

Unacceptable Behaviors

As a parent, we ask that you not:

- ❑ taunt or disparage officials, opposing players, fans or coaches, or your student's coach or teammates.
- ❑ undermine or criticize your school's coaches.
- ❑ by actions or words shift the center of attention from the game or contest towards yourself in the stands.
- ❑ insist that athletic participation is more important than academic success.
- ❑ teach your student that it is OK to disregard the school, athletic department, or coaches' rules.
- ❑ express concerns without going through the "chain of command" by approaching first the coach, then the athletic director followed by the principal, if necessary.
- ❑ by your behavior embarrass your child, his/her team or the school.

At the end of a well-played, hard-fought contest, we hope that the players, coaches and supporters of both teams will leave:

- respecting the skill, determination and effort of their opponents.
- being proud of their part in displaying a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship.
- realizing that while players, coaches and officials are subject to human error, the court or playing field is a classroom that reflects the educational mission of the school and that all of the participants will strive to learn from their mistakes and to improve for the next contest.

"For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name, he marks-not that you won or lost-but how you played the game"

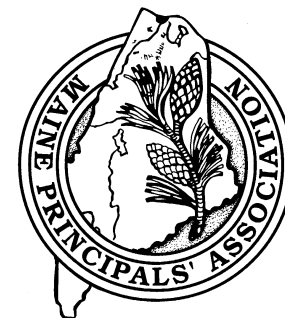
—Grantland Rice

FREEPORT



and the

Maine Principals' Association



Sportsmanship Guide for Parents

Parents' Responsibilities

As a parent, you are the most important influence in your son's or daughter's life. Without your support your child would not be able to participate in high school athletics. In addition, the values that are taught in the home will be displayed by your child both in practice and in games. Participation in high school athletics is a privilege and with that privilege comes the expectation that all athletes will act with the highest standards of integrity, citizenship, and fairness. It is the expectation of your child's school that you will reinforce all the school's standards of fair play and sportsmanship at home so that participation will be a positive experience for everyone. Please remember that athletics are successful only within the larger context of academic achievement. Your son's or daughter's education in the classroom is supplemented, not replaced, by education on the court or field.

Acceptable Behaviors ***As a parent, we ask that you:***

- ❑ realize that the final score is not the sole measure of the benefits of athletic participation.
- ❑ encourage your child to always give his/her best.
- ❑ always cheer positively for your child and his/her team.
- ❑ learn the rules of the game and refrain from taunting or demeaning officials.
- ❑ respect the coaches, as you would any teacher, and realize that the decisions they make are for the benefit of all on the team.
- ❑ teach your child respect for all: teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and administrators.
- ❑ be positive concerning your child's play and try not to be critical.
- ❑ realize that most athletes play a sport because it's fun.
- ❑ support the school's eligibility policy.
- ❑ support the school's priorities that place academic responsibilities before athletic responsibilities.
- ❑ remember that attendance at athletic events is a privilege and may be revoked for improper behavior.
- ❑ support and respect your coaches by approaching them first with any concerns you have.
- ❑ realize that high school athletes are not pros and that they will make mistakes.
- ❑ compliment coaches and administrators for creating healthy opportunities for athletes to reach their potential.
- ❑ be a role model for your athlete by displaying high standards of sportsmanship.