



Sportsmanship Policy

The Fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship

Dripping Springs Youth Sports Association is emphasizing the importance of **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**. The one thing we need to realize is that many people have not had **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** explained to them. Hopefully the following will help everyone understand their responsibilities at a DSYSA sporting event:

- 1. GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RULES OF THE CONTEST.** Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on officials or coaches. The spirit of **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.
- 2. EXERCISE REPRESENTATIVE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIME.** The true value of competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior which is representative of a sound value base. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.
- 3. RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE SKILLED PERFORMANCES REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION.** Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** but also reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.
- 4. EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS.** The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game. The rule of **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP** is to accept and abide by the decisions made by the official/umpire. This is critical for young athletes to learn for later applications in life.
- 5. DISPLAY OPENLY A RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.** Opponents should be treated cordially and accorded tolerance at all times. Be a positive representative for your team and family.
- 6. DISPLAY PRIDE IN YOUR ACTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.** Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a League representative. Regardless of whether you are an adult, player, coach, or official, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

Conduct Guidelines and Behavior Expectations

The Coaches

Have fun! The kids are playing the sport because it is fun.

Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards. Practicing good citizenship is practicing good sportsmanship.

- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow—please refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he or she is doing or talking about; no throwing of any object in disgust. Shake hands with the officials and opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote

athletics. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of all people at the game.

- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the No. 1 priority.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
- Be no party to the use of profanity, obscene language or improper actions.
- Do not be overbearing with the young athletes. Refrain from placing too much pressure on the kids. The experience should be positive, not negative. Don't expect more than they can deliver.

The Players

Have fun!

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your league and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the league and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and other players. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all the people at the event.

The Spectators

Have fun!

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- Remember that sports are a learning experience for young athletes and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as athletes and as people as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for opposing players, coaches and spectators. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc...) before, during and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Ten Tips to Being a Good Sports Parent

1. **Work with your child.** There really is nothing more satisfying than going out at least a few evenings a week and playing ball with your kids. This gives them quality time, and helps your child improve his/her skills

(and, the better your child can play, the more she/he will enjoy the DSYSA sports experience!). Some day, your child will look back fondly on the spring evenings spent playing catch with mom and/or dad.

2. **Get involved with DSYSA.** DSYSA is run on a volunteer basis, and we can use all the help we can get. Anything you can do will help all the kids, from helping out at registration or tryouts, to working the concession stand. If your child sees that sports are important to you, he/she will learn that it is important to the kids too. Amongst the board members are those that have helped out contributing with field preparation, scheduling, scorekeeping, umpiring, equipment and uniform management, snack bar operations, and fund raising. Everyone can find a place to help.
3. **Show up for the games AND the practices.** In today's busy world it is sometimes hard to juggle schedules, but this is your child. We've seen many who never tried to excel at sports, and invariably these kids were dropped off at practices and picked up afterwards, without the parent(s) ever watching a single practice. It's only a couple times a week, a couple of months out of the year. The most irritating are the parents who don't ever watch practice (and therefore, never understand the coach's philosophy), but will question (yell) at a coach's decision during the game. Most people wouldn't dare to not show up for work and still tell the boss what's wrong with the company, but they will turn around and do just that with their child's coach.
4. **Respect the rules.** This is one of the most important things the kids should be learning. If you don't agree with an official/umpire's call, keep it to yourself. If you think there is a serious problem, take it up with the coach or a league official on your own time, not your child's.
5. **Don't create pressure.** Just about every father dreams of his son becoming a star athlete, but they are only children and deserve to enjoy the game as children. Don't expect more than they can deliver. Give positive encouragement, and be there when they need you. Besides, often a child in early years will lack certain skills, and blossom later on. Never put so much pressure on a child to where they cry and feel badly about themselves or the sport.
6. **Losing is normal result of competition - help your child learn to accept it.** No one likes to lose, but the nature of a team sport is that one team always loses. Teach your child that he/she didn't lose, the team lost. And they lost to a team that just happened to play better that day. There is always next time, and the important thing is to learn from the defeats. One of life's most interesting truisms is that we learn more in failure than in success. It's okay to analyze why your team lost, and how they can do better next time. It's never okay to place blame.
7. **Have fun!** Sports should be a positive experience for everyone: kids, coaches, support staff, and parents. Winning is nice, but losing is inevitable. Being a star is fun, but being a bench player is just as important.
8. **Don't panic if your child is injured.** There are occasions when players collide, or non-contact injuries occur. We are all concerned about our children's safety, but if your child suffers a injury, remember; kids are able to sustain a lot more than adults; and, coaches are probably familiar with the usual sports injuries. Let the coach handle the situation.... he doesn't need a panicked parent to deal with.
9. **The program only gets better if you volunteer.** We can't stress this enough: VOLUNTEER...we need you. One of the biggest problems we see is those who will not give their time, but are quick to criticize. If you can't be part of the solution, don't be part of the problem. If you think that something needs to be changed, get involved so that you can change it.

10. **Speak up if you think your coach is not being fair or displaying inappropriate behavior.** One of the most frustrating things for a board member is to have a parent come up to us after the season and say, "Great program, but my sons manager kept doing something that really bothered me." A manager/coach cannot address problems if they don't know the problem exist. Don't assume they know you are unhappy because they may have no idea. League Commissioners and the DSYSA board can't resolve problems it never hears about.