

# Virginia Beach City Public Schools Sportsmanship Guide

## A Guide for Athletes, Coaches, and Parents

Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege. As representatives of Virginia Beach City Public Schools, student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that meets the highest standards at all times.

It is the goal of Virginia Beach City Public Schools to provide all students with opportunities to engage in athletic activities that enrich their education and further develop the core values of respect, responsibility, fairness, trust, and good citizenship.

Engaging in planned instruction teaches good sportsmanship and proper behavior. It is the responsibility of the administration, staff, coaches, parents, and the community at large to create a climate that fosters the development of these behaviors. This is accomplished by encouraging and modeling positive and appropriate behavior within the sporting environment while, at the same time, striving for excellence.

Expectations for the behavior of athletes, coaches, and spectators at athletic contests, practices, and events are outlined below:

### Athletes

Athletes are required to meet the following expectations:

1. Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.
2. Play hard and to the limit of your ability, regardless of discouragement. True athletes do not give up nor do they argue, cheat, or taunt opponents.
3. Retain composure at all times and never leave the bench or enter the playing field/court to engage in a fight.
4. Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true competitor does not offer excuses.
5. Maintain a high degree of physical fitness by conscientiously observing team and training rules.
6. Demonstrate loyalty to the school by maintaining a high scholastic standing and by participating in or supporting other school activities.
7. Play for the love and honor of the game.
8. Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
9. Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without question.
10. Respect the facilities of the host school and demonstrate the behavior expected of guests.

### Coaches

Coaches are required to meet the following expectations:

1. Exemplify behavior that is representative of the educational staff of the school and a credit to the teaching profession.
2. Demonstrate high ideals, good habits and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards of your players. Make sportsmanship priority #1.
3. Emphasize to players and bench personnel the importance of proper sideline behavior and the necessity of restraining from entering the playing field/court.
4. Recognize that the purpose of competition is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of individual players and that the most important values of competition are derived from playing the game fairly.
5. Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.
6. Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or of dissatisfaction with the officials.
7. Cooperate with the school administration in the planning, scheduling, and conduct of sports activities.
8. Employ accepted educational methods in coaching, giving all players an opportunity to use and develop initiative, leadership, and judgment.

9. Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of players, refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of the team.
10. Teach athletes that it is better to lose fairly than win unfairly.
11. Demonstrate integrity. Do not allow gambling, profanity, abusive language, or similar violations.
12. Refuse to criticize an opponent, an official, or others associated with sports activities.
13. Properly supervise student athletes under your immediate care and specifically observe a coach's responsibilities during events off school grounds.

### **Parents/Spectators**

Parent/Spectators are required to meet the following expectations:

1. Realize that you represent the school and community and, therefore, have an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through positive behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
2. Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
3. Recognize that since the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the players, victory or defeat are of secondary importance.
4. Treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending to them every courtesy.
5. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
6. Respect the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions.

### **Athlete/Parent/Coach Communication**

Virginia Beach City Public Schools encourages open communication among athletes, parents, and coaches. Both athletes and parents are urged to discuss their concerns with the coach in the appropriate setting and at the appropriate time.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach include issues of mental and physical well-being, strategies for improving individual performance, and issues of behavior.

Issues not appropriate for a parent to discuss with the coaches include playing time, starting positions, team strategy, play calling, and other athletes.

### **Conflict Resolution**

It is desirable for conflicts to be resolved by an athlete with his/her coach. Occasionally, however, situations arise where conflicts are not able to be resolved through this interaction and the assistance of the student activities coordinator and/or principal is needed.

### **Spectator Conduct**

The Virginia High School League requires school districts to monitor spectator behavior at all school sponsored activities. Accordingly, an event supervisor(s) may request any person involved in misconduct to leave the premises and may contact the police for assistance. The school has the authority to suspend individuals from attending all school sponsored activities for spectator misconduct. Virginia Beach City Public Schools appreciates positive support from all spectators.