
Do What's Right!

Sportsmanship Program



www.ihsa.org • Phone: 309-663-6377 • Fax: 309-663-7479

TO: IHSA Member School Principals and Athletic Directors
FROM: Beth A. Sauser, IHSA Assistant Executive Director
IHSA Sportsmanship Advisory Committee
RE: "Do What's Right!" Sportsmanship Program
DATE: August, 2007

Dear Principal and Athletic Director:

The IHSA is pleased to announce that the 2007-2008 school year marks the full implementation of the Do What's Right! Sportsmanship Program.

The Program builds upon the IHSA's current efforts to promote and recognize sportsmanship within our state. The Program outlines nine expectations for all IHSA member schools, their teams, coaches, players, and communities to adopt. Creating a consistent message of behavior for participants and fans leaves little room for question as to how to create a positive atmosphere at all contests throughout the state.

Do What's Right! Expectations:

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of their responsibility, and the privilege of representing their school and community.
2. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and fellow students.
3. Treat opponents the way they would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
4. Never direct remarks at opponents in a taunting manner.
5. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either a victory or defeat.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials.
7. Display great effort and hustle on the field or floor.
8. Play unselfishly in such a way as to build up their team, without drawing unnecessary attention to themselves.
9. Yield to the authority and direction of all floor officials, bench officials, school personnel and coaches.

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With the full implementation of the “Do What’s Right!” Program, conferences and independent schools must annually register by October 1 to be eligible for the Regular Season Sportsmanship Award, the State Finals Sportsmanship Award and the Annual Conference Sportsmanship Award. The Registration form is available online through the Do What’s Right! webpage.

All state qualifiers in the following team bracketed sports: Boys Baseball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, Girls Softball, Boys and Girls Volleyball, and Boys and Girls Water Polo will have an opportunity to earn a “Do What’s Right!” State Final Sportsmanship Awards banner if their conference (or independent school) completes the registration process by October 1.

It is the responsibility of each conference to develop a selection process using the Do What’s Right! Expectations in order to recognize the recipients of the seasonal award. Using the Regular Season Tally Report the conference contact will send in the name(s) of the winning school(s) to the IHSA by December 1 for Fall sports, March 1 for Winter Sports and June 1 for Spring sports in order for schools to receive their certificate and recognition on the IHSA website.

Conferences also have the opportunity to recognize students participating in individual sports (cross country, tennis, track and field etc.) by developing a selection process. The points earned by individual schools will also count towards their schools accumulated point total for the year.

The school, which accumulates the most regular season points throughout the three seasons, will earn the Annual Conference Sportsmanship Award winner for the year. The conference contact will send in the name of the winning school by June 1 to the IHSA for recognition on the website. Conferences have an opportunity to order a banner for the school through the IHSA website.

The interactive sport and activity posters are available through the Do What’s Right! link for you to individualize with your own school pictures. In addition, there is an order form to purchase a customized “Do What’s Right!” Sportsmanship banner for your school.

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The full “Do What’s Right!” Sportsmanship Program description, registration forms, sample certificates and banners, are all available for your review on the IHSA website at www.ihsa.org.

For further information or if your conference would like to schedule a presentation of the “Do What’s Right!” Sportsmanship Program please contact Beth Sauser at the IHSA office at 309-663-6377 or at bsauser@ihsa.org.

The IHSA is excited about the expansion of this new sportsmanship effort. The success of the “Do What’s Right!” Sportsmanship Program will depend upon the level of participation and involvement of our member schools and conferences. We look forward to working in partnership with you on this endeavor.