

# SHSAA CODES

## 1. CODE OF ETHICS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES THE SCHOOL REQUIRES THE ATHLETES TO

- ❖ Conduct themselves at all times with honor and dignity.
- ❖ Treat visiting teams, spectators, and officials as honored guests.
- ❖ Faithfully complete schoolwork as practical evidence of their loyalty to school and team.
- ❖ Show that it is a privilege to represent their schools.
- ❖ Remember that there is no place in school athletics before, during, or after competition for the use of drugs, tobacco, cannabis, or alcohol of any kind.

### THE GAME REQUIRES THE ATHLETES TO

- ❖ Maintain a high degree of physical fitness.
- ❖ Be fair at all times, no matter what the cost.
- ❖ Believe in the honesty and integrity of opponents and officials.
- ❖ Play the game for the game's sake.
- ❖ Accept gracefully and without question the decision of the official.

### SPORTSMANSHIP DEMANDS THAT ATHLETES

- ❖ Recognize and applaud honestly and whole-heartedly the efforts of their teams or opponents, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, neurodiversity, socioeconomic background, ability, culture, or religion.
- ❖ Give opponents full credit when they win and learn to correct their own faults through failures.
- ❖ Play hard and to the limit of their abilities regardless of discouragement. True athletes do not give up, nor do they quarrel, cheat, bet, or show off.
- ❖ Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, being never boastful nor bitter.

## 2. CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES THE SCHOOL EXPECTS THE COACHES TO

- ❖ Be an integral part of the school system and its educational contribution.
- ❖ Remember that the athletic area is a classroom with moral and education obligations required at all times.
- ❖ Insist upon high scholarship and enforcement of all rules of eligibility.

### THE ATHLETES EXPECT THE COACHES TO

- ❖ Maintain a genuine and up-to-date knowledge of that which they propose to teach.
- ❖ Maintain fair, unprejudiced relationships with all squad members.
- ❖ Pay careful attention to the physical condition of the players.
- ❖ Inspire a love of the game and desire to compete fairly.

### SPORTSMANSHIP DEMANDS THAT COACHES

- ❖ Take a strong stand against profanity, unfair play, and unsportsmanlike behavior of their teams.
- ❖ Maintain self-control at all times, accepting decisions of officials without outward appearance of vexation.
- ❖ Teach athletes to win by use of legitimate means only.
- ❖ Believe in the honesty and integrity of opponents and officials.
- ❖ Teach that to win is always desirable, but to win at any cost defeats the purpose of the game.

## 3. CODE OF ETHICS FOR OFFICIALS THE CONTEST EXPECTS THE OFFICIAL TO

- ❖ Maintain a professional relationship toward the event, the players, the coaches, and spectators.
- ❖ Be thorough in their preparation.
- ❖ Be on time for duty and appear in appropriate uniform.
- ❖ Be rested and alert.

### THE RULES EXPECT THE OFFICIAL TO

- ❖ Adhere to right decisions despite disapproval of spectators, coaches, and players.
- ❖ Control their temper at all times in dealing with players, coaches, and crowds.
- ❖ Respect and aid companion officials in making decisions.
- ❖ Make interpretations and announcements clear to both teams.

### SPORTSMANSHIP DEMANDS THAT OFFICIALS

- ❖ Maintain a pleasant, impartial attitude toward all players and coaches.

- ❖ Know and enforce SHSAA rules and regulations.
- ❖ Carry out their duties so as not to distract from the players or the game.
- ❖ Discourage any acts of poor sportsmanship.

#### 4. **SPECTATOR CONDUCT**

The SHSAA accepts the following as its Guideline regarding spectator conduct at all SHSAA Events.

The guiding principle for all SHSAA activities is that all participants (players, coaches, game and minor officials alike) deserve respect and consideration.

- ❖ Respect the players in the game. Fans must cheer showing their support “for” their team, not disrespect for their opponents. It will be unacceptable for fans to make noise of any kind during situations such as a foul shot in basketball or during the serve in volleyball.
- ❖ School supporters are asked not to applaud errors by opponents, nor heckle, jeer, or distract members of the opposing team.
- ❖ Respect the officials. They are doing the best job that they can and should not be criticized for the judgments that they make rather applauded for the service they provide to high school sport.
- ❖ Refrain from taking food or drink into high school gymnasiums when posted.
- ❖ Fans must respect the property of the schools and the authority of the school officials.
- ❖ Refrain from using artificial noisemakers, drums, or other musical instruments. The exception to this Guideline would be a school pep band under the direct supervision of authorized school personnel, with the understanding that nothing will be done to interfere with the performance of the opposing team.
- ❖ It is the SHSAA position that if the actions of a spectator are deemed by the officials to be interfering with play or the official's ability to perform their duties, that the game should be stopped. The host school should be asked to intervene to have the disruptive action stop and, if appropriate, issue a warning to that spectator. If the allegiance of the individual can be determined to be with the visiting team, it is appropriate to ask the visiting coach to intervene to stop the disruptive action. If the officials determine that the disruptive action is beyond a warning or intervention then they should ask the host school and/or the visiting coach (if appropriate) to see to it that the spectator leaves the premises. The officials having taken this action must not continue the game until their request has been fulfilled. The officials should not take it upon themselves to confront the spectator about their conduct or their removal.

**BE A SPORT – BLEND YOUR CHEERS FOR “YOUR TEAM” WITH APPLAUSE FOR YOUR OPPONENTS. OBSERVE THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE RULES AND SHOW CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS.**

Coaches and school administrators should make certain that the school team, as well as any team followers taking part in a high school athletic event, are made aware of these expectations.