

BLACKDUCK SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

The Minnesota State High School League's vision for sportsmanship is built on expectations. It calls on the school, community, teachers, coaches, students, parents, and directors of music, speech, sports, and drama to strive for sportsmanship in everything they do by teaching the values of dignity, equity, fairness, and respect.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is strived for at all Blackduck events. Good sportsmanship is a responsibility of players, coaches, advisors, faculty, cheerleaders, students, adult spectators, officials and the media. Promotion of good sportsmanship at Blackduck events should include a demonstration of respect for opponents and officials. All involved in a conference event should maintain self-control throughout the contest. Rules of the event should be understood, and skill and performance should be recognized regardless of team affiliation. Good sportsmanship is the corner stone of a quality athletic program and conference.

PARTICIPATION

Recognizing that participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege, Blackduck requires that the conduct of student participants be exemplary at all times. Participants are representatives of their school and must conduct themselves appropriately both while in school and out of school. Student participants who violate this policy are subject to being removed from the activity at the discretion of the coach, advisor, athletic director, or building principal.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The building principal, with input from coaches/advisors, parents, teachers and students shall develop rules and/or conduct codes for all participants consistent with this policy and the rules adopted by the Minnesota State High School League. These rules will contain a notice to participants that failure to abide by them could result in removal from the contest. The rules and conduct codes shall be reviewed by the building principal periodically and presented to the school board.

Incidents of misconduct at the host school site(s) will be reported to the host school principal. The host school principal will notify the visiting school principal. Upon resolution of the incident, the respective school principal(s) will notify each other of the actions taken.

COMMON PROCEDURES

The high school principal will discuss the sportsmanship manual with the school board, superintendent and athletic director. The athletic director will ensure the contents of the manual are understood by each coach/advisor prior to the beginning of their activity(s)/ season(s). Each coach/activity director will address the player/participant code(s) at their preseason/activity parent-student-coach(s)/advisor(s) meeting. All participants will understand and accept their roles and responsibilities for good sportsmanship as established by the MSHSL.

Handbook Review Committee

During the annual summer meeting, this sportsmanship manual is reviewed by the handbook review committee. Members include: athletic director, principal, and selected coaches/advisors and school board member.

Code of Conduct and Responsibilities

School Boards -

- Adopt policies/resolutions that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity.
- Serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel.
- Recognize the value of school activities as a vital part of education.
- Attend and enjoy school activities.

School Administrators (Principals/Athletic Directors) –

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting sportsmanship.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each inter-scholastic event.
- Support participants, coaches, and fans who teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible and function as a model of good sportsmanship.
- Hold a mandatory pre-season meeting for all parents and students involved in MSHSL activities.
- Provide "visitors section" signage, visible security personnel, clean and secure dressing areas for teams and cheerleaders, and competent adult game officials, including timers, scorekeepers, etc.

Coaches -

- Follow the rules of the sport during the progress of the contest.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials.
- Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Avoid public display of criticism in front of participants or spectators.
- Teach sportsmanship and reward players that are good sports.

Student Athletes -

- Show respect for opponents by shaking hands with them.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials
- Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Learn the rules of the game.
- All non-participants should stay off the playing floor or contest area at all times.

Spectators -

- Take part in cheers with the cheerleaders and applaud good performances.
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
- Refrain from crowd booing or making negative comments about officials or participants.
- All non-participants should stay off the playing floor or contest area at all times.
- Show respect for public property.
- Applaud at appropriate times.

Cheerleaders -

- Advisors will supervise all away and home contests.
- Use discretion in selecting the time to cheer.
- Encourage support for any injured participant.
- Show respect for opposing cheerleaders.
- Learn the rules of the game.
- Lead positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.

Bands -

- Choose appropriate music and time for performing.
- Show respect at all times for officials, opponents and spectators.
- Show respect for public property.
- Stay off the playing floor or contest area at all times (both students and equipment).

Officials -

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
- Know the rules of the game thoroughly and abide by the established Code of Ethics.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
- Resist exhibiting emotions or arguing with participants, coaches, and spectators when enforcing rules.
- When watching a game as a spectator give the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.

Media –

- Report acts of good sports behavior without giving undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Refrain from making negative comments towards participants, coaches, or contest officials.
- Recognize efforts of all athletes (gender fair) who participate in contests/activities.
- Report facts without demonstrating partiality to either team.

Examples of Unacceptable Event Behavior for Coaches, Athletes, and Spectators:

- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, signs, gestures, or profanity.
- Booming or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way.
- Yells that antagonizes opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming the loss of a game on an official, coach or participant.
- Name calling to distract an opponent.
- Throwing of objects onto playing surface.
- Fighting and/or use of illegal chemicals.

Code of Ethics – Signature Form

* Must be on file in the Activities Director's office prior to student participation.

Parent- A parent will be in violation of the standards for good sports established by the Minnesota State High School League by:

- Making degrading/critical remarks about officials/players during or after a contest either on the field of play, from the bleachers or anytime in public.
- Arguing with officials/coaches or going through motions indicating disdain about a ruling.
- Detaining the officials/coach following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken.
- Being ejected from any contest.

Players - As a student participating in my school's interscholastic activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

- I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
- I will respect the property of others.
- I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.
- I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.

Note: Any allegation of sexual, racial or religious harassment or violence may also constitute a violation of the MSHSL Student Code of Responsibilities.

Signatures

Parent: _____

Student: _____

Date: _____

