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# *Sportsmanship For Spectators*

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***Sportsmanship:***

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

## Sportsmanship For Spectators

Sportsmanship is 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 learn to be fair and generous competitors, good losers, and graceful winners. Spectators at youth programs and events are asked to demonstrate sportsmanship and set a good example of courteous behavior. Here are some tips:

1. Arrive on time and do not "save seats". If your group's members arrive at different times, wait outside to be seated until after the last person arrives. Do not disturb others and say "excuse me" when appropriate.
2. Applaud for youth you came to see, your favorite groups or teams, and others you wish to recognize.
3. Do not boo, heckle, make disparaging remarks, or make insulting comments about or to anyone - including competitors from rival groups or program officials.

4. Listen, act interested, and be quiet when participants are introduced, and when other comments are addressed to the audience. Do not talk incessantly during the event.
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 the child you came to see leaves the playing field, show ring or stage.
6. Congratulate the winners after the program.
7. Accept results with grace and good temper. Keep your emotions under control. Do not swear or use offensive language, behave rudely, or lose your temper.
8. 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 a later 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.

9. 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.
10. Enjoy the program, and accept our appreciation for setting a good example for today's youth. Thank You!