

WIAA/Rural Mutual Insurance Sportsmanship Award

An important part of our emphasis on sportsmanship is the WIAA/Rural Insurance State Tournament Sportsmanship Award program. At each of the WIAA State Team Tournaments, one school and community is selected to receive the Rural Insurance State Sportsmanship Award, with honorable mention recognition also given to schools who are under consideration for the overall award. State events where the award is given include football, soccer, team tennis, volleyball, girls & boys basketball, gymnastics, hockey, team wrestling, baseball & softball.

The selection process for the State Tournament Sportsmanship Awards includes input from contest officials, tournament management, police and security personnel, crowd control and ushers, and WIAA Staff members. These observers judge the conduct and sportsmanship of coaches and athletes, cheer and support groups, mascots, bands, student groups and adult spectators. Also measured is the effort by school administrators and chaperones during the tournament to keep the support for their teams and student-athletes positive and enthusiastic.

We also may solicit input from hotels, restaurants and business people in the city where WIAA State events take place in order to make appropriate measurements relative to the sportsmanship of communities and teams as they attend State Tournament competition. Sportsmanship by coaches and fans at regional and sectional contests prior to the State Tournament may also be taken into consideration.

The WIAA considers the Rural Insurance State Tournament Sportsmanship Award a prestigious honor. It's truly a community award and one that grows in stature and importance as the years pass. The key to good sportsmanship at WIAA State events is preparation. Just as the athletes and coaches prepare for their competition, school administrators can lay the groundwork with fans and students prior to their State Tournament appearance in announcements and at pep rallies, parents meetings, booster club gatherings, etc.

Taking part in a WIAA State Tournament is a unique and memorable experience. When fans and participants emphasize good sportsmanship, we enhance that experience for everyone involved.

WIAA/Rural Mutual Insurance Sportsmanship Award Criteria

The WIAA and Rural Insurance Companies will select one school that displays exceptional sportsmanship in each team tournament as recipients of the Sportsmanship Award. All schools are eligible for the award, regardless of the number of games played. The WIAA will also give honorable mention recognition to schools under consideration for the top award. Judging will be done by game officials, scoring personnel, WIAA tournament management, security personnel, parking personnel, hotel personnel, and regional and sectional tournament managers.



**Sportsmanship
Matters**



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Judges will evaluate and rate the cheerleaders, spectator sections (students and adults), coaches, players, etc., of each school during the total tournament.

The judging criteria includes evaluations in the following categories:

Be Respectful to All

Desirable Behavior

Opposing coaches and players shaking hands after the game; players shaking hand of opponent fouling out and showing concern for injured player; respectfully addressing officials during competition and thanking them for their performance, regardless of agreement with calls.

Know the Rules, Abide by and Respect the Official's Decisions

Desirable Behavior

Utilize every opportunity to promote understanding of the rules of a contest within the school and community; players use the team captain or coach for clarification of a call; accept the decisions of the officials; cheerleaders lead fans in positive school cheering in a favorable manner; cooperate with the news media in interpretation and clarification of rules.

Win with Character and Lose with Dignity

Desirable Behavior

Handshakes between opposing players and coaches at end of a contest, regardless of outcome; opposing players, coaches, and fans engaging in friendly conversation before and following contest; treating competition as a game, not a conflict; applause at end of contest for performance of all players.

Display Appreciation for Good Performance Regardless of the Team

Desirable Behavior

Coach/players seek out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching; all fans recognize an outstanding participant's performance by applause, regardless of its impact on the contest; discuss outstanding performance of opponent with visiting and home fans.

Exercise Self-Control and Reflect Positively upon Yourself, Team and School

Desirable Behavior

Support the activity by learning positive, respectful cheers and displaying unity as fans in following the lead of cheerleaders.

Permit Only Positive Sportsmanlike Behavior to Reflect on Your School or Its Activities

Desirable Behavior

Encourage those around you to display only positive, respectful sportsmanlike conduct; report poor sportsmanship to school officials; insist that sportsmanship be a priority at interscholastic events; administrators help coaches to teach, model, and reinforce sportsmanship; recognize coaches for sportsmanlike conduct; coaches will only play those who exhibit positive sportsmanship; administrators will take appropriate action to ensure sportsmanlike behavior.



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