

“Sportsmanship is probably the clearest and most popular expression of morals.

Sportsmanship is a thing of the spirit. It is timeless and endless, and we should strive to make it universal to all races, creeds, and walks of life.”

-The Discovery of Morals



Quick On-Line Reference Guide:

**PIAA Web site:
www.piaa.org**

**PIAA Sportsmanship Site:
www.piaa.org/sportsmanship**

**Character Counts Program -
Pursuing Victory With Honor
www.charactercounts.org**

School Resources:

Sportsmanship At Home



*“The Only Missing
Piece Is You!”*

A Quick Guide to Assist in
Promoting Positive Interscholastic
Athletic Experiences of
Pennsylvania Youth Through
Parents as Role Models



Provided Courtesy of
PIAA and Your
School's Athletic
Administration

A Message From the PIAA Executive Director

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the interscholastic athletic programs of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. (PIAA) member schools as well as for the individuals who participate. People involved in all facets of the interscholastic athletics are expected to demonstrate respect for others and display good sportsmanship.

It is essential that student-athletes, coaches, parents, student groups, and fans are constantly reminded that Good Sports Are Winners! People seriously believe sportsmanship to be an important issue of concern in interscholastic athletics. Positive experiences do not occur by chance, rather they are a result of the educational structure, the right perspective, the right leadership, and the true understanding of sportsmanship.

Good sportsmanship is not merely a campaign -- it is the essence of what educational athletics is about. Let all of us who have the opportunity, promote the ideals of sportsmanship so that today's students and tomorrow's citizens may build a better society.

PIAA and its Sportsmanship Steering Committee trust that you will do your part in promoting good sportsmanship at home and in your community. Remember, SPORTSMANSHIP: The Only Missing Piece Is You!

Sincerely,

Bradley R. Cashman

Bradley R. Cashman, Executive Director

The Role of Parent...

The role of the parent in the education of a youngster is important. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school in the classroom and through co-curricular activities.

There is a value system -- established in the home, nurtured in the school -- that young people are developing. Their involvement in classroom and other activities contributes to that development.

Integrity, fairness, and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics, and these are the principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of the competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of the results.

Working to that end, we are joining with PIAA in support of a program called "SPORTSMANSHIP: The Only Missing Piece Is You!". This is a program designed to positively change behavior in our schools and reinforce and reward the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through educational athletics.

A good sport, whether a student or a parent, is a true leader within the school and our community. As a parent of a student, 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 Contest;
- 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 encourage our athletes; and discouraging any cheer that would redirect that focus;
- Learning, understanding, and respecting the rules of the Contest, 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 each official and realizing they are an essential part of every Contest;
- Respecting our opponents as students, and acknowledging them for striving to do their best;
- Developing a sense of dignity under all circumstances.
- Being a FAN ... not a fanatic!

These are guidelines which we hope you will take a few moments to review with your son/daughter. They give us a roadmap to follow on a journey toward a more educational atmosphere for interscholastic athletics.

You can have a major influence on your youngster's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you take in sportsmanship will help influence your child, and your community, for years to come.
