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of the rule.

Exercise Representative Behavior

The true value of interscholastic competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior that is representative of a sound value base. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.

Recognize and Appreciate Skilled Performance, Regardless of Affiliation

Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should regularly be practiced. This not only represents good sportsmanship but also reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.

Display Respect for Officials

The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. The rule of good sportsmanship is to accept and abide by the decision made. This value is critical for students to learn for later application in life.

Display Respect for Your Opponent

Opponents are guests and should be treated cordially, provided with the best accommodations and accorded respect at all times. Be a positive representative of your school, team or family. This fundamental is the Golden Rule in action.

Display Pride in Your Actions

Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment or your responsibility as a school representative. Regardless of whether you are an adult, student, player, coach, or official, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

SPORTSMANSHIP

**RESPECT – INTEGRITY – HONESTY – TEAMWORK LEADERSHIP -
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

GUIDELINES FOR SUPERVISION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC EVENTS

Administrator Responsibilities - Host and Visiting School

1. Administrators of both schools are responsible for the general organization, management and supervision of students and adult fans before, during and following each event, with the home school assuming the major role.
2. Communicate prior to date of contest concerning physical aspects of the facility including parking, entrances/exits, seating sections, etc.
3. Game administrators and/or supervisors from both schools should meet prior to the contest. They should introduce themselves to the officials prior to the contest and let them know where they will be located during the game.
4. Faculty supervisors or adults delegated by the school administrators should carry visible identification.
5. Ensure that spectators are not permitted to assemble around the edge of the field or court before or immediately after a contest.

Specific Responsibilities of the Host School

1. Arrange for the presence of law enforcement officials inside and outside the contest area. Include instructions for directing traffic at the conclusion of the contest.
2. Set aside reserved parking locations for game officials and notify them of that location prior to their departure for the game site.
3. Provide adult personnel to escort officials to and from their dressing facilities and the court and halftime and following the conclusion of the game and to their cars.
4. Provide private dressing quarters for officials. No one should be admitted including personnel from the host school.
5. Report any unusual incidents or developments to the District Board of Control and the IHSAA immediately.
6. Video Board/PA Announcements/Music playing during live ball situations (NFHS rule) is prohibited.

Specific Responsibilities of the Visiting School

1. An administrator and/or designated adult must be present at each "away" contest to supervise their own students and adult fans.
2. Provide supervision prior to the arrival of your spectators and also until all groups have dispersed after the contest.
3. Inform all bus drivers and delegated drivers of any special parking locations. Inform team and student of proper entrances and exits, seating areas, etc.
4. Report any unusual incidents to the host school administration ASAP.

PERSONNEL GUIDELINES & RESPONSIBILITIES

School Administration

The primary school administrator (Principal) is responsible for the behavior and conduct of coaches, players, cheerleaders, students, and adult fans.

Responsibilities:

1. Prepare a statement of philosophy that includes the objectives and rules with which each group involved is expected to comply.
2. Outline standards of sportsmanship reflecting the Board's policies and objectives, and IHSAA directives. Include behavioral criteria for all school personnel, student groups and spectators.
3. Educate parents, players, students, and fans as to the appropriate and expected behavior.
4. Provide adequate game supervision. Make faculty aware that problems and potential problems must be reported and dealt with immediately.
5. Ensure that adult supervisors know what their responsibilities are and what is expected of them. Review school and IHSAA policy with them. At state events, review contents of the tournament manual.
6. Establish and maintain a working relationship with the media and encourage their support of your efforts towards good sportsmanship.



Athletic/Activities Director

Responsibilities:

1. Provide sufficient staff and security supervision for spectator control. Use competent public address announcers, scorers, etc. who will promote the fundamentals of sportsmanship and who will not encourage undesirable spectator reactions.
2. Work closely with the cheerleaders and their coach in developing techniques of crowd management. Encourage and enlist the support of student groups in the development of positive behavior.
3. Make certain that all support groups including cheerleaders; pep bands, drill teams, and fans conduct themselves in accordance with the sportsmanship standards established by your school and/or league.
4. Assign a responsible adult to greet and escort visiting teams and officials to their dressing rooms.
5. Assign faculty members to oversee conduct of fans, cheerleaders, pep squads, bands, etc., for both home and away games.
6. Identify potential troublemakers (student or adult) and closely monitor their behavior.

Preventative Measures:

1. Meet regularly with staff to inform them of game management procedures and reinforce the ideals of good sportsmanship. Keep administrators informed of any problems that occur.
2. Maintain control over student groups involved in activities/athletics and encourage growth in sportsmanship.
3. Be at the game site (home or away) in advance of everyone's arrival.
4. Have regular, informal sessions with the local media and elicit their participation and assistance in the program.
5. Establish contact with the opponent's athletic director in advance of each contest to offer assistance with arrangements and equipment.
6. Arrange security escorts for officials. Provide secure quarters for officials and visiting teams, and extend every courtesy to make them enjoy their visit to your school.

IHSAA Coaches Code of Ethics

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. Interscholastic programs should be designed to promote citizenship and enhance the academic mission of the school.

The Coach Will

- Be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- Uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. The coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. The coach/school will honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.
- Master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- Demonstrate respect and support for officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct, which would incite players or spectators against the officials. The coach will not make statements concerning officials' decisions after a game.
- Work with school faculty to promote overall educational growth of the student. The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration.
- Honor the commitment to student-based programs that supplement the educational growth of each student-athlete.
- Be professional in association with other coaches. The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.
- Exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship of all extracurricular activities.
- Cooperate with different media sources in an appropriate manner that promotes all aspects of the sport, school and community. Public criticism of officials, opponents or players is unethical.
- Uphold all policies and procedures of the school, district, IHSAA and the National Federation.

Coaches

Responsibilities:

1. Demonstrate good sportsmanship and ethical behavior at all times.
2. Encourage respect for all activities and their values.
3. Help promote sportsmanlike crowd behavior during contests.
4. Refrain from using any profanity or abusive actions.
5. Refrain from making negative remarks to the news media.
6. Have and show respect for the opponents.
7. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
8. Be responsible for the conduct of his/her players.
9. Educate the student-athletes as to the rules and regulations of the game.
10. Establish sound training rules and expect players to follow them.
11. Develop leadership, initiative and good judgment among players.
12. Inform team of their responsibilities as contained in this document.

Preventative Measures:

BEFORE EVENT

1. Maintain an "open communication" network between coach, team, officials, and parents.
 - a. Invite officials to a practice session to review and discuss rule changes and interpretations with team and coaches.
 - b. Hold parent information meetings to promote understanding of their role in the development of sportsmanship.
2. Ensure that each athlete is aware of his/her responsibility as a very visible representative of the school.

DURING

1. Maintain proper bench control and demand appropriate sportsmanlike behavior from assistant coaches, bench personnel and team members.
2. Assist in maintaining good crowd behavior by demonstrating positive actions and mannerisms on the court or field.

AFTER

1. Avoid directing frustration over the outcome of the contest to officials, players or spectators. Refrain from making negative remarks to the media. If a problem arises, use the IHSAA as the investigative body.
2. Acknowledge and inform the IHSAA when outstanding examples of officiating or sportsmanship are observed.
3. Avoid post-game "meetings" of officials and coaches.

Players

Responsibilities:

1. Accept and take seriously your responsibility as a player and role model and also recognize your privilege of representing your school and community. Practice good sportsmanship at all times - on or off the playing field or court.
2. Cooperate with your coaches and follow school and team rules of conduct as outlined in your student and athletic handbooks.

Preventative Measures:

BEFORE

1. Shake hands with opponents and express your best wishes for success.
2. Exhibit a positive and enthusiastic attitude about the contest.

DURING

1. Assist players who are down in getting to their feet.
2. Shake hands after an aggressive exchange.
3. Never gesture to officials, players, coaches or fans in a negative manner.
4. Never disagree openly with an official or coach's decision. Carry on ethically and maturely.
5. Shake the opponent's hand if he/she fouls out, or extend congratulations when he/she is leaving the contest.

AFTER

1. Extend a congratulatory handshake to your opponent immediately at the game's conclusion.
2. Never debate something that occurred during the game with anyone, as it is in the past.
3. Be objective when communicating to the media about the contest.
4. Show concern for injured opponents and teammates.
5. Promote sportsmanship and your athletic experience positively whenever and wherever the opportunity arises.

Cheerleaders

Responsibilities:

1. Serve as a support group for interscholastic activities.
2. Strive to boost school spirit, promote good sportsmanship and develop positive crowd involvement at all athletic contests.
3. Assist in the administration of the athletic contest.

WHEN TO CHEER AND APPLAUD

1. As your team comes onto the playing floor/field.
2. As your team is introduced.
3. When a player (yours or opponent) makes an exceptionally fine play.
4. When a substitution is made on your team. Cheer both the outgoing player and incoming player.
5. As encouragement and tribute to an injured player of either team.
6. When an opponent who has played spectacularly leaves the game.
7. As encouragement to own team whether on offense or defense.

WHEN NOT TO CHEER

1. When an opposing player makes a mistake or the opposing team is being penalized.
2. When an opposing player is injured.
3. If the opposing rooting section has already started a cheer or the opposing school band is playing. (A pre-game conference between cheer teams can help to avoid conflict with each other's effort.)
4. As announcements are being made over the public address system.

INAPPROPRIATE CROWD BEHAVIOR

Every attempt should be made to correct the following unsportsmanlike behaviors:

1. Displaying banners/posters/video board messages that are directed toward opponents are negative, vulgar or display poor sportsmanship.
2. Throwing objects onto the playing area; creating distractions during introductions of opponents or during free throws.
3. Derogatory/harassing remarks that are directed towards an opponent or official. Such language includes taunting, baiting, trash talking, booing, chanting phrases such as "Air Ball" or "You! You! You!".
4. Pep bands playing during live ball situations (NFHS rule) or when opposing band is already playing. Bands & cheerleaders should coordinate their efforts.

Parents

The role of the parent in the education of a student-athlete is vital. Fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics and activities. These are the principles of good sportsmanship and character.

As a parent of a student-athlete(s), you are a role model and teacher of behavior, your goals should include:

- ✓ Realize that athletics are part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game
- ✓ Encourage students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their classwork
- ✓ Participate in positive cheers that encourage our student-athletes; and discourage any cheers that would redirect that focus – including those that taunt and intimidate opponents, their fans and officials
- ✓ Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game, the officials who administer them and their decisions
- ✓ Respect the tasks our coaches face as teachers and support them as they strive to educate our youth
- ✓ Respect our opponents as student-athletes, and acknowledge them for striving to do their best
- ✓ Develop a sense of dignity and civility under all circumstances.

Parents can have a major influence on students' attitudes about academics and athletics. The leadership role parents take will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come.

We look forward to a strong and supportive partnership that encourages fair play and sportsmanship at all times.



IHSAA STATE TOURNAMENT SPORTSMANSHIP RULES

The following sportsmanship rules will be in effect at all IHSAA state tournament events:

1. Face Painting

- Full or half face painting is not permitted
- Partial face painting is permitted such as small markings on the cheeks, nose, or forehead

2. Posters/Banners/Signs/Video Boards

- All signs must show positive support
- Those that direct negative comments towards opponents or are unsportsmanlike or vulgar are not permitted.

3. Artificial Noisemakers

- Artificial noisemakers shall not be used
- Artificial noisemakers are items such as (but not limited to) megaphones, air horns, bells, whistles, clickers
- Exception: Cheerleaders may use megaphones at football games

4. Balloons

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

5. Attire

- Bare chests are not permitted - Shirts must be worn

6. Inappropriate Behaviors - The following are not permitted:

- Throwing objects onto the playing area before, during, or after a contest.
- Entering the playing area before, during, or after a contest.
- Verbal harassment or derogatory remarks directed toward an opponent or official.



SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

A sportsmanship award is presented at state tournaments in boys and girls soccer, volleyball, and boys and girls basketball to the school in each classification that exhibits the best sportsmanship. Schools are judged before, during and after games throughout the tournament on the following criteria:

Team and Coach

1. Respect for the flag national anthem, opponents and officials.
2. Attitude displayed by players, coaches and bench personnel.

Administrators

1. Appropriate and effective supervision of students.

Cheerleaders

1. Respect for the flag, national anthem, opponents, and officials.
2. Choice and timing of cheers and chants; crowd control.
3. Courtesy towards opponents and officials.
4. Avoidance of unsportsmanlike behavior (listed below).
5. Following IHSAA State Tournament Sportsmanship Rules.

Cheering Sections (students, pep bands, **and** adult fans)

1. Respect for the flag, national anthem, opponents, and officials.
2. Courtesy toward opponents and tournament management.
3. Avoidance of inappropriate behavior. (listed below)
4. Following IHSAA State Tournament Sportsmanship Rules.

Inappropriate Behavior (also see State Sportsmanship Rules)

1. Displaying signs that are directed toward opponents, negative, vulgar, or display poor sportsmanship.
2. Throwing objects onto the playing area; creating distractions during introductions of opponents or during free throws.
3. Derogatory/harassing remarks that are directed towards opponents or officials.
4. Pep bands starting a song when opposing band is already playing, or disregarding the "alternating play" etiquette rule.

SCHOOL BOOSTERS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

At all first-round games of the state soccer, volleyball and basketball tournaments, sportsmanship t-shirts are presented to an adult booster of each school who has consistently exhibited exemplary sportsmanship throughout the season.

"SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE" INITIATIVE

Academics - Athletics - Activities - Citizenship

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Idaho High School Activities Association is pleased to continue the "Schools of Excellence" Initiative, whereby schools earn points based on their varsity teams' achievements in the classroom, at the competitive venue, and in the area of citizenship/sportsmanship. Participation is voluntary, and the school in each classification with the best overall program is honored with a special award at the end of the year. The three major areas of high school participation - academics, athletics/activities, and sportsmanship/citizenship - are weighted equally. *Deductions are made by the IHSAA for any player and/or coach unsportsmanlike ejections during the year and also for unsportsmanlike school behavior at state championship events.*

Academic Component

Points are compiled by the IHSAA, based on cumulative team GPAs as submitted on the *Academic State Champions Application* or *Academic Report – Non Athletic Activities Form* by the due date for each season. 100 pts. maximum value per sport/activity program:

1. Highest GPA in classification	100
2. Second highest GPA in classification	95
4. Team GPA 3.50 – 4.00	90
5. Team GPA 3.00 – 3.49	85
6. Team GPA 2.50 – 2.99	80
7. Team GPA under 2.50	75

Athletics/Activities Component

Points are compiled by the IHSAA, based on place of finish at sixteen IHSAA-sponsored state championship events, as well as state speech arts events, state cheer and dance events, state music competition, and state baseball. 100 pts. Maximum value per tournament:

1. State championship - 1 st place team	100
2. State championship - 2 nd place team	95
3. State championship - 3 rd place team	90
4. State championship - 4 th place team	85
5. Qualifying for state tournament (team sports)	75
6. Places 5 through 8 (individual sports)	75

Citizenship Component

Schools monitor their sportsmanship/citizenship activities throughout the year and submit the enclosed *School Self-Assessment Form* to the IHSAA in May. Points are based on self-evaluation of seven separate areas. Deductions are made by the IHSAA for all player and/or coach unsportsmanlike ejections during the year and also for unsportsmanlike school behavior at state championship events.

Citizenship Component Values: One-third of overall score (point values TBD)

5A/4A Scoring

Points accumulated for both Academic and Athletics/Activities will be totaled and combined with points from the Citizenship Component (minus points for coach/player ejections) to determine winners.

3A/2A/1ADI/1ADII Scoring

Total points accumulated for both Academic and Athletics/Activities will be converted to a percentage using the number of sports/activities offered by each school. There will be a minimum for each classification based on the average number of offerings by classification. Schools will be responsible for submitting a **Schools of Excellence Overview form**, listing the sports/activities offered. The score from the Citizenship Component (minus points for coach/player ejections) will then be added to determine winners.