

Patchogue-Medford Athletics

New York State
Public High School Athletic Association



Sportsmanship Information

For Parents and Spectators

Welcome To The Patchogue-Medford School District

Our chief interest should not lie in the great champions in sport.

On the contrary, our concern should be first of all to widen the base, the foundation in athletic sports; to encourage in every way a healthy rivalry which shall give to the largest possible number of students the chance to take part in vigorous outdoor games.”

-- Theodore Roosevelt

Sportsmanship Recommendation for Spectators

1. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship. Remember that you are all at a contest to support and encourage your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans. Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
2. Respect, cooperate and respond positively to cheerleaders.
3. Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is unbecoming.
4. Respect the property of the school and authority of school officials.
5. Show respect for an injured player when he/she is removed from the contest.
6. Do not applaud errors by opponents or penalties inflicted upon them.
7. Do not heckle, jeer or distract members of the opposing team.
8. Never criticize the players or coaches for the loss of a game.
9. Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach; refrain from being a second guesser.
10. Avoid profane language or obnoxious behavior, which are detrimental to good sportsmanship.

An educational environment is critical to the success of interscholastic athletics. An important part of that environment learning sportsmanship. Without sportsmanship at a contest, the lessons learned lose their value. Remember when you are at an interscholastic event that you are really in a classroom where “good sportsmanship” is the lesson and “good sports” receive the highest grade.

Guidelines for Spectators

A GOOD SPECTATOR AT AN ATHLETIC CONTEST:

1. Shows interest in the contest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the good plays or performance of both their team and that of the opposition.
2. Shows proper respect for opening ceremonies by standing at attention and by remaining silent while the National Anthem or Pledge of Allegiance is being played.
3. Understands that it is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally attack others or be generally obnoxious.
4. Does not boo, stamp feet, or make disrespectful remarks toward the players and officials.
5. Learns the rules of the game, developing an understanding and appreciation for situations that take place in a contest.
6. Obey officials and faculty supervisors who are there to keep order.
7. Stays off the playing floor, field, or contest area at all times.
8. Does not disturb others by throwing food, cups, or other materials around the building, field or court.
9. Shows proper respect for officials, coaches, cheerleaders and contestants as guests in his/her community, and extends all courtesies toward them.
10. Knows that noisemakers of any kind are not proper for athletic events.
11. Pays attention to the halftime program and does not disturb others who are watching.
12. Respects public property by not causing damage to equipment or facilities.
13. Knows that school officials reserve the right to refuse attendance of those whose conduct is not proper.
14. Refrains from the use of any controlled substance (alcohol, drugs) before, during, and after the contest while on the contest site.
15. Informs or alerts school personnel of any violations of any proper sportsmanship.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS OF STUDENT/ATHLETES

Make sure your children know that win or lose, you love them. Let them know that you appreciate their effort and that you will not be disappointed in them if the score is not in their favor. Be the person in their life they can always look to for support.

Try to be completely honest with yourself about your children's athletic capability, their competitive attitude, their sportsmanship and their level of skill.

Be helpful, but do not coach your children on the way to the game or at the breakfast table. Think how tough it must be on them to be continually inundated with advice, pep talks and criticism.

Teach your children to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying", to be constantly working to improve their skills, to take the physical bumps and come back for more. Do not tell them that winning doesn't count, because it does and they know it. Instead, help them to develop a healthy competitive attitude, a "feel" for competing, for trying hard, and for having a good time.

Do not compete with your children's coach. A coach may become a hero to them for a while, someone who can do no wrong, and you may find that hard to take. Or your children may become disenchanted with the coach. Do not side with them against the coach.

Don't compare your children with other players on the team, at least not within their hearing. If they have a tendency to resent the treatment they get from the coach, if they are jealous of the approval other players get, try to be honest with them...Don't lie to your child about their capabilities as a player. If you are overly protective, you will perpetuate the problems.

Get to know your children's coach. Make sure that you approve of the coach's attitudes and ethics. A coach can be very influential and you should know what his/her values are so that you can decide whether or not you want them passed on to your child.

Remember that children tend to exaggerate when they are praised and when they are criticized. Remember your reactions to the stories your children bring home from the school. Don't criticize them for exaggerating, but don't overact to the stories they tell you.

Teach your child the meaning of courage. Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is learning to perform in spite of fear. Courage is not getting rid of fear, it is overcoming it.

Remember that officials are necessary. Don't overreact to their calls. They have rules and guidelines to follow and are representing authority during the game. Teach your children to respect authority and to play by the rules.

Finally, remember if the children aren't having fun, we're missing the whole point of interscholastic and youth sports.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETES

"It's not your game, it's ours, the players and student-athletes that are competing. We hope the spectators will watch, enjoy, encourage and be proud of us, win or lose. We need your support and enthusiasm, not your yelling and criticism."

SIDELINE SUGGESTIONS

(10 Things Children Say They Don't Want Their Parents To Do)

1. *Don't yell out instructions.* During the game, I'm trying to concentrate on what the coach says and working on what I'VE BEEN PRACTICING. It is easier for me to do my best if you save instructions and reminders for me at an appropriate time.
2. *Don't put down the officials.* This embarrasses me and I sometimes wonder whether the official is going to be tougher on me because my parents yell.
3. *Don't yell at me in public.* It will just make things worse because I'll be upset, embarrassed or worried that you're going to yell at me the next time I do something "wrong".
4. *Don't yell at the coach.* When you yell about who gets to play what position, it just stirs things up and takes away from the fun.
5. *Don't put down my teammates.* Don't make put-down remarks about any of my teammates who make mistakes. It takes away from our team spirit.
6. *Don't put down the other team.* When you do this, you're not giving us a very good example of sportsmanship so we get mixed messages about being "good sports".
7. *Don't lose your cool.* I love to see you excited about the game, but there is no reason to get so upset that you lose your temper! It is our game and all the attention is supposed to be on us.
8. *Don't lecture me about mistakes after the game.* Those rides home in the car after the game are not a good time for lectures about how I messed up. I already feel bad. We can talk later but please stay calm and don't forget to mention things I did WELL during the game!
9. *Don't forget how to laugh and have fun.* Sometimes it's hard for me to relax and have fun during the game when I look over and see you so tense and worried.
10. *Don't forget that it's just a game!* Odds are I'm not going to make a career out of playing sports. I know I may get upset if we lose, but I also know that I'm usually feeling better after we have some dinner. I need to be reminded sometimes that it's just a game.

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DEAR MOM AND DAD,

How badly you must want to win,
Not for yourself but for me,
So help me play this game, dear
Mom & Dad
With dedication, goals and dignity.
It's embarrassing for me, Mom &
Dad,
When you criticize the coach.
If you think you can be helpful,
Then try a new approach.
Call and make arrangements
To meet her face-to-face.
Far better than to yell at her
In such a public place.
I think that you will also find
Your friendship will be sealed
In a more conducive atmosphere
Than on the court or field.
Please try to go along with her,
Not judging wrong or right.
You know he's got a job to do
That must be done tonight.

In front of all the fans,
Help him do the job he must,
By staying silent in the stands.
Snap decisions he must make,
Under pressure of the game,
And certainly where you must sit
Tis' not really quite the same.
Even when he calls it right
I often make a mistake
That surely makes him look as
though
His coaching is at stake.
Sometimes he will chew me out,
And then she'll pat me on the back,
And I will get it next time,
You can count on that.
He'll take the blame for losses
And walk out on a limb,
But he'll give his team credit
For each and every win.
So be there when I need you, Mom &
Dad
SHOUT ENCOURAGEMENT TO
ME!

