

Sportsmanship and Spectator Expectations

Dear Blue Devils and Blue Devil Fans,

The fall activities are winding down, but before we know it we will be in the heart of the winter season. With that being said, I wanted to remind and educate everyone about sportsmanship and what is expected of you as a spectator. The following list was pulled directly from the Iowa High School Athletic Association's website (<http://www.iahsaa.org>) and focuses on spectator sportsmanship expectations:

- School sports are about kids learning to play and have fun. They have worked hard for their school and team. As a fan you can help them perform at their best by modeling positive behavior and encouraging all the players to be their best. This is their time. This is their place. This is their game.
- Good Sportsmanship Starts With Respect . . . for yourself, your team, the opponent and the decisions of the officials. Thanks for being a Good Sport!
- Great Fans are Enthusiastic for their Team and Sportsmanlike with their behavior toward their opponent and the decisions of the officials. The Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union asks your cooperation in making this game a memorable experience for these young athletes.
- Pride for Teams is playing the game to the best of their abilities. Pride for Fans is practicing the principles of Good Sportsmanship.
- Don't confuse supporting your team with negative cheers directed to the opponent or booing the decisions of the officials. Those actions only cause your team and school to be seen in a negative light.
- Pride – Respect – Fair Play governs what happens in competition. The same three qualities should govern the behavior of all fans.
- Spectators are reminded to show respect for your school and your community while attending interscholastic events. Be positive in your actions at any contest.
- We remind all fans that interscholastic events are extensions of the classroom. All lessons are best learned when the proper respect is accorded to all. Let your good sportsmanship show at all times.
- Fans are reminded that admission to an interscholastic event is a privilege. With that privilege is the responsibility for fans to conduct themselves in a manner so the contest is enjoyable for other fans and the participants.
- Unruly behavior is always unacceptable in a classroom. Interscholastic events are an extension of that classroom. Remember to "be a good sport" while attending events.
- Whether you're at home or on the road, make your school and your community proud by displaying good citizenship and positive sportsmanship at contests.
- Parents, students, and fans – you're setting an example with your presence at any contest. In the spirit of good citizenship, always display positive sportsmanship at interscholastic activities.

These are very reasonable expectations. We want everyone to do their part to make sure the Martensdale-St. Marys Blue Devils are looked at in a positive light. I have included a "Conduct Counts" poster that the state provides. Please look it over and abide by the expectations.

I would also like to point out that these expectations go for all events and all ages of spectators. We are at the event to watch and support our groups. If you are at an event, please find a place for you and your family to sit/stand and cheer on the Blue Devils.

Sincerely,

Max Seeman
Activities Director

CONDUCT COUNTS

**In this EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION
these behaviors are NOT acceptable:**

- **Disrespectful conduct, including profanity, obscene gestures or comments, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, or other actions that demean individuals or the event.**
Penalty - EJECTION
- **Throwing articles onto the contest area.**
Penalty - EJECTION
- **Entering the contest area in protest or celebration.**
Penalty - EJECTION
- **Physical confrontation involving contest officials, coaches/directors, contestants or spectators.**
Penalty - EJECTION
- **Spectator interference with the event.**
Penalty - EJECTION
- **Jumping up and down on the bleachers.**
Penalty - Warning/EJECTION
- **Use of artificial noisemakers, signs or banners.**
Penalty - Warning/EJECTION
- **Chants or cheers directed at opponents.**
Penalty - Warning/EJECTION

