



POSITIVITY.

the game plan for adversity.

Dear Coaches, Athletes and Spectators -

As we prepare for the upcoming Cornhusker State Games, it is an appropriate time to review the goals of our organization as they relate to sportsmanship.

We are committed to teaching our participants to strive for excellence and to properly handle whatever adversity they encounter along the way. The greatest challenge to good sportsmanship is adversity. When things are not going well, the easy response is to shift the blame. In particular, to shift it away from ourselves or our team to our opponents, and often, to the officials. When this is done, the focus is away from the positive "to play harder or better," to the negative "how can we possibly overcome the bad calls." We feel it is essential that our coaches, athletes and spectators maintain a positive approach to handling adversity. Abusive behavior of any kind is counter-productive to what we are trying to teach. In addition, it creates a very uncomfortable environment for the spectators who come out to support their athletes and wish to enjoy the competition. We are asking all our fans to keep comments positive and upbeat.

In sports where officials are required, we hire officials that are deemed competent by our organization and sport directors. They are not perfect, and their interpretation of the action may be different from yours. However, they are an essential part of the game, and they are doing the best they can. Let's strive to pay less attention to their performance and more to the superb skills of our athletes.

Whether you are coaching, playing or spectating, please enjoy your time at the Cornhusker State Games and keep it positive.

Good luck and have fun!

Nebraska Sports Council Staff



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FUNDAMENTALS of sportsmanship.

- 1 Attain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game.
- 2 Display a positive behavior in all sports and all situations.
- 3 Show respect for officials by accepting and abiding by their decisions.
- 4 Show respect for your opponent, under all circumstances.
- 5 Show respect for yourself by taking pride in all of your actions.
- 6 Maintain self control.
- 7 Display dignity in response to calls, player performance, and outcomes.
- 8 Recognize and appreciate skilled performances by all athletes.



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KEYS

to sportsmanship.

ATHLETES

All Cornhusker State Games athletes should compete with good sportsmanship. This includes (but is not limited to): **playing fairly, staying positive, losing gracefully/winning with class, and respecting the rulings of all officials.**

COACHES

All coaches at the Cornhusker State Games must uphold the sportsmanship standards that are set in place. This includes (but is not limited to): **leading positively, showing respect to all other teams/coaches, reacting in a positive manner to all official calls, and maintaining team spirit.**

SPECTATORS

All spectators attending the Cornhusker State Games must uphold good sportsmanship conduct, similar to that of the athletes and coaches. This includes (but is not limited to): **keeping comments positive, showing support towards all athletes, and respecting calls made by the officials.**

CONSEQUENCES

of poor sportsmanship.

Any coach, athlete or spectator who fails to abide by the Cornhusker State Games Sportsmanship expectations may be asked to leave the premises. Officials, Site Directors and Facility Security have the right to ask any offender to exit a facility. If said offender refuses, local law enforcement will be called to the facility.

Whether you are coaching, playing or spectating, we hope that you enjoy your Cornhusker State Games experience!

**KEEP IT
POSITIVE.**

