

Sportsmanship

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The value of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all educational activities, including athletics. We define good sportsmanship as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and a genuine concern for others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. The concept of sportsmanship must be taught, modeled, expected, and reinforced in the classroom as well as in competitive activities. Athletics provide an arena for participants to grow, excel, understand and value the concept of sportsmanship and teamwork. Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action. Perhaps a quote from Knute Rochne says it best:

“One man practicing good sportsmanship is better than fifty others preaching it.”

Prattsburgh Central School is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship at all interscholastic activities. Good sportsmanship on the part of spectators at athletic contests is as important as good sportsmanship on the part of athletes and coaches. The following guidelines were developed by the PCS Sportsmanship Committee, which had representation by coaches, Board members, parents, students, and the athletic director. These guidelines were developed for presentation to the Board of Education.

Spectators

One of our expectations at athletic contests is that visiting team members, students, and adults are guest to be accorded all the courtesy and consideration that a friendly, wee-mannered and well-intentioned host would normally give. Visitors, in turn, are expected to act as invited guests, using the home school's facilities with care and showing respect for the rules of the home school.

It is expected that spectators will:

- **Show respect for opponents at all times-** *Recognize and appreciate their skills and performance regardless of affiliation. The ability to recognize quality performance without regard to team membership is one of the most highly commendable gestures of good sportsmanship.*
- **Show respect for officials of the game-** *Officials should be recognized as arbiters who are trained to do their job and do it to the best of their abilities. Good sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.*
- **Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the game-** *Familiarity with the current rules of the game is essential in understanding the game and being a good spectator.*
- **Maintain self-control at all times-** *Cheering should be positive and should not be directed toward creating unfriendly situations with athletes, coaches, or spectators.*

**** Spectators must recognize that their conduct plays an important role in establishing the reputation of their school. Good sportsmanship is an important value of athletic competition.****

- **Spectators who evidence continual poor behavior may be requested to leave and may be denied attendance at future events, as per district policy. As stated in the Parent/Student handbook, "All visitors to the school, including those who attend school functions, are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. Those who do not do so will be required to leave school and may have their visitation rights revoked."**

Athletes

An athlete displays a positive attitude by showing respect, displaying good conduct, cooperating at all times, accepting decisions, and avoiding unsportsmanlike conduct.

It is expected that our athletes will:

- **Learn and understand the rules of the game**
- **Demonstrate respect and cooperation with coaches and teammates**
- **Demonstrate self-control and respect for opponents before, during, and after a contest**
- **Demonstrate self-control and respect toward officials**

Coaches

Coaches have a special opportunity to work with young people through athletics and play a significant role in their development as players and as people. Coaches are responsible for the level of sportsmanship shown by their team and should model appropriate behavior for their athletes.

It is expected that coaches will:

- **Instruct players in the elements of good sportsmanship and remove players from competition who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior**
- **Know the rules, abide by and respect the decisions of the officials**
- **Set a positive example**
- **Approach competition as a healthy and constructive exercise**
- **Refrain from the use of crude, insensitive, or abusive language with players, opponents, officials, and spectators**
- **Win with character and lose with dignity**

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