



Diocese of Evansville Athletic Guidelines for K - 8 Programs

It is our intention to state our expectations for behaviors and attitudes that should be displayed by all invested parties regarding appropriate Christian sportsmanship. We look forward to providing opportunities for appropriate athletic competition where students can learn athletic skills and life skills; where students, coaches and parents/fans will appreciate the gifts and talents of others as well as the opportunities to compete, win or lose. Our **Good Sports** program allows each of us to model, practice and learn respect, gratitude and responsibility among many other core values, through Christian athletic competition.

Expectations for Parents and Fans

Parents should expect coaches and athletes to display appropriate Christian behavior, attitude and effort in practices and in competition. Parents should support coaches' efforts to teach athletes core values. This may mean that some athletes may be awarded playing time over others whose behavior, attitude or effort (regardless of talent) does not reflect the values of good sportsmanship. This includes working hard in practices, arriving consistently on time, demonstrating appropriate behavior, attitude, and effort in practices and games.

Parents should support coaches who are encouraged to play students who display consistent effort, show positive attitude, display appropriate behavior, and attend practices and competition over students who do not participate appropriately.

Specific Goals/Expectations

- ✚ Parents should encourage prayer before and after practices and competition.
- ✚ Parents/fans should model good sportsmanship with their own and other teams (players, coaches and fans), before, during and after competition, win or lose.
- ✚ Parents/fans should not approach officials, the other team's coaches, players or parents/fans in a negative way.
- ✚ Parents should emphasize healthy behaviors regarding diet, rest and athletics.
- ✚ Parents should help students balance academics and athletics, emphasizing academics come first.
- ✚ Parents should recognize their behavior matters to their own children and the school/parish community and that their signature on the Code of Christian Conduct applies to parents in the stands.
- ✚ Parents are the first teachers of their children and should remember that their modeling and behavior reflects on their own children, their family and the school/parish community.

Parents and Fans should...

- ✚ **Show respect.**
 - ✓ Cheer for a team, not against a team.
 - ✓ Celebrate talents and accomplishments of all athletes.
 - ✓ Respect all athletes, coaches, officials and other fans.
 - ✓ Do not approach officials, your coach, other coaches or fans before, during or after practice or competition with negativity.
 - ✓ Speak in a positive way about your athlete, other athletes, coaches, officials and your school.
 - ✓ Keep all things in perspective.
- ✚ **Show gratitude and appreciation.**
 - ✓ Appreciate the time and effort of volunteer coaches and officials.
 - ✓ Appreciate efforts and talents of all the athletes.
 - ✓ Be positive before, during and after the game with your athlete and others.
 - ✓ Appreciate the opportunities athletes have to participate.
 - ✓ Be grateful for the support and investment of time, talent and treasure of others and the school.
 - ✓ Keep all things in perspective.
- ✚ **Show responsibility.**
 - ✓ Communicate with and about athletes, coaches, and other parents/fans, in a positive and appropriate way.
 - ✓ Be on time.
 - ✓ Encourage team over individuals.
 - ✓ Do not leave siblings unsupervised.