

Sportsmanship *for*

PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS



I pledge

*My head
to clearer thinking,
My heart
to greater loyalty,*

*My hands
to larger service, and
My health
to better living*

*for my club,
my community,
my country,
and my world.*

— 4-H Pledge

Sportsmanship:

Conduct becoming to an individual involving fair and honest competition, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of results.

The development of sportsmanship is an important part of youth development. To become contributing, competent, caring, capable adults, youth must develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and aspirations of sportsmanship.

Parents and supporters are asked to help their children develop sportsmanship by setting a good example, and demonstrating sportsmanship before, during, and after competitive programs.

Here are some examples of ways you can help your child learn to be a fair and generous competitor, a good loser, and a graceful winner.

- 1 Teach your child sportsmanship. Require him/her to demonstrate sportsmanship before, during, and following competitive activities. Teach and encourage him/her to...
 - demonstrate and maintain high standards of personal behavior and conduct which become him/her as an individual and as a representative of your family, your club, your community, and the program.
 - learn and follow the rules.
 - be objective.
 - be honest, fair and straightforward in everything he/she says and does.
 - show integrity.
 - accept that the nature of competition is seeking to get what others are seeking, and results in both winners and losers.
 - be well-mannered and show respect.
 - be pleasant and nice toward other participants, spectators, program officials, judges, the media, supporters, and others.
 - give others the benefit of the doubt.
 - treat people, animals, and things kindly.
 - be considerate and thoughtful in all he/she says and does, regardless of whether he/she does well or not, or whether he/she wins or loses.
 - be friendly and cheerful.
 - refrain from ill humor and arguing.
 - keep his/her emotions under control.
 - accept judges' suggestions and the results with a positive attitude.
 - congratulate winners.
 - not gripe, complain, or make excuses when he/she doesn't win or perform well.
 - take the things that happen at the program, and the results, with grace and good temper.
 - not complain or make accusations about others unless he/she has proof and is willing to personally face the person(s) he/she is accusing.

- recognize, appreciate, and try to learn from the accomplishments and admirable traits of others.
- recognize, learn from, and try to improve his/her own shortcomings.
- be happy but not gloat, brag, act conceited, or downplay his/her accomplishments.
- thank leaders, program organizers, sponsors, judges, and others.

2 Applaud for your children, your friends' children, your favorite clubs or groups, and others to express appreciation and admiration.

3 Do not boo, heckle, make disparaging remarks, or make insulting comments about or to anyone—including competitors from rival clubs or groups, and program officials and organizers.

4 Listen, act interested, and be quiet when participants are introduced, when program officials are talking or making announcements, and when other comments are being addressed to the audience.

5 Remain until the end of the event or the class you are observing, or until program organizers indicate it is appropriate for spectators to depart. Do not get up and leave the minute your child leaves the showring or stage.

6 Encourage your child to politely ask questions if he/she has them, express concerns he/she may have, and make helpful suggestions to program officials and organizers.

7 Congratulate the winners after the program.

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If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, be polite in expressing them. Criticize in private, and compliment in public.

Be considerate of the time program officials have to spend with you, and of their other responsibilities. Schedule an appointment if you need more time than they have to spend with you at the program. Submit compliments, concerns, and suggestions in writing with your signature.

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Show courtesy towards others.

For example:

- Do not sit or stand in aisles.
- Do not jump up and block the view of those behind you in moments of high excitement.
- Do not block other people's views when taking pictures or videos.
- Leave the chairs and bleachers where you find them.
- Throw away litter. Do not leave programs, drinking cups, or other trash for someone else to clean up.

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Enjoy the program, and accept our appreciation for setting a good example for today's youth.

Thank You!

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