

## Twin State League Sportsmanship Policy

This policy has been formulated by the Twin State League (TSL) Athletics Administrators and approved by member school Principals to help maintain a healthy balance between fair play and safety. This policy is a guideline to maintain good relations between coaches, officials, student-athletes and fans, with an emphasis on Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity in the conduct of our TSL athletic events.

### Definitions

- ***Sportsmanship*** is defined as the practice of participating in sports with a conduct and attitude considered to be befitting of a participant in that sport, especially fair play, courtesy, striving to win and accepting results, win or lose. It encompasses both Ethical Behavior and acts of Integrity.
- ***Ethics*** is defined as the principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a group. It is a system of principles governing acceptable conduct.
- ***Integrity*** is defined as a firm adherence to a code of values that incorporates the principles of honesty.

The TSL would like to challenge all administrators and coaches to work very hard at teaching these principles of ethics and integrity to our student-athletes, coaches, parents and fans, and to hold each group accountable for their actions. We believe this will allow us to achieve our goal of maintaining good sportsmanship in the conduct of our athletic events.

Handshaking is to be carried out by all athletic teams and their entire coaching staff. The sportsmanship hand shaking will be done after the event. All coaches will supervise the entire hand shaking procedure for the safety of the athletes and to promote good sportsmanship.

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in TSL contests. The specific acts outlined in the appropriate National High School Federation rule book defines the penalties. Members of the TSL are governed by the rules and regulations of their state associations. Ohio member schools are under the guidance of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), while the West Virginia schools fall under the jurisdiction of the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission (WVSSAC) rules and regulations. Contest officials are obligated by the OHSAA and the WVSSAC to report Unsportsmanlike instances to their state governing bodies for athletics.

The officials working TSL contests, or any contest involving a TSL team, are instructed to send a report to the specific sport Director of Officials regarding unsporting behavior (i.e. player/coach/fan ejections, penalties on the sidelines, and technical fouls on the bench, etc.) and complete any documentation required by the State associations. These reports are to be completed and sent within 48 hours of the contest. Additionally, this information is to be passed on to the Commissioner of the Twin State League.

Situations that may require further investigation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the schools involved and the conference administration.

All members of the Twin State League understand that good Sportsmanship is an essential part of any athletic competition, and it is expected from athletes, coaches, officials, and fans. Attendance at and participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege with the expectation that all parties exhibit positive and respectful behavior before, during, and after the conduct of our athletics events.