Athletic Statement

Participation in athletics is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the Athletic Department and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. Each student-athlete represents his/her school and student body. It is the student-athlete's duty to conduct himself/herself in a manner that is becoming the student-athlete, his/her family, Newport News Public Schools and the community.

Sportsmanship

The following policy statement from the National Federation of State High School Associations expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows:

> *The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.*

One of the main goals of the athletic program is to teach the concept of sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, officials, coaches and spectators.

Good sportsmanship includes showing courtesy and kindness towards your opponent as well as fellow team members. The contest is judged by the effort of the participants and not by putting down your opponent.

Winning is exciting, but winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant is outside the spirit and interest of the contest.

All VHSL sanctioned events are a reflection of our community and school. The conduct of the team is extended to parents and fans before, during, and after athletic events.

The Fundamentals of Sportsmanship

Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest. The necessity to be well informed is essential. Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on officials, coaches, or administrative decisions. The spirit of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.

Exercise representative behavior at all times. A prerequisite to GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP requires one to understand his/her prejudices that may become a factor in his/her behavior. The true value of interscholastic competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior which is representative of a sound value base. A proper perspective must be maintained if the educational values are to be realized. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.

Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of affiliation. Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP but reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.

Exhibit respect for the officials. The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all involved in the contest are a part of the game. We should not rationalize our own poor or unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on an official. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the decision made. This value is critical for students to learn for later application in life.

Display openly a respect for the opponent at all times. Opponents are guests and should be treated cordially, provided with the best accommodations, and accorded tolerance at all times. Be a positive representative for your school, team, or family.

Display pride in your actions at every opportunity. Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a school representative. Regardless of whether you are an adult, student, athlete, coach, or official, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

"SPORTSMANSHIP:
THE ONLY MISSING PIECE IS YOU!"