

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

The Board believes that athletic competition should be a healthful, positive and safe experience for everyone involved, conducted in an environment that teaches values and ethics, strengthens the community, promotes competition without conflict and enriches the lives of athletes. Players should learn to handle success with grace and losing with dignity. In order to promote core values such as discipline, fairness, responsibility, trustworthiness and citizenship, everyone associated with athletics, including players, coaches, parents and spectators, is expected to exhibit good sportsmanship during athletic competitions.

**A. PARTICIPANTS**

In exhibiting sportsmanship, student athletes are expected to:

1. Understand and follow the rules of the sport;
2. Recognize skilled performance of others, regardless of the player's team;
3. Display respect for teammates, opponents, coaches and officials;
4. Respect the judgment of officials and accept their decisions;
5. Refrain from antics, taunting opponents and using insulting language or swearing;
6. Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat; and
7. Recognize that their conduct reflects on their school.

**B. COACHES**

In exhibiting sportsmanship, coaches are expected to:

1. Recognize that they are role models for students and set a good example for athletes and fans to follow;
2. Abide by the rules of the sport, in letter and in spirit;
3. Treat all participants with respect;
4. Behave with dignity and self-control;
5. Respect the judgment of officials and accept their decisions;
6. Take corrective action toward any player who intimidates or shows disrespect toward an official or displays unsportsmanlike behavior; and
7. Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat.

**C. SPECTATORS, INCLUDING PARENTS, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Spectators attending athletic events are expected to:

1. Realize that the main purpose of the competition is the play of the game and that the role of the spectator is one of support;
2. Show positive support to the teams and players for outstanding performances;
3. Show concern for injured players, regardless of which team they are on;
4. Refrain from angry or abusive language or actions toward any player, official, coach or other spectators;
5. Refrain from endangering participants or spectators by throwing objects;
6. Refrain from heckling, taunting or berating players, officials, coaches or other spectators; and
7. Follow all Board policies and rules pertaining to conduct on school property, including but not limited to those pertaining to tobacco, alcohol, drugs and weapons.

School athletic events are school activities that are part of the educational program. An athletic event is not a public forum. The public is invited to attend athletic events for the purpose of supporting the participants on both teams and the schools they represent. Appropriate behavior by spectators, especially adults, provides a positive model for students and contributes to the value and educational purposes of athletic activities. Negative comments and behavior by spectators are inconsistent with the purposes of athletic activities. School administrators and officials have the authority and discretion to remove any spectators who do not comply with rules of sportsmanship.

**D. PENALTIES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

Student athletes who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior will be subject to penalties described in the guidelines of the Western Maine Conference (high school) and the Cumberland County Conference (middle school) or, if the conduct constitutes a violation of Board/District policy, school rules or the Student Code of Conduct and/or Student Handbook, to appropriate disciplinary consequences.

Student spectators whose behavior constitutes a violation of Board policy, school rules or the Student Code of Conduct and/or Student Handbook will be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences.

Adult spectators who engage in unsportsmanlike behavior or conduct that violates Board policy may be asked to leave the premises and may be excluded from future

events. The administrator in charge of the event may seek the assistance of law enforcement authorities if necessary to ensure the safety of participants, coaches, officials or other spectators or to prevent damage to school property.

**E. NOTICE OF RULES**

The Superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for posting spectator rules at appropriate locations at interscholastic competition sites.

Cross Reference:        JJI—Philosophy of Athletics  
                              JJIB—Sponsorship and Evaluation of Athletic Programs  
                              JJIBA—Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches  
                              JJIBC—Relations with Booster Groups (or alternative code KJA)  
                              IGDJ---High School Athletic Policy  
                              IGDJ---Middle School Athletic Policy  
                              JICH---Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

Adopted:        January 8, 2007