

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS**

Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition- not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.

Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made.

Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.

Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.

Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.

Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).

Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.

Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.

Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.

There is no such thing as a "right" to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a "privilege" and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct himself or herself accordingly.

Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal, it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.

The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

The score of any athletic event is generally forgotten over time, but the actions of the players, coaches and spectators are remembered. The next time you attend a school game, think of how history will remember you. Good sports show you how to play the game.

Ethics, integrity and respect are values important in our daily lives. On the playing field, they are translated into the word Sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is one of the strongest educational lessons and lifetime values taught by interscholastic athletics. Remember, sportsmanship makes a world of difference.

An educational environment is critical to the success of school activities. An important part of that environment is planning for good sportsmanship. Without good sportsmanship in activities, the lessons learned lose their value. Remember the next time you attend an interscholastic event that you are really inside a classroom where good sports receive the highest grades.

Winning – the #1 syndrome – is one of the major problems in interscholastic athletics. Athletics are truly educational in nature, and among the values learned are those associated with good sportsmanship.

Being #1 in sportsmanship is educationally more important than simply being #1. Remember, sportsmanship makes a world of difference.

Your ticket to an interscholastic activity is a privilege, a privilege to watch youngsters compete and learn on the field. One of the lessons taught to players is one spectators can follow as well – that of good sportsmanship. Unruly behavior is unacceptable in the classroom, and athletics are an extension of the classroom. Remember, sportsmanship makes a world of difference.

A coach once wrote, "When we lose without excuses and when we acknowledge the better team, we place winning and losing in their proper perspective. That's when we find out if we can be good sports." Sportsmanship is a goal to strive for at all times, in athletics and in our daily lives. Sportsmanship makes a world of difference.

\*A message from the University Interscholastic League and MISD Athletics\*