

# Defining Sportsmanship (sports'-man-ship')

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.



**Sportsmanship  
Matters**

## Fundamentals of Sportsmanship

1. Show respect for self and others at all times.
2. Show respect for the officials. Sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
3. Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest. Sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit, as well as the letter of the rules.
4. Maintain self-control at all times. Don't let the desire to win overcome rational, safe behavior.
5. Recognize and appreciate competitive skill regardless of team affiliation.



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**Sportsmanship Reveals Character Regardless of the Final Outcome.**