

Hermon School Department

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

The Hermon School Committee believes that athletic competition should be a healthful, positive and safe experience for everyone involved, conducted in an environment that teaches values and ethics, strengthens the community, promotes competition without conflict and enriches the lives of athletes. Players should learn to handle success with grace and losing with dignity. In order to promote core values such as discipline, fairness, responsibility, trustworthiness and citizenship, everyone associated with athletics, including players, coaches, parents and spectators, is expected to exhibit good sportsmanship during athletic competitions.

A. Participants

In exhibiting sportsmanship, student athletes are expected to:

1. Understand and follow the rules of the sport;
2. Recognize skilled performance of others, regardless of the player's team;
3. Display respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and officials;
4. Respect the judgment of officials and accept their decisions.
5. Refrain from antics, taunting opponents and using insulting language or swearing;
6. Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat; and
7. Recognize that their conduct reflects on their school.

B. Coaches

In exhibiting sportsmanship, coaches are expected to:

1. Recognize that they are role models for students and set a good example for athletes and fans to follow;
2. Abide by the rules of the sport, in letter and in spirit;
3. Treat all participants with respect;
4. Behave with dignity and self control;
5. Respect the judgment of officials and accept their decisions;

6. Take corrective action toward any player who intimidates or shows disrespect toward an official or displays unsportsmanlike behavior; and
7. Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat.

#### C. Spectators, Including Parents, Students and Community Members

Spectators attending athletic events are expected to:

1. Realize that the main purpose of the competition is the play of the game and that the role of the spectator is one of support;
2. Show positive support to the teams and players for outstanding performances;
3. Show concern for injured players, regardless of which team they are on;
4. Refrain from angry or abusive language or actions toward any player, official, coach or other spectator.
5. Refrain from endangering participants or spectators by throwing objects;
6. Refrain from heckling, taunting or berating players, officials, coaches or other spectators; and
7. Follow all School Committee policies and rules pertaining to conduct on school property, including but not limited to those pertaining to tobacco alcohol, drugs and weapons.

School athletic events are school activities that are part of the educational program. An athletic event is not a public forum. The public is invited to attend athletic events for the purpose of supporting the participants on both teams and the schools they represent. Appropriate behavior by spectators, especially adults, provides a positive model for students and contributes to the value and educational purposes of athletic activities. Negative comments and behavior by spectators are inconsistent with the purposes of athletic activities. School administrators and officials have the authority and discretion to remove any spectators who do not comply with the rules of sportsmanship.

