

# **NDHSAA Sportsmanship Challenge**

## **Sportsmanship – A Challenge for Us All**

The NDHSAA's vision for sportsmanship is built on expectations. It calls on the school community — teachers, coaches, students, parents, and directors of music, speech, debate and drama — to strive for sportsmanship in everything they do by teaching the values of dignity, equity, fairness and respect. USBank, a premiere partner of NDHSAA, is a sponsor of the Sportsmanship Program.

The NDHSAA Sportsmanship Challenge Program is the plan that drives the association's vision for sportsmanship. The program, challenges member schools to develop a year-round sportsmanship program and submit verification to the NDHSAA. The sportsmanship plan must include school policy, codes of conduct, preseason meeting for parents, promotional strategies, and a method to evaluate the effectiveness of the sportsmanship program. Each school having an approved sportsmanship program will receive a NDHSAA Sportsmanship Challenge banner.

Another component of the Sportsmanship Program calls on the NDHSAA to provide sportsmanship banners to schools that display good sportsmanship while competing in a NDHSAA-sponsored state tournament. To earn this banner, students, coaches, cheerleaders, bands, and players must honor the school's code of conduct. This sportsmanship banner program is offered in all of our bracketed team tournaments having tournaments that are two or more days long (soccer, volleyball, football [quarterfinals and beyond], tennis, basketball, hockey, wrestling, baseball). The sportsmanship banners are presented to school officials at the tournament(s).

Beginning with the 2004-05 school year, every member school of the NDHSAA will be required to participate in the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program to be eligible to earn a state tournament sportsmanship banner. This change will: 1) help fulfill the goal of the Sportsmanship Program which is for every member school to implement a sportsmanship program in their community; 2) enhance the NDHSAA's ability to promote sportsmanship at every level of competition; and 3) give credibility to our overall effort to elevate sportsmanship standards.

This manual is designed to help you develop a sportsmanship program that complies with the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program criteria. It's loaded with ideas and easy-to-grasp tips you can use in your efforts to stress sportsmanship in your school community. This manual will be updated periodically with new ideas for promoting sportsmanship.

## **NDHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL**

### **Sportsmanship is everybody's responsibility**

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## **NDHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM CRITERIA**

Beginning with the 2004-05 school year, every member school of the NDHSAA will be required to participate in the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program to be eligible to earn a state tournament sportsmanship banner (soccer, volleyball, football [quarterfinals and beyond], basketball, hockey, wrestling, baseball). To participate in the program, schools must develop a year-long sportsmanship program that includes:

- codes of conduct for coaches, students and fans
- strategies for promoting the sportsmanship program
- method(s) to evaluate the effectiveness of the sportsmanship program
- endorsement by boards of education (resolution or statement of beliefs)
- preseason meeting for parents

Schools are required to verify the development of their sportsmanship plan to the association in exchange for a NDHSAA sportsmanship banner.

This rule will go into effect September 2004 for all fall, winter and spring tournaments. Following are ideas and tips you can use to develop your school's sportsmanship plan.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF  
NDHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM  
RECOMMENDED TIMETABLE  
(September 15, 2004 and January 15, 2005)**

- Aug./Sept.**
- \* Discuss the value of sportsmanship with **fall** coaches and athletes.
  - \* Create a committee consisting of school administrators, coaches, student council member, athletes, parents, etc., to discuss and monitor the sportsmanship effort in your school.
  - \* Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of **fall** sports teams using school team members, coaches and local officials to emphasize the rule interpretations and changes for the coming season.
  - \* Talk with your event security staff and public address announcers about their role during contests.
  - \* Distribute brochures and display posters promoting sportsmanship.
  - \* Hang NDHSAA sportsmanship banner received from NDHSAA office.
  - \* Send news release to media announcing school's involvement in NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program.
  - \* Include sportsmanship message/logo in printed materials produced at school.
  - \* Send public service announcements to local radio stations.
  - \* Discuss the possibility of an NDHSAA summit addressing sportsmanship.
  - \* Submit verification of sportsmanship plan by September 15, 2004 to be eligible for tournament banners beginning with fall activities.
- Oct./Nov.**
- \* As **fall** contests approach, emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements and publications.
  - \* Discuss the value of sportsmanship with **winter** coaches and athletes.
  - \* Develop an editorial on sportsmanship for the school newsletter/newspaper.
  - \* Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of **winter** sports teams using school team members, coaches, and local officials to emphasize rule interpretations and changes for the coming season.

- Dec./Jan.**
- \* Send out **winter** public service announcement to local radio stations.
  - \* **Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for FALL sports.**
  - \* Schools not previously certified submit verification of sportsmanship plan by January 15, 2005 to be eligible for tournament banners the remainder of that school year.
- Feb./March**
- \* Emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements and publications.
  - \* Contact an editor of a local newspaper or host of a local radio or television talk show about an editorial or special program on sportsmanship.
  - \* Discuss the value of sportsmanship with **spring** coaches and athletes.
  - \* Sponsor an evening assembly for fans of spring sports teams using school team members, coaches and local officials to emphasize rule changes for the coming season.
  - \* **Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for WINTER sports.**
- April/May**
- \* Send our **spring** public service announcements to local radio stations.
  - \* Present your sportsmanship evaluation program to community through letters and newsletters that will reach into the home.
  - \* As **spring** contests approach, emphasize good sportsmanship in school announcements and publications.
  - \* **Evaluate sportsmanship efforts for SPRING sports.**
  - \* Conduct a follow-up sportsmanship meeting to evaluate your efforts and to set goals for the coming year.

## **(NDSBA) SAMPLE SPORTSMANSHIP REGULATIONS**

Good sportsmanship is a primary goal of athletic programs in the (Name of school district). Both adults and students are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship during athletic events.

Students and their parents shall be informed of the district's expectations and parental cooperation will be sought in maintaining good sportsmanship. Coaches and other adult supervisors shall use appropriate disciplinary measures, such as loss of playing time and possible removal from the team, as a deterrent to poor sportsmanship. Suitable rewards and other positive incentives may also be used by coaches and adult leaders in order to encourage good sportsmanship among students.

Coaches and other adult leaders are also expected to exhibit good sportsmanship. Instances of failure to do so will result in disciplinary action such as oral and written reprimands; failure to correct negative behavior could result in possible suspension from extra-duty activities.

Fans and spectators are expected to show good sportsmanship. Failure to do so is cause for security personnel and administrators to suggest that they are not serving as a good role model for young people and if negative behavior persists or is particularly offensive, they will be asked to leave.

## **(NDSBA) SAMPLE POLICY STATEMENT**

The (Name of school district) believes that sports programs serve educational purposes in the lives of the district's students. One of these purposes is the development of good sportsmanship. The primary focus of the challenge of achieving good sportsmanship is on the student, but others are involved.

The School Board believes that administrators must insist that good sportsmanship is the goal; athletic directors must realize the value of sportsmanship and set the tone for the implementation of its good practice.

The coaches must accept the responsibility of making each athletic contest a showcase for education. They are expected to be models of self control and dignity for players and spectators.

The players must be taught to handle themselves in a sportsmanlike way; they are also expected to project good sportsmanship in the activities in which they participate. Student fans must be reminded that their conduct reflects on their school, and that poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.

Adult spectators must realize that they also must exhibit good sportsmanship at athletic events. Spectators serve as a model for their own children and for other young people in the community. Spectators also need to demonstrate self control and dignity while participating in athletic events.

Administrators and coaches shall practice good sportsmanship. Students will be taught good sportsmanship and be held accountable for their actions. Spectators will be reminded and encouraged to be appropriate role models for young people. The School board will support staff and administrators who enforce sportsmanship rules at athletic and other competitive events, including evicting students or adults who violate the district policy.

Additional administrative rules will be developed providing enforcement of these expectations (**and also includes positive incentives**).

## **SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE**

### **(Name of school/district) takes part in NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program**

(Name of school/district) has joined forces with the North Dakota High School Activities Association to promote sportsmanship throughout the state through the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program.

The NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program is part of a continuing, grass roots effort to promote sportsmanship at high school sporting events. The program, sponsored by the NDHSAA, challenges member schools to develop a year-long sportsmanship program that includes codes of conduct, promotional strategies and methods to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

"So many times, we take for granted that our coaches and athletes, as well as student body and other spectators, know what is acceptable behavior at high school events," said (*name of principal, superintendent or athletic director*). "We are constantly bombarded with so many images of unsports-like behavior, that it becomes important to emphasize at the interscholastic level the proper respect that should be

accorded to ones' opponents during a game and the officials administering that contest."

The NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program will see schools across the state develop sportsmanship programs aimed at all students and adult groups in the community.

"We feel that sportsmanship just doesn't end with students," (*principal, superintendent or athletic director*) said. "It is necessary to have parents and other adult spectators set the tone for our students with their exemplary behavior at events."

Additional information about the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program may be obtained by contacting (*name of principal, superintendent or athletic director*) at (*telephone number*).

## **IDEAS FOR CODES OF CONDUCT**

### **School Board**

- Adopt policies/resolutions that promote the ideals of sportsmanship.
- Serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, participants, coaches and other school personnel.
- Support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators and fans who display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize the value of school activities as a vital part of education.
- Attend and enjoy school activities.
- Apply sportsmanship policies/rules equitably at all times.

### **School Administrators**

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting sportsmanship.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible.
- Apply sportsmanship policies/rules equitably at all times.
- Develop a crowd control plan for both home and away games.

### **Coaches**

- Follow the rules of the sport during the progress of the contest.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials.
- Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Avoid the public criticism of game officials.
- Teach sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship.
- Provide instruction, training and motivation without put-downs and/or the use of abusive language.
- Educate and sensitize themselves to cultural differences gender equity and disability issues.

### **Student-Athletes**

- Show respect at all times for coaches, opponents and game officials.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials.
- Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Follow the rules of the game.

- Show respect for public property and equipment.

### **Spectators**

- Avoid criticism of game officials and sideline coaching which may side track the athletes from their performance.
- Stay off the playing area.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.
- Take part in cheers with cheerleaders.
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.

### **Cheerleaders/Bands**

- Know the contest rules and cheer/play at proper times.
- Encourage support for any injured participant.
- Show respect for opposing cheerleaders/bands.
- Lead positive cheers with praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
- Dress is school-approved uniforms.
- Show respect at all times for officials, opponents and spectators.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.

### **Officials**

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Know the rules, apply them equitably at all times and keep the game moving.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
- Never show emotions or argue with a player, coach, or fan.
- When watching a game as a spectator, give the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.

### **Contest Workers**

- Supervise all areas of the facility including parking lots and restrooms.
- Be consistent in applying sportsmanship policies and rules.
- Wear jackets, armbands or badges so they are easily identifiable.
- Establish/communicate emergency procedures.

## ***ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR***

- Accept all decisions of contest officials.
- Applaud during player introductions.
- Shaking hands with opponents who foul out of the game.
- Cheerleaders leading fans in positive cheers.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of the contest, regardless of the outcome.
- Treat the competition as a **GAME**.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.

## ***UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR***

- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booming or heckling an official's decision.

- Criticizing officials in any way.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands.
- Blaming the loss of a game on an official, coach or participant.
- Taunting or name calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity.
- Doing own yells instead of following lead of cheerleaders.
- Hand-held signs containing derogatory language.

## **PROMOTIONAL STRATEGIES**

- Develop a NDHSAA Sportsmanship Recognition Program to reward coaches, players and fans for showing good sportsmanship.
- Using the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program theme, create a one-week promotion at your school focusing on sportsmanship. Promotions could include a poster or essay contest.
- Development of a speaker's bureau: administrators, coaches or selected student-athletes could talk with local adult civic organizations about the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program. Student-athletes could deliver talks to students in the junior high and elementary schools to stress good sportsmanship.
- Principals and/or superintendents could write commentaries for school newsletters.
- Send public service announcements to local radio and television stations on a quarterly basis (see enclosed samples).
- Encourage fine arts advisors to incorporate good sportsmanship themes into their competitions.
- Send news releases to media outlets (electronic and print) stating that your school is participating in the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program (see sample news release).
- Use the NDHSAA Sportsmanship logo in event programs or other school publications.
- Place an article in event programs that promote good sportsmanship.
- Develop a plan for crowd control for both home and away games. A list of suggestions for developing a plan is included in this manual.
- Create a postage meter ad that goes on school mail with a message promoting good sportsmanship.
- Create banners/posters that convey the messages of good sportsmanship.
- If you, your athletes, your spectators, etc., felt they were treated particularly well while visiting another school for an event, encourage them to write a letter to the principal or athletic director of that school. Chances are the school may share that letter with its constituents. The end result is that both parties are encouraged to practice good sportsmanship.
- Have your public address announcer or participants read a pre-game statement encouraging sportsmanship and proper respect for opponents and game officials (samples are included in this manual).
- Develop an in-school public address announcement program.

- Make sportsmanship part of the criteria for any performance awards such as MVP, All-Conference, All-Area, etc.
- Conduct in-school programs or pep rallies/assemblies emphasizing sportsmanship.

## **CODES OF ETHICS**

**Coach** - A coach shall adhere to the NDHSCA Code of Ethics.

### **NDHSCA Code of Ethics**

- Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership
- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete
- Abide by the rules of the game in letter and spirit
- Respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials
- Demonstrate a mastery of and continuing interest in coaching principles and techniques through professional improvement
- Encourage a respect for all athletics and their values
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Promote ethical relationships among coaches
- Fulfill responsibilities to provide health services and an environment free of safety hazards
- Encourage the highest standards of conduct and scholastic achievement among all athletes
- Seek to inculcate good health habits including the establishment of sound training rules
- Strive to develop in each athlete the qualities of leadership, initiative and good judgment

### **Examples of Negative Behavior**

- Making degrading/critical remarks about officials during or after a contest either on the field of play, from the bench or through any public news media.
- Arguing with officials or going through motions indicating dislike/disdain for a decision.
- Detaining the officials following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official.
- Being ejected from any contest.

**Players** - As a student participating in my school's interscholastic activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

- I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.

- I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
- I will respect the property of others.
- I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.
- I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.

**NOTE:** *Any allegation of sexual, racial or religious harassment or violence may also constitute a violation of the Student Code of Responsibilities.*

## **PROMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sample Game Announcements**

Good evening, *(name of school)* welcomes you to *(name of stadium/field/gymnasium)* for tonight's game. We remind you that interscholastic events are an extension of the classroom, and that lessons are best learned when the proper respect is accorded to all. Please let your good sportsmanship show during today's game, and now let's meet the starting lineups....

Good evening, *(name of school)* welcomes you to *(name of stadium/field/gymnasium)* for tonight's game. One of the goals of high school athletics is learning lifetime values. Sportsmanship is one such value that makes these games an educational experience. Remember, be a good sport! And now let's meet the starting lineups....

### **(After lineups are introduced – introduce officials)**

The officials for tonight's game are *(name of official)* and *(name of official)*. These individuals are registered by the North Dakota High School Activities Association. Their experience and integrity qualify them to administer the rules of the game. An attitude of good sportsmanship should be upheld by all spectators, players and coaches, no matter what their personal feelings or loyalties may be in this contest.

### **(For use during breaks in action)**

Admission to an interscholastic event is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility – responsibility to conduct oneself in a manner where the game is enjoyable for other fans and participants. *(Name of school)* reminds you to be a good sport! – on the court *(field)* and in the stands.

## **Sample Pre-game Announcements**

This game is being played according to the rules of the North Dakota High School Activities Association. These rules provide for fair competition among players. Spectators can help promote good sportsmanship by observing the rules of fair play. Everyone is responsible for keeping this game at a high level of good sportsmanship.

### **Student Sportsmanship Creed:**

#### ***Athlete No. 1***

Good afternoon/evening. Welcome to (*name of high school*). We appreciate your attendance at this game and hope you enjoy it.

#### ***Athlete No. 2***

Tonight's game is being played under the rules of the (*conference name*). These rules provide for fair play and good sportsmanship among players and coaches. As athletes we ask that spectators promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play and respect for our opponents and the officials.

## **Sample Announcements for Radio and Television Stations**

### **PSA #1**

The score of any athletic event is generally forgotten over time, but the actions of the players, coaches and spectators are remembered. So, the next time you attend a high school game, please remember to be a good sport. A message from (*school name*) and (*station's name*).

### **PSA #2**

Ethics, integrity and respect are values important in our daily lives. On the playing field, they are translated into one word – sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is an important value that young people learn when they participate in high school activities. So remember, be a good sport. A message from (*school name*) and (*station's name*).

### **PSA #3**

Don't ever confuse a good sport with the nice guys who supposedly finish last. Sportsmanship has nothing to do with an athlete's or spectator's competitive spirit, and more often than not a display of poor sportsmanship leads to a losing performance. Remember, be a good sport! Regardless of the final score. A public service message from (*school name*) and (*station's name*).

### **PSA #4**

In our society, winning has come before everything. But if winning comes at the expense of good sportsmanship, then nothing is gained in the long run. Good sportsmanship is the result of a disciplined effort to respect yourself, your opponents and to practice the golden rule. So remember, be a good sport. A public service message

from (*school name*) and (*station's name*).

## EVALUATION

During the course of each school year, schools are required to evaluate the effectiveness of their sportsmanship program. Items to consider in your evaluation process may include:

- promotional activities
- team and fan behavior
- school procedures to handle conflicts
- recognition programs to reward good sports behavior
- crowd control plans
- codes of conduct
- contingency plan

## CROWD CONTROL PLANNING

1. Establish written expectations for coaches, players, students, cheerleaders, spectators and game management personnel. Communicate them in a variety of ways, expect them to be followed, and do something when they aren't.
2. Establish and communicate policies and emergency procedures regarding:
  - a) fire
  - b) drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages
  - c) possession, use, or sale of drugs
  - d) medical emergencies
  - e) lost and found articles
  - f) bringing food, beverages, radios and hand-held signs, noisemakers into the gym or stadium
  - g) bomb threats
  - h) alternatives in case of score clocks, lights, or other facility failures
  - i) transportation problems

Written emergency procedures should be clearly understood by the public address announcer.

3. Provide crowd control supervisors for both **home and away** games and identify them by use of jackets, armbands, t-shirts or badges. Alert crowd control supervisors to observe behavior and whereabouts of potential problem people.
4. Be consistent in applying sportsmanship policies and rules equitably at all times.
5. If possible, avoid seating bands or spectators near the visiting team bench or the visiting spectator section.
6. When someone is behaving in an undesirable way, do something about it. Include references to National Federation rules - forfeits, ejections. Actions Speak louder than words.

7. Have admissions, ticket sales, and parking lot personnel observe and screen people for possession of alcoholic beverages and/or intoxication.
8. Supervise the restrooms.
9. Establish precise job descriptions, expectations, and authority of all working personnel and inform them of all rules, regulations, and emergency procedures.
10. Develop a contingency plan to respond to critical contest situations.

### **Procedures for Dealing with Unruly Spectators**

1. Timing is critical: get to problems quickly.
2. Use half-time or post-game. Tell a person, "I thought you were getting a little carried away today" and "Try to look at our sportsmanship expectations."
3. When to go into the stands:
  - a. For abuse and/or foul language.
  - b. For throwing objects.
  - c. For obstruction of view.
  - d. When a spectator is ignoring the requests of others.
  - e. When game management has been informed by the official that a spectator needs to settle down or be asked to leave.
4. Sit next to them and explain their options:
  - a. Stop the behavior.
  - b. Final step is being escorted out by security.
5. At that stage, say: "I need to see you in the hallway for a few minutes." Talk with them out of public eye.
6. If that's unsuccessful, say: "I'm going to ask you to leave, and if you don't we may be asking you not to return for the rest of the season."

### **Follow Up with People Who Have Been Difficult**

1. Use a form letter for some situations.
2. For others, meet individually with the person to talk about the situation.
3. Talk to them in a non-threatening manner.
4. Discuss other ways the spectator might have handled his/her disappointment or frustration.
5. Have an established procedure involving the principal and/or superintendent for problems that are unresolved after the initial letter and/or meeting.

## **SUGGESTED IDEAS FOR PRE-SEASON MEETINGS**

1. Make parent and student attendance mandatory.
2. Provide advance communication that is timely, attractive and upbeat.
3. Schedule officials to present explanation of new rules.
4. Explain to parents that they are leaders and need to lead in the stands.

5. Distribute and explain sportsmanship expectations and consequences.
6. Have students explain at pre-season meeting to parents what proper conduct is.
7. Review the privileges and disciplines of athletics.
8. Have parents and students sign a code of conduct.
9. Show the video "Be A Fan not a Fanatic".
10. Obtain supporting material from NDHSAA or the National Federation of High Schools

**NDHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP WORKSHEET**  
**Use This Worksheet to Get You Going**

- I. School policy on sportsmanship
  - A. Program goals/expectations
  - B. Target audience
  - C. Sportsmanship committee members
- II. Pre-season parent meeting
- III. Codes of Conduct
  - A. Administration
  - B. Coaches
  - C. Players
  - D. Spectators
  - E. Cheerleaders/Bands
  - F. Game officials/management
- IV. Promotion strategies
  - A. List ways that your school will promote its Sportsmanship Program
  - B. Rewards/recognition for good sports behavior
  - C. Consequences for Acts of Misconduct
- V. Evaluation procedures – Schools are required to evaluate the effectiveness of their sportsmanship program.

***Please know that the NDHSAA staff is at your service to help you whenever possible in the promotion of good sportsmanship. Feel free to call (701-845-3953) or write us at:***

**NDHSAA  
Box 817  
Valley City, ND 58072**

## **SPORTSMANSHIP REPORT & REPLY FORM**

Designed to Improve Communication Between Schools  
About Sportsmanship Issues

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Situation Observed (positive/negative):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Response Requested (summary of actions taken):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SAMPLE PROGRAM FOR YOUR REVIEW**

Following is a look at a sample sportsmanship program which earned schools the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Challenge banner. The program consists of three components: written expectations, a sportsmanship workshop and program announcements. School officials also have created a Sportsmanship Card that's distributed to officials. It reads:

- We appreciate the professional job you do and expect our coaches and players to address you and each other respectfully.
- When you observe unsportsmanlike behavior, from coaches or players, warn them to stop. This includes negative language or behavior toward each other or you.

- If it continues, please enforce the appropriate penalty.
- If infractions are called that result in technical fouls or ejection, we would appreciate a call on the next working day following the incident to report what occurred. Officials are asked to follow these procedures when officiating a contest. The telephone numbers of each athletic director are listed on the back side of the card for an official's use.

### **Sample Sportsmanship Policies**

Good sportsmanship is strived for in all school events. Good sportsmanship is a responsibility of players, coaches, faculty, cheerleaders, students, adult spectators, officials and the media. Promotion of good sportsmanship at events should include a demonstration of respect for opponents and officials. All involved in an event should maintain self-control throughout the contest. Rules of the event should be understood and skill and performance should be recognized regardless of team affiliation. Good sportsmanship is the cornerstone of a quality athletic program and conference.

The following rules will be adhered to:

1. No throwing of objects onto playing surface.
2. All signs and locations for signs must be approved by the home site supervisor or administrator. Only signs of a positive nature will be permitted.
3. No profane or abusive cheers, gestures, spitting, or chanting by individuals or groups.
4. Fighting on contest premise is prohibited.
5. Use of drugs or alcohol will be prohibited.
6. No noisemakers allowed.
7. Band playing collectively or individually during the confines of game time is limited to time outs, intermissions, and quarter breaks. This includes all musical instrument forms such as drums, trumpets, etc.
8. Official cheerleaders and a mascot only allowed on the floor. Mascot must stay in the area of the cheerleaders. No other leaders of cheers will be allowed on the floor.
9. At all contests where a public address system is available, the rules for sportsmanship will be summarized or read as printed.
10. Full face painting is discouraged.

### **Cheerleading Guidelines**

1. Cheerleading coaches will supervise all away and home contests.
2. In the event that the cheerleading coach cannot accompany the cheerleaders, each school should designate a responsible adult who is not a member of the coaching staff to accompany the cheerleaders.
3. Home cheerleaders will provide a "**greeter**" to meet visiting cheerleaders a half hour before the varsity game/match to welcome them and locate

locker rooms, etc.

4. **"VISITOR'S SECTION"** or similar sign should be present at **ALL** competitions to help designate seating section for visiting fans.
5. Security personnel should be visible to all fans. Home cheerleaders should inform visiting cheerleaders of their location so they can be easily contacted in case of emergency or fan abuse. The home cheerleading coach should make their location known to visiting cheerleaders.
6. All schools should provide a tape recorder connected to the P.A. system for use by **BOTH** schools at each competitive athletic event. This recorder is provided for the purpose of:
  - a) the playing of the national anthem if no band is present
  - b) playing **BOTH** school songs if there is no band
  - c) half-time entertainment
7. **A REMINDER TO ANNOUNCERS:** Please read the Sportsmanship Creed below at each athletic event:

"Good sports-like behavior is strived for at all events. Good sports-like behavior is a responsibility of players, coaches, faculty, cheerleaders, students, adult spectators, officials and the media. Promotion of good sports-like behavior at all events should include a demonstration of respect for opponents and officials. All involved should maintain self control throughout the contest. Rules of the event should be understood and skill and performance should be recognized regardless of team affiliation."
8. Announcers should ask **ALL** fans to stand for the playing of **BOTH** school songs.
9. Cheerleaders of **BOTH/ALL** schools should intermingle to form one line and join together in the salute for the playing of the National Anthem at center field/court or a place where they can be seen by all fans (i.e. Brainerd, Rocori, Brainerd, Rocori, etc.)
10. Following the contest, cheerleaders should line up behind **THEIR** team members to do the **"high five"**. They will then be congratulating the players and cheerleaders of the other team. (Note to coaches: Please inform your players of this at practice, so they will know they must include the cheerleaders at the end of the lines.)
11. Cheerleading Coaches/Administration are asked to **ENFORCE** positive sign policy.

### **Regional Conference Workshops**

Area schools sponsor an annual workshop session for athletic directors and student representatives from each school. The purpose of these workshops is to bring student leaders from schools together in a non-competitive setting so that they can gain a different perception of their on-the-field/court competitive adversaries. As a part of these workshops, schools try to elicit student assistance in promoting good sportsmanship.

### **Answers to commonly asked questions about the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program**

1. **Q. Does the school's sportsmanship plan have to meet some criteria?**

- A.** Yes, the sportsmanship plan developed by each school must include:
- policy by boards of education (resolution or statement of beliefs)
  - codes of conduct for coaches, students, and fans
  - strategies for promoting its sportsmanship plan
  - method(s) for schools to evaluate the effectiveness of their sportsmanship plan
  - Preseason meeting for parents
- 2. Q. Is there a deadline for submitting sportsmanship plans to the NDHSAA office?**
- A.** There are two deadlines for verification of a school's sportsmanship plan in the 2004-05 school year. Those deadlines are September 15, 2004 for fall activities and January 15, 2005 for winter and spring activities. Beginning in 2005-06 plans must be verified each year by September 15<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for tournament banners throughout that school year.
- 3. Q. Is there an instruction or "how-to" manual available to schools that have not developed a sportsmanship plan?**
- A.** The *NDHSAA Sportsmanship Manual* is available on the association's web site @ [www.ndhsaa.com](http://www.ndhsaa.com) The manual includes—crowd control guidelines, sample public address announcements and news releases, codes of conduct, tips for pre-season meetings, sample school board resolutions, among other information.
- 4. Q. Are NDHSAA member schools required to participate in the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program?**
- A.** Although this program is not mandatory, schools must participate in the NDHSAA Sportsmanship program to be eligible to earn a state tournament sportsmanship banner.
- 5. Q. How do schools earn a state tournament sportsmanship banner?**
- A.** Schools must be a member of the Sportsmanship Challenge Program to be eligible. To earn a state tournament sportsmanship banner, students, coaches, cheerleaders, bands, and players must honor their parts of the school's code of conduct. (Example: Qualifying schools appoint a sportsmanship committee which, with a NDHSAA representative will determine if the sportsmanship of student fans and team merit receiving the banner. The schools tournament sportsmanship committee should consist of 3 to 5 members and should include representatives from the school, community and a student. The sportsmanship banners are presented to school officials at the tournament(s).)
- 6. Q. Do schools have to submit a sportsmanship plan every year?**
- A.** Schools are required to complete a *Sportsmanship Certification Report* that the NDHSAA annually sends to schools in the fall. Upon receipt of this information, the NDHSAA sends year tags to schools to affix to their Good Sportsmanship banners.
- 7. Q. Why should NDHSAA member schools participate in the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program?**
- A.** 1) to help fulfill the goal of the NDHSAA Sportsmanship Program which is for every member school to implement a sportsmanship program in their community; 2) to enhance the association's ability to promote sportsmanship at every level of competition—district region and state; and 3) to give credibility to our overall effort to elevate sportsmanship standards.
- 8. Q. How will a co-oped team earn a state sportsmanship banner?**
- A.** All schools in a coop must have submitted verification of the development of a sportsmanship plan to be eligible