

# **Sportsmanship**

**HIGH STANDARDS OF COURTESY, FAIR  
PLAY AND SPORTSMANSHIP MUST  
PREVAIL AT ALL REGULAR MEMBER  
SCHOOL COMPETITIONS AND ALL  
INVOLVED MUST ALWAYS PURSUE  
VICTORY WITH HONOR.**

It is essential that all member schools have sportsmanship standards and programs in place.

- *As a minimum, the RIIL Principal's Committee on Athletics expects member schools and leagues to have clearly defined and articulated standards of sportsmanship which are enforced at all levels of play. The standards should align with the standards which follow. The standards should be published in the student athlete/parent handbook and in other documents and publications provided by the school. Expectations for spectators should be posted at each contest site and announced when appropriate.*

# The Objective of the Good Sportsmanship:

- Encourage all coaches, players and spectators to exhibit good sportsmanship
- Develop a set of standards identifying what good sportsmanship is
- Identify who is responsible for promoting good sportsmanship
- Identify ways to enforce good sportsmanship

# Standards of Conduct:

- The RIIL acknowledges that the school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the making of broad and specific policies relating to sportsmanship and the conduct of activities in the school.

# Unsportsmanlike Behavior

- Striking (e.g., kicking, hitting, throwing objects at) or other acts of violence, attempted acts of violence or attempts to incite violence;
- Obscene, profane, demeaning or unduly provocative language, gestures or actions directed towards an opposing team, institution, contest official, staff member or spectator;
- Public criticism of or publicly disparaging statements about an opposing team, institution, contest official, staff member, or spectator;
- Failure to immediately leave the playing area when ejected from a contest;
- All other actions, as determined by the School Administration in violation the principles and standards of sportsmanship

# Ways to enforce good sportsmanship:

- The management and conduct of games is the responsibility of the home school
- All ancillary support groups subject to institutional control (e.g., spirit squads, bands, mascots) shall conform to the principles and standards of sportsmanship.
- Institutions are responsible for the conduct of spectators at games they are hosting. Spectators whose conduct is abusive to officials, participants or spectators, or that violates reasonable social standards of conduct, should be removed from the game.
- Spectators should not be permitted on the court or the field of play until the visiting team and officials have made safe transition to the locker room.

# Administration must

- Create a Code of Conduct to be reviewed and signed by all parents, coaches, and athletes.
- Principals should present and discuss this at all seasonal sport meetings (if possible, include the Superintendent)
- Principal and AD meet with all coaches prior to each season to reinforce the need to exhibit good sportsmanship – to players, officials, and fans.
- Prior to games make in-school and at each game an announcement regarding good sportsmanship and hold all accountable.

# Game Management is critical:

- The school Principal/AD must select those responsible for supervising games:
  - Announcer, Security, ticket personnel, etc. and assign duties and responsibilities
  - Prior to each season the AD and or Administration meet with all those who will be working at the games. Tailor responsibilities to the types of events (indoor/outdoor)
  - The RIIL will organize a workshop for any school staff assigned to work at games.
    - How to seat fans, what to look for before, during, and after games, what to do with an uncooperative fan, etc....
- Assigning school administration to games is very important!!! Administration will support game supervisors and be able to witness those exhibiting inappropriate behavior (fan, coach, player), and escort or appropriately remove any spectator who refuses to comply.



# Additional suggestions:

- As a result of unsportsmanlike behavior -schedule games at 4:00pm.  
And explain why the school this is necessary
- Eliminate fans from a game
- Penalize - suspend players, and or coaches for inappropriate unsportsmanlike behavior during a game as determined by the AD or Administration.
- Organize groups of students(fans) and coach them on appropriate behavior.
- Officials
  - Encourage all participants (players, coaches, and fans) to respect game officials. Disrespectful behavior towards game officials will not be tolerated.
  - At the end of each game have players and coaches thank officials.

# **RIIL SPOSTSMANSHIP CAMPAIGN**

## **#Face of Sportsmanship**

- Love it or Loathe it, social media is here to stay, and the RIIL is planning to make the best possible use of it by relying on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat to communicate the importance of practicing good sportsmanship to thousands of followers every week.
- In addition, the RIIL will be working closely with School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Coaches and Players to develop and implement a set of standards identifying what good sportsmanship is and ways to enforce good sportsmanship throughout the year in all sports.
- The RIIL, the Principals' Committee on Athletics and all member schools are committed to promoting and enforcing good sportsmanship in all sports.