

MHSA / U.S. BANK GOOD SPORTS BANNER PROGRAM

<p>The Montana High School Association's Executive Board in an effort to establish a quality year round program of good sportsmanship in the state's high schools has adopted the MHSA / U.S. Bank Good Sports Program. The program establishes policies, procedures, and promotional criteria which the member schools, if they choose to participate, can use to form their own, unique sportsmanship plan.</p> <p>Sportsmanship can be defined as a set of behaviors to be exhibited by student-athletes, coaches, game officials and fans in interscholastic athletic competitions. These behaviors include respect, civility, fairness, honesty, and responsibility. Hopefully by making the Good Sports Program available for schools, these behaviors will become the guiding principles with which each person would then honor the letter of the rules and the spirit of the rules. The Montana High School Association / US Bank Good Sports Program create opportunities for every member school to implement a year-round sportsmanship program in its community.</p> <p>To participate in the program, member schools must subscribe to a sportsmanship plan that meets the program criteria below and submit the below application.</p>	<p>Upon receipt of this information, the MHSA will award a good sports banner to each participating school. Each year that a school participates in the Good Sports Program it will receive a validation to indicate the year that this distinction has been achieved.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PROGRAM CRITERIA</u></p> <p><u>Policies and Procedures</u></p> <p>Participating schools must follow these policies and procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of the MHSA code of ethics and expectations for players, coaches, spectators, cheerleaders, and bands. (these are listed in the <u>MHSA Handbook</u>, pages 49-53); and 2. The use of the MHSA code of conduct for coaches (found in the <u>MHSA Handbook</u>, page 49); and 3. Subscribe to a sportsmanship plan which includes procedures for promoting and evaluating the sportsmanship program, rewarding and recognizing good sports behavior, and reporting and acting on complaints of poor sports behavior; Examples of these can be found on the MHSA/US Bank Sportsmanship Page and in the Sportsmanship Clinic. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PROMOTION</u></p> <p>Participating schools must use at least three of the following methods to promote its sportsmanship program:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide peer assistance and mentoring opportunities at junior high and elementary schools. 2. Produce radio or video public service announcements. 3. Include good sports messages or ads in event programs, school newspapers, or other school publications. 4. Develop a good sports recognition program. 5. Create a sportsmanship handbook for players and coaches. 6. Develop sportsmanship game announcements. 7. Promote and participate in conference sportsmanship activities. 8. Conduct in-school programs or pep rallies emphasizing sportsmanship. 9. Invite speakers to emphasize sportsmanship. 10. Produce sportsmanship brochures, posters, flyers, or banners. 11. Develop an in-school public address announcement program. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>EVALUATION</u></p> <p>During the course of each school year, participating schools should evaluate the benefits and successes of the program. They should also evaluate the promotional efforts, team and fan behavior, procedures to handle conflicts, the school's consequences for poor sportsmanship, and recognition programs to reward good sports behavior.</p>
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MHSA / U.S. BANK GOOD SPORTS BANNER PROGRAM APPLICATION

Please provide the following information about your school:

SCHOOL NAME _____ SCHOOL DISTRICT _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____

PROGRAM COORDINATOR(S) AND TITLE(S) _____

I hereby certify that this application represents our district's commitment to subscribe to a sportsmanship plan that adheres to the program criteria.

PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please return your application to the MHSA office.