

Pre-Game Announcements

Welcome to today's contest between _____ and _____ . As member schools of the Montana High School Association, they remind you that sportsmanship and the objectives of educational athletics are what set this event apart of other levels of competition. Your cooperation and support of the values promoted by these two schools is appreciated.

The schools participating in this event are members of the Montana High School Association which have adopted the rules under which the games are conducted. A strong commitment to excellence, fair play, and sportsmanship are all vital to this activity's success.

_____ and _____ high schools appreciate your recognition of the values being taught at this educational event.

The playing and eligibility rules to today's game were developed by _____ and _____ high schools, which are members of the Montana High School Association. These rules provide for fair competition, and protect the integrity of educational athletics. Sportsmanship is one element of these games that spectators can help promote.

We are pleased to welcome you today to _____ High School. Good sportsmanship is one of the primary purposes of educational athletics. Our student-athletes recognize that judgment calls -- by coaches, officials and themselves -- are made in good faith and should be respected. Spectators can support both of these teams by refraining from derogatory or demeaning comments and cheers today. We hope that you will enjoy the game and support the students in a positive and sportsmanlike manner.

When _____ High School sponsors an athletic event, it considers that happening to be an extension of the classroom, with the lessons learned as important as those coming out of a textbook. Perhaps the most important lesson is good sportsmanship, a course which will serve everyone well in the game of life.

Welcomes - Prior to Player Introductions

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Everyone wants to be famous, and some people will do whatever it takes – good or bad -- to be noticed. In today's game, what will you become famous for? Please, be a good sport today!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Many intangibles go into school sports – practice, conditioning, strategies – but the most important of these is sportsmanship. Without sportsmanship, these games lose their educational value. We need YOU to be a good sport!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. At the forefront of the statewide sportsmanship efforts are your local schools. We ask that you assist them in their work by being a good sport today!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Sportsmanship is the Golden Rule of athletics – treating others the way you wish to be treated. Sportsmanship asks us to focus on respect, because sportsmanship is a way of life.

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. The first person you should look at when evaluating sportsmanship is yourself. What does your reflection look like? Please, be a good sport today!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. High school sports are a privilege to play and a privilege to watch. A privilege that depends on responsible conduct in school hallways, classrooms and playing fields. A privilege that depends on good sportsmanship. Good Sports Are Winners because they understand their responsibilities on and off the playing surface.

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Sportsmanship begins at home. It begins with an attitude that how you play matters more than the final score. So please, be a good sport today!

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. The educational value of this event is more important than its outcome. Respect for others, including opponents and officials, is one of those values. There are no excuses for taunting and trash talk.

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. Sportsmanship is not just a necessary part of high schools sports, it's the reason school sports exist. Sportsmanship is a way of life.

Good _____. (Name of School) High School welcomes you to today's game. A recent survey revealed that the number one reason youngsters take part in high school sports is to have fun -- not to be number one.

After Lineups Are Introduced -- Introduce Officials

Your officials for today's game are _____ and _____ . These officials are registered by the Montana High School Association and like the coaches, are hired by **(Name of your school)** to help the athletes learn on the playing field. These individuals have worked hard to learn the rules and apply them fairly. We request you respect their honest efforts in administering this contest.

Your officials for today's game are _____ and _____ . These officials are registered by the Montana High School Association. They are hired by **(Name of your school)** with the mutual agreement of schools participating in this event. Their experience and integrity qualify them to administrate the rules of the game. An attitude of good sportsmanship should be upheld by all spectators, players and coaches, no matter what their personal feelings or loyalties may be in this contest.

National Anthem Introduction

At this time we ask that you stand, and gentlemen, remove your caps, as we pay honor to America with the singing of our National Anthem...

To Be Read During Breaks In The Action

Sportsmanship is the Golden Rule in action. It is practicing respect. Sportsmanship doesn't change with time or place. Sportsmanship is the same no matter where the game is played, or who is playing it. Sportsmanship is what sets high school sports apart from other levels of athletics; and ultimately, sportsmanship becomes a way of life for students.

Here's what a few kids have said about their parent's sportsmanship at school games: "Sometimes I just wish they'd keep our parents out of the gym, and the games would probably be more fun." "We'd get thrown out of games if we acted that like that, I don't know why the parents think they have a right to act that way." "It's tough to be a role model for others when you can't even be a role model for us." Parents, the kids have a simple message – They need you to be a good sport!

In a day and age where it seems that almost anything goes, there's an old-fashioned value that's still in style – it's called respect. In sports, respect translates into sportsmanship. There's nothing wrong with treating people the way you'd like to be treated, whether it's in the gym or out in the community. Respect and sportsmanship are a way of life.

Finishing first does not always mean you won. In fact, an attitude where you feel you have to win at all costs and show disrespect for your opponent, officials and the rules of the game in the process makes you a loser. (Name of School) High School reminds you that there's no excuses for poor sportsmanship.

Many parents, while watching a sporting event with their child, are quick to point out why a play turned out the way it did to teach them something about the game. But too many times, nothing is said about examples of outstanding or poor behavior on the playing surface. Parents, what are you teaching your kids about sportsmanship? (Name of School) High School reminds you that sportsmanship begins at home.

So much has been made lately of athletes and coaches being role models for fans, but in the end, who's a role model for who? Before you verbally abuse a player, coach or referee at an athletic event -- THINK! Maybe it's time for the spectators to become role models for the participants.

Some people say trash talk in sports is harmless -- just a "part of the game." That may be true in college or professional sports, but in high school athletics -- educational athletics - - showing that kind of disrespect can get you kicked out of a game. It's a punishment that fits the crime. Games are meant to be played -- not talked.

Pretend for a moment that you're the only person in attendance at a high school game. Would your behavior include ridiculing impressionable 14 to 17-year olds, openly second-guessing coaches and berating officials? Probably not. So the next time you are in

a crowd at a contest, act as if you were the only fan in the stands, and encourage the participants in a positive manner.

Your ticket to an educational athletic event is a privilege -- a privilege to watch youngsters learn on the playing surface. One of the lessons taught today is one spectators can benefit from as well -- the value of good sportsmanship. This is a classroom where respect should be accorded to all in attendance.

Coaches should set a good example for contestants and fans, always exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior. Participants should treat opponents with respect and shake hands prior to and after contests. Fans should be fans -- not fanatics.