



GHSA SPORTSMANSHIP RESOLUTION

Purpose?

To provide clearer guidelines for acceptable behavior of coaches, players and spectators.

Three simple rules to follow:

- 1. To get respect you must give respect.**
- 2. That which you permit, you also promote.**
- 3. To fix it, you must face it.**



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A Zero Tolerance For:

**Profanity of any kind,
Inappropriate language,
Racial or Ethnic slurs,
Sexist or Homophobic comments,
directed at an official or opponent are not
representative of the positive values of
education-based education.**



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Coaches: The Front Line!

Coaches have an expected level of “goodness” when working with student-athletes. They are considered “role models” for the young and impressionable. Good sportsmanship should never be replaced by derogatory, obscene, and distasteful actions. The behavior of coaches is directly reflected in their players and fans. ONLY “Head Coaches” shall be allowed to discuss officials rulings with game officials.



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Game Officials' Responsibility

Officials are the “administrators of the game” in accordance with the rules of play and governing body policy. As such, they also have an expectation to conduct themselves in a professional manner. As such, officials are held to the same level of accountability in areas of sportsmanship.



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Social Media is Not Your Friend

GHSA By-Law 2.74 addresses the issue of comments to the media or on social media. Coaches, administrators, and contest officials are prohibited from making critical comments with reference to participants, schools, or officials. Violators are subject to penalties, fines, or suspension.

“Think twice before you hit send!”



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Repercussions of Actions

With every action, there is a reaction. This holds true with events of poor sportsmanship. GHSA By-Law 2.72 outlines the penalties related to reported unsporting action. By-Law 2.78 (c) addresses the potential for additional penalties assessed for repeat offenses by schools and/or coaches/players.



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In Closing. . .

Players, Coaches, and game officials never enter a contest with the intent of performing poorly.

We need to embrace the idea that everyone involved with the game wants to perform well. When we do, high school athletics will become an enjoyable setting where wonderful memories are being built.