

# Sportsmanship For Spectators

Sportsmanship is conduct becoming to an individual involving fair and honest competition, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of results.

The development of sportsmanship is an important part of youth development. To become contributing, competent, caring, capable adults, youth must learn to be fair and generous competitors, good losers, and graceful winners. Spectators at youth programs and events are asked to demonstrate sportsmanship and set a good example of courteous behavior. Here are some tips:



1. Arrive on time and don't "save seats." If members of your group arrive at different times, wait to be seated until the last person arrives. Don't disturb others and say "excuse me" when appropriate.
2. Applaud for the youth you came to see, your favorite groups, and others you wish to recognize.
3. Don't boo, heckle, make disparaging remarks, or make insulting comments about or to anyone - including competitors from rival groups, and officials.
4. Listen, be respectful and quiet when participants are introduced, and when comments are addressed to the audience. Don't talk incessantly during the program.
5. Remain until the end of the event you are observing, or until program organizers indicate it is appropriate for spectators to depart. Don't get up and leave the minute the child you came to see leaves the show ring or stage.
6. Congratulate competitors from all teams after the program.
7. Accept results with grace. Keep your emotions under control. Don't swear or use offensive language, behave rudely, or lose your temper.
8. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, be polite in expressing them. Criticize in private, and compliment in public.

Be considerate of the time program officials have to spend with you, and of their other responsibilities. Schedule a later appointment if you need more time than they have to spend with you at the program. Submit compliments, concerns, and suggestions in writing with your signature.

9. Show courtesy towards others. For example:
  - Don't sit or stand in aisles.
  - Don't block the view of those behind you.
  - Don't block other people's views when taking pictures or videos.
  - Leave the chairs and bleachers where you find them.
  - Throw away litter. Don't leave programs, drinking cups, or other trash for someone else to clean up.
10. Enjoy the competition and set a good example for youth.

Thank You!