

# EPC18 Sportsmanship Policy

## Introduction

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others.

Further, an awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity.

### Coaches:

- ❖ Always set a good example for participants and fans to follow.
- ❖ Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities.
- ❖ Respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by the rules of the events, and display no behavior that could incite the fans.
- ❖ Treat opposing coaches, participants, and fans with respect. Shake hands in public.
- ❖ Develop and enforce penalties for participants who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
- ❖ In relations with the media, be positive in comments made about opponents, officials, and other league schools (Cf Art. 8, Sect 2 League Constitution)
- ❖ The League does not condone recruitment for athletic purposes. Obvious, intentional athletic recruiting by a League member shall constitute a violation of sportsmanship.
- ❖ League schools will not supply videotapes of other member schools to non-members.
- ❖ Should use good judgment to avoid the impression of "running up the score" or otherwise embarrass the other team.

### School Administrators:

- ❖ Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship with the school.
- ❖ Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- ❖ Recognize exemplary behavior and discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
- ❖ Attend events whenever possible.

### Officials:

- ❖ Accept role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over officiating are not acceptable.
- ❖ Maintain confidence and poise, controlling contest from start to finish.
- ❖ Know rules thoroughly and abide by established code of Ethics.
- ❖ Publicly shake hands with coaches before the contest.
- ❖ Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.

### Student Participants:

- ❖ Treat opponents with respect; shake hands prior to and after contests as indicated by the sport's protocol.
- ❖ Respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by the rules of the contest, and display no behavior that could incite the fans.
- ❖ Cooperate with officials, coaches, and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
- ❖ Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing school and community.

### **Spirit Groups:**

- ❖ Lead desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs, and praise without demeaning or antagonizing opponents.
- ❖ Treat opposing spirit groups and fans with courtesy and respect.
- ❖ Know rules and strategies of the contest in order to cheer at proper times.
- ❖ Recognize outstanding play of both teams.
- ❖ Maintain enthusiasm and composure, serving as a role model of positive behavior.

### **Parents/Other Fans:**

- ❖ Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others.
- ❖ Respect decisions made by the officials.
- ❖ Be a role model by supporting teams in a positive manner, including the content of cheers.
- ❖ Respect other fans, coaches, and participants.
- ❖ Be a fan, not a fanatic.

### **Violations of the Sportsmanship Policy**

The principals of the involved schools should confer to resolve the issue in a professional manner within ten school days. (Art. XI Sect. 1) Should the issue not be resolved to their satisfaction, the aggrieved principal may write the President. (Art. XI Sect 2).

The Board of Principals of the EPC, excluding the involved schools, after review by the executive committee, at its discretion, may depending on the circumstances:

- ❖ issue a letter of Censure/Probation
- ❖ place a coach on probation
- ❖ issue a suspension for a determined number of contests
- ❖ suspend a coach for up to one season of play
- ❖ expel the school from the EPC