

# North Hunterdon High School

## **Athletic Sportsmanship Expectation Guide**



*“A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence”*

**“Sportsmanship:  
The Essence of the Game”**

# **CHEER FOR YOUR TEAM - NOT AGAINST YOUR OPPONENT**

That simple statement can guide all emotions and reactions from participants, coaches and sports fans at interscholastic contests. If you consider that interscholastic activities is meant to be fun and provide a supplement the education of these youth, the statement above has added meaning. Sporting activities are not life and death endeavors conducted for one group to show its supremacy over another. Interscholastic sports are for fun, character development, physical well being and provide a vital part in a child's learning how to become a contributing member of society.

As a result, participants, coaches, parents, students and fans need to learn and indeed, demand that winning be handled with grace and humility; losing should be handled with dignity and with the respect given to an opponent who was ahead at the end of the contest. When a team can win on the scoreboard, but also show respect for an opponent, then the victory is even more special. Conversely, when a team loses a contest, the primary focus of this team should be to determine what each team member could have done to change the outcome. In interscholastic competition, both winning and losing should be a great learning experience.

Learn the rules and play by the rules. This is another simple concept that can increase your opportunity for success (however you measure success), and also help you understand and explain the outcome of the game.

It is gratifying that the participants themselves very often display the greatest displays of SPORTING BEHAVIOR at the interscholastic level. It is important for coaches and fans, as well as the participants themselves to consider their actions while at sporting events so that everyone can be examples of what is good and right about interscholastic athletics.

Be a leader in promoting positive sporting behavior. Make your children, teammates, school and community proud of what your team represents. People notice and remember actions of their opponents. Make it a great memory.

*Good luck with your athletic participation and support. May it be all that you hoped for and provide special memories that last a lifetime.*

Sincerely,

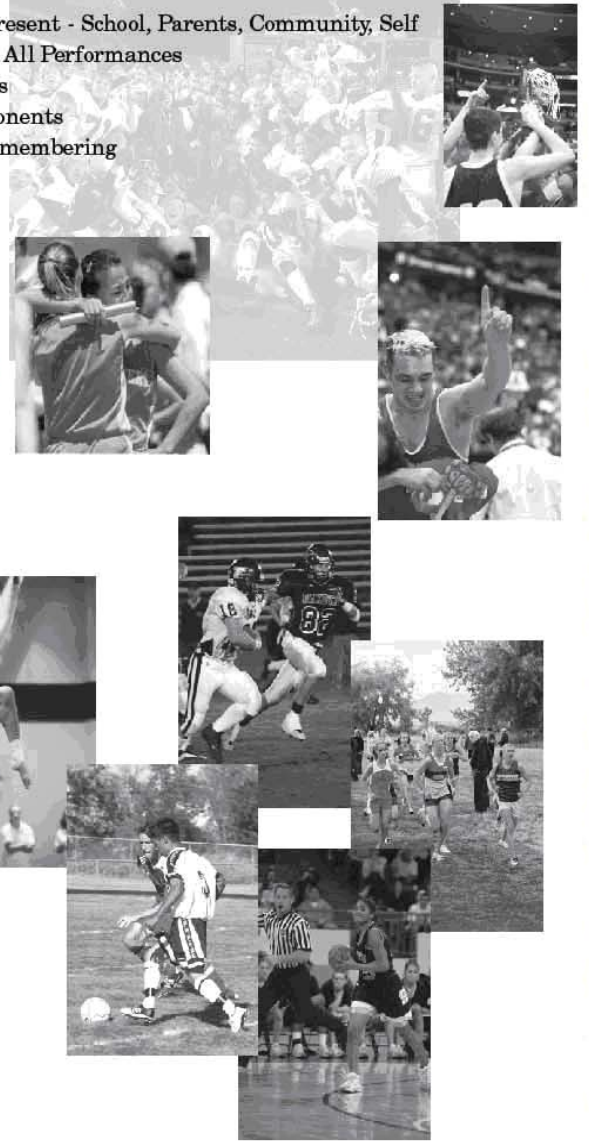
Michael P. Hughes  
Principal

# North Hunterdon High School



## Fundamentals of Positive Sporting Behavior

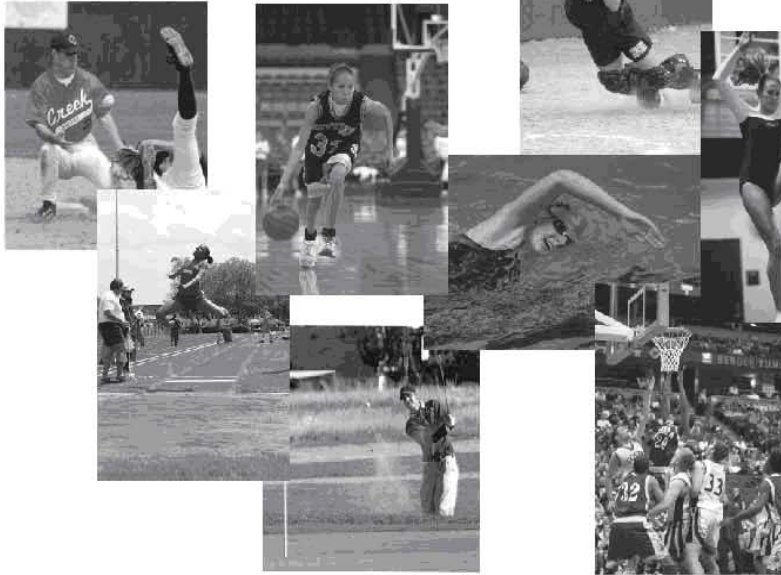
Understand Who You Represent - School, Parents, Community, Self  
 Recognize and Appreciate All Performances  
 Respect the Game Officials  
 Always Respect Your Opponents  
 Take Pride in Yourself, Remembering  
 There is No "I" in Team



### Simple Positive Sporting Behavior Activities

#### For Players...

Remember Who You Represent  
 Have a Thorough Knowledge of the Playing Rules  
 Treat Your Opponent with the Respect You Expect  
 Respect the Integrity and Judgment of the Officials



#### For Coaches...

Practicing Citizenship in Practicing Positive Sporting Behavior  
 Always Shake Hands with the Officials and Opposing Coaches  
 Be Modest in Victory and Gracious in Defeat



#### For Spectators...

Cheer For Your Team, Not Against the Opponent  
 Respect the Officials' Calls  
 Be A Positive Model for Those Around You



TREAT YOUR OPPONENTS WITH THE RESPECT YOU WANT FROM THEM • HAVE AN OPEN MIND TO OTHERS' WEAKNESSES AND HAVE A FORGIVING ATTITUDE

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO PARTICIPATE • BE A RESPONSIBLE AND RELIABLE TEAM MEMBER • TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR PERFORMANCE AND YOUR SCHOOL

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