

# Points of Emphasis *for AACPS Athletics*

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

### What is Sportsmanship?

- The commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity (NFHS).
- The ability to maintain composure and continue to be respectful of student-athletes, coaches, officials, and other staff in tense and competitive environments.

### Why is Sportsmanship important?

- Because it teaches life lessons such as character, teamwork, and overcoming adversity.
- Because maintaining it - especially in challenging times - sets a standard for how we all want and deserve to be treated.

### How do I exhibit Sportsmanship?

As an athletic administrator	As a coach	As a student-athlete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I set the example as a leader of our program through my interactions with all stakeholders.</li><li>• I set clear expectations for my coaching staff and develop a process for them to communicate with me regarding concerns they have.</li><li>• I recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I mentally prepare myself for interactions with officials in advance of contests and remember that my actions set the tone for my team.</li><li>• I talk with families about how they can display good sportsmanship as spectators.</li><li>• I respect the judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the event and display no behavior that could incite fans.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I seriously accept the responsibility and privilege of representing my school and community; display positive public actions at all times.</li><li>• I focus on what I can control and let go of what I can't.</li><li>• When on the sidelines I stay engaged with the contest in positive ways by cheering on my teammates and not antagonizing my opponents or the officials.</li></ul>



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## **BUILDING INCLUSIVE TEAM CULTURES**

### What is Building Inclusive Team Cultures?

- Purposefully taking the time to create team cultures that are safe spaces for all members and that do not tolerate acts of racism, bullying, and hateful acts.
- Purposefully taking time to highlight the differences between student-athletes on a team.

### Why is Building Inclusive Team Cultures important?

- Because acts of racism, bullying, and hate are unacceptable and cannot be a part of an education-based athletic program or school system.
- Because we value differences and believe teams are stronger when they are educated on those differences and take the time to celebrate them.

### How do I Build Inclusive Team Cultures?

<b>As an athletic administrator</b>	<b>As a coach</b>	<b>As a student-athlete</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I emphasize the importance of my coaches taking the time to discuss these issues with their teams.</li><li>• I provide additional support for coaches who may have hesitations with these topics.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I spend time shaping the culture of my team, to include talking about racism, bullying, and hateful acts.</li><li>• I make sure the members of my team know how to report these incidents and where to get support if needed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I get to know my teammates, especially those different from me.</li><li>• I look out for my teammates and report issues of concern that I am aware of.</li></ul>

