

## **The Fundamentals of Sportsmanship**

TCRD 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. Hopefully 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 SKILLED PERFORMANCES OF ALL ATHLETES AND/OR COMMUNITIES REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION.**

**4. EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS.**

**5. DISPLAY OPENLY A RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.**

**6. DISPLAY PRIDE IN YOUR ACTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY**

## **Guidelines for Behavior/Behavior Expectations**

- Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards.
- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for coaches, players and spectators to follow - please refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing or talking about; no throwing of any object in disgust. Coaches shake hands with the officials and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Teach sportsmanship and reward teams/teammates that are good sports.

## **Guidelines for Behavior/Behavior Expectations (con't)**

- 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.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
- Try to understand the seriousness and responsibility of your role, and the privilege of representing the department and the community in which you live.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students, and elementary students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Establish standards of desirable behavior for the squad and attempt to transfer that to your spectators.
- Select positive comments which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
- Encourage a positive crowd alternative when booing or an inappropriate behavior begins.
- Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances for both teams.
- Remember that recreational athletics are learning experiences for participants and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as young athletes and as people.
- Spectators need to understand that a ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious. You also are a direct reflection of your community/program.
- 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).
- Promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- Report acts of sportsmanlike behavior without giving undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Refrain from making negative comments towards participants, coaches or officials.
- Report facts without demonstrating partiality to either team.

## **Recreation Staff & Officials . . .**

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over-officiating are not acceptable.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
- Know the rules of the game thoroughly and abide by the established Sportsmanship Code and Appropriate Affiliation Code of Ethics.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.
- When watching a game as a spectator, giving the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.
- Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the program and the state association.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each event.
- Support participants, coaches and fans which teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
- Serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches and other school personnel.

## **Acceptable Behavior . . .**

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Players shaking hands with opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches and end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

## **Unacceptable Behavior . . .**

- Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free throw attempt, serve, at bat, start, etc.
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.

Any parent or spectator acting in a unsportsmanlike manner or in anyway that could prove detrimental to any league, player, official, coach, or another spectator, will be subject to disciplinary action by the Tift County Recreation Department and the Athletic Advisory Committee.

- a. Language unbecoming to the league/event (suspension 1 game)
- b. Touching or striking a coach or official (suspension for remainder of the season)
- c. Unsportsmanlike conduct at an athletic event/program (suspension 1 game)
- d. Damage to recreation property (suspension indefinitely)
- e. Thrown out of a game (suspension remainder of present game, suspension next game and must leave the park immediately)

## Code of Conduct

The Tift County Recreation Department and the Athletic Advisory Committee believe that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential.

Participants/Parents/Officials/Administrators and Spectators have a duty to assure that their teams/communities promote the development of good character. This code of conduct applies to all participants involved in athletics and TCRD sponsored activities.

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 other 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.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined or removed from a team/tournament/event and/or facility if I violate any of its provisions.

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date