

Sportsmanship

Syllables
sports•man•ship

Pronunciation
spohrts-muhn-ship

Definition

Appropriate conduct for one who is participating in a sport, including observing rules, fair play, respect for other players, and graciousness in losing

(**Sportsmanship** is fair and reasonable behavior when playing a competitive sport.)

Simply put: Be a good sport.

Related Terms

Fair Conduct: Behaving in a just and even-handed manner

Fundamental Question:

What character traits make up good sportsmanship?

Students will investigate the idea that sportsmanship is actually made up of several different character traits.

Objectives

Each student will:

1. Define sportsmanship by identifying five of its major character traits.
2. Explain the necessity for sportsmanship.
3. Exhibit sportsmanship through role play and in a real-life situation.

Before you begin

- Print out a copy of *A Picture's Worth* for each student.

Suggested Sidebars:

Speaking of Sportsmanship (Discussion Idea)

Sportsmanship involves components such as honesty, playing by the rules, respecting others, and so forth. In a period of five minutes, have the class list (as your record on the board) as many of these components as they can. (Save this list for later in this activity. See Procedure number 1.) Then, for another five minutes, have them list things that would likely happen if sportsmanship were not commonly expected in sports.

Taking It to the Next Level

Attend a live sports event. As you watch, keep a list of details about every time you observe an example of good sportsmanship. Do the same for examples of poor sportsmanship. Discuss your findings with your class.

Sportsmanship

Procedure

1. Write the following character traits on the board or overhead. Add additional traits that the children came up with during the “Speaking of Sportsmanship” section of this activity.
2. Have the children come to a consensus about which five traits have the most to do with ensuring good sportsmanship. Is joy as important to sportsmanship as dependability? Is creativity more important than honesty? Assist your children in the development of their ideas and show them how to use their words to help others understand their positions and use reason to sway opinions.

Ambitious	Cooperative	Flexible	Kind	Responsible
Brave	Creative	Friendly	Loyal	Self-controlled
Caring	Courteous	Generous	Moral	Thoughtful
Cheerful	Determined	Good-Natured	Motivated	Tolerant
Clean	Dependable	Helpful	Optimistic	Virtuous
Committed	Diligent	Honest	Patient	Wise
Compassionate	Eager	Honorable	Polite	
Confident	Fair	Humorous	Reliable	
Considerate	Forgiving	Joyful	Respectful	

3. Have children role play examples of good and bad sportsmanship in the following situations:
 - A coach tells a player that (s)he’s “out”
 - A spectator sits next to someone in the bleachers who is “booing” a player
 - An opponent twists his ankle while running from one base to the next
 - A mother talks to her daughter who didn’t make the team
 - A baseball is hit into the stands
 - A player is disqualified for an important race
 - A player for the other team calls you a bad name and his teammates laugh
 - Your team won ... by default
 - The coach made everyone do 100 push-ups because a member of the team was late for practice
4. **Follow Up:** Distribute the *A Picture’s Worth* activity sheets.

Name _____

Reminder: Sportsmanship is fitting conduct for one who is participating in a sport, including observing rules, fair play, respect for other players, and graciousness in losing.

A Picture's Worth

Think about sportsmanship. In the area below (or on a separate, larger sheet of paper) combine newspaper and magazine headlines, photos, and advertisements that define what sportsmanship means to you.

Today's thought: *I would advise all youths aspiring to athletic fame or a professional career to practice clean living, fair play and good sportsmanship.* — **Major Taylor, Cyclist**