

GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS! AWARD

Judging Criteria

MHSAA tournament hosts and MEEMIC Insurance Company will select schools in each team tournament for recognition in the Good Sports Are Winners! Program.

- Fall – Girls Volleyball, Football, Boys Soccer
- Winter – Girls Competitive Cheer, Team Dual Wrestling, Ice Hockey, Boys & Girls Basketball
- Spring – Baseball, Girls Soccer, Softball, Boys & Girls Lacrosse

All schools are eligible for recognition, but only ONE winner is selected per tournament site. Judging is done by game officials, scoring personnel, MHSAA tournament management, security personnel, parking personnel, hotel personnel, and tournament managers.

Judges evaluate and rate the cheerleaders, spectator sections (students and adults), coaches, and players of each school during the total tournament. Judging criteria includes evaluations in the following categories:

#1 - Be Courteous To All

Desirable Behavior: Opposing coaches and players shaking hands after game; players shaking hand of opponent after fouling out; all showing concern for injured player; respectfully addressing officials during competition and thanking them for their performance, regardless of agreement with all calls.

Unacceptable Behavior: Fans reading newspapers, turning their backs, making disrespectful actions, etc., during the introductions of opponents; yelling, waving, etc., during opponent's free throws; derogatory/disrespectful yells, chants, songs, gestures, including "hey-hey-hey goodbye," "air ball," "you, you, you," "scoreboard," "warm up the bus," and others.

#2 - Know The Rules, Abide By And Respect The Official's Decisions

Desirable Behavior: Utilize every opportunity to promote understanding of the rules of the contest within the school and community; players utilize the team captain or coach for clarification of the call; accept the decisions of the officials; cheerleaders lead fans in positive school yells in a favorable manner; cooperate with the news media in interpretation and clarification of rules.

Unacceptable Behavior: Booing or heckling an official's decision; criticizing the merits of officiating; displays of temper and arguing with an official's call; derogatory remarks toward the officials.

#3 - Win With Character And Lose With Dignity

Desirable Behavior: Handshakes between opposing players and coaches at end of contests, regardless of outcome; opposing players, coaches and fans engaging in friendly conversation before and following contest; treating competition as a game, not a war; applause at end of contest for performance of all players.

Unacceptable Behavior: Yells that antagonize your opponents when you feel you have won the game; refusing to shake hands or give recognition to winner or good performance; blame loss on officials, coaching, individual player's performance or other rationalizations; or self-centered victory celebrations on the playing surface.

#4 - Display Appreciation For Good Performance Regardless Of The Team

Desirable Behavior: Coach/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching; all fans recognize an outstanding participant's performance by applause, regardless of its impact on the contest; discuss outstanding performance of opponent with visiting and home fans.

Unacceptable Behavior: Laughing, pointing fingers, name calling, etc., of opponents in an attempt to distract; to degrade an excellent performance by opponents.

#5 - Exercise Self-Control And Reflect Positively Upon Yourself, Team And School

Desirable Behavior: Support the activity by learning yells of cheerleaders and displaying total unity as fans in following their lead.

Unacceptable Behavior: Displays of anger, boasting, use of profanity, bouncing beach balls, antics or full body-painting which draw attention to individuals in the stands instead of the contest; doing own yells instead of following lead of the cheerleaders; doing unsportsmanlike yells/gestures, such as "YOU, YOU, YOU!" while pointing finger at fouling opponent.

#6 - Permit Only Positive Sportsmanlike Behavior To Reflect On Your School Or Its Activities

Desirable Behavior: Positively encourage those around you to display only sportsmanlike conduct; report poor sportsmanship to school officials; member schools insist that sportsmanship be a priority; administrators help coaches to teach, model, and reinforce sportsmanship; recognize coaches for sportsmanlike conduct; coaches will play those who exhibit positive sportsmanship; administrators will take appropriate action to ensure sportsmanlike behavior.

Unacceptable Behavior: Fans, players, coaches, administrators or member schools unwillingness to get involved and take a stand to defend one of the main tenets of school activities--teaching and promotion of sportsmanship.