

## **The Fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship**

GRPA will be emphasizing the importance of **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**. The one thing we need to realize is that many people have not had **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** explained to them. It is earnestly hoped that the following will help everyone to understand their responsibilities at an athletic contest.

1. GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RULES OF THE GAME CONTEST/EVENT.
2. EXERCISE REPRESENTATIVE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES.
3. RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE SKILLS PERFORMANCES OF ALL ATHLETES AND/OR COMMUNITIES REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION.
4. EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS.
5. OPENLY DISPLAY RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.
6. DISPLAY PRIDE IN YOUR ACTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

**To reinforce this philosophy, the following statement must be read before all contests at GRPA district and state level competitions:**

### **GRPA SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT**

***“The Georgia Recreation and Park Association and its member agencies have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GRPA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today’s event.”***

### **Guidelines for Behavior**

#### **or “What Your Fellow Players Expect of YOU!”**

1. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong standards of ethics and integrity.
2. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
3. Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
4. Set a good example for coaches, players and spectators to follow. Please:
  - a. Refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators.
  - b. Make no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing or talking about.
  - c. Do not throw any object in disgust.
  - d. Coaches - shake hands with the officials and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public.
5. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat in public and in meeting/talking with the media. Please confine your remarks to game statistics and to the performance of your team.
6. Be no party to the use of profanity or obscene language, or improper actions. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing the department and the community.

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7. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow coaches, and athletes. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
8. Teach good sportsmanship and reward teams/teammates who are good sports.
9. Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than you can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport? Never direct remarks at opponents in a taunting manner.
10. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner; just as you would like to be greeted following either victory or defeat.
11. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treat them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, and your reputation will only benefit. Leave a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
12. Understand the seriousness and responsibility of your role and the privilege of representing the department and the community in which you live.
13. Establish standards of desirable behavior and attempt to transfer that to your spectators.
14. Select positive comments which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
15. Encourage a positive crowd alternative when booing or an inappropriate behavior begins.
16. Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances for both teams.
17. Remember: recreational athletics are learning experiences for participants and mistakes are sometimes made. Praise athletes in their attempt to improve themselves both as young athletes and as people.
18. Spectators need to understand that a ticket/admission to an event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious. You also are a direct reflection on your community/program.
19. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games and afterwards on or near the site of the event (i.e., tailgating).
20. In all you do, promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
21. Speak out about acts of sportsmanlike behavior and do not give undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
22. Refrain from making negative comments toward participants, coaches, or officials.
23. Report facts without demonstrating partiality to either team.

### **Guidelines for Behavior of Recreation Staff & Officials or "What Your Fellow Community Members Expect of YOU!"**

1. Accept your role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over-officiating are not acceptable.
2. Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
3. Know the rules of the game thoroughly and abide by the established Good Sportsmanship Code.
4. Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.



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5. Never exhibit negative emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.
6. When watching a game as a spectator, give the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.
7. Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship within the program and the state association.
8. Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each event.
9. Support participants, coaches, and fans that teach and display good sportsmanship.
10. Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
11. Serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel.

### Guidelines for Behavior of Recreation Staff & Officials

#### or "Acceptable Behavior Expected of YOU!"

1. Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
2. Players shaking hands with opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
3. Accept all decisions of officials.
4. Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
5. Treat competition as a game, not a war.
6. Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance and coaching.
7. Positive cheering by players, coaches, and spectators is encouraged.
8. Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
9. Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
10. Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

### Guidelines for Unacceptable Behavior

#### or "Would You Want Your Mama to See You Acting Like That?"

1. For all GRPA competitions at the district or state level, **any negative cheering/hollering** may result in a warning and/or removal from the site, whether it is for or against your team. Use of **artificial noisemakers** in the dugouts, bleachers, seats, and standing areas around the perimeter of the competition in all youth sports **IS NOT ALLOWED**. The Tournament Director is empowered with the authority to make the final decision.
2. **Use of tobacco** in any form on the competition area or on the bench by participants, coaches, or officials, regardless of local rules, **IS NOT ALLOWED**.
3. **Yelling or waving arms** during opponent's free-throw attempt, serve, at-bat, start, etc.
4. **Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.**
5. **Booing or heckling** an official's decision.
6. **Criticizing officials** in any way or displays of temper in response to an official's call.

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7. Yells which **antagonize** opponents.
8. **Refusing** to shake hands or give recognition for good performance.
9. **Blaming loss** of game on officials, coaches, or participants.
10. **Laughing or name-calling** to distract an opponent.
11. Use of **profanity or displays of anger** that draw attention away from the game.
12. **Pulling team off** of the field/court.

### Penalties for Unacceptable Behavior

Any parent or spectator acting in an unsportsmanlike manner or in any way that could prove detrimental to any player, official, coach, or another spectator will be subject to disciplinary action by their respective recreation department and the GRPA State Athletic Committee:

1. Language unbecoming to the league/event (Suspension: 1 game)
2. Touching or striking a coach or official (Suspension: indefinite)
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct at an athletic event/program (Suspension: 1 game)
4. Damage to recreation property (Suspension: indefinite)

**Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for one game, in addition to the game from which ejected; or, in the case of an individual event within a meet or match, for the duration of that event.**

1. A forfeited (not played) game shall not be counted as a sit-out game for an ejected player.
2. Thrown out of a game/contest/event (suspension remainder of present game/contest/event, suspension next game, and must leave the park immediately)

### Code of Conduct

The GRPA State Athletic Committee and Board of Trustees believe that **Good Sportsmanship** is a core value, and its promotion and practice are essential. Participants, parents, officials, administrators, and spectators have a duty to assure their teams/communities promote the development of good character.

This code of conduct applies to all participants involved in athletics and GRPA-sponsored activities/events.

1. Participants will advocate, model, and promote the development of good character to include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, teamwork, fairness, caring, and citizenship while promoting emotional, physical, and moral well-being above desires and pressure to win.
2. Participants will respect peers, coaches, officials, opponents, and others associated with the event.
3. Participants will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
4. Participants will model appropriate behavior at all times.
5. Participants will engage in a healthy lifestyle.