

Learning for Leadership Charter School

Sportsmanship Plan



MSHSL Good Sports Program
ADOPTED 7.30.14

I. Learning for Leadership Charter School Belief Statement on Sportsmanship

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, an acute awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed by Learning for Leadership Charter School as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, integrity, and the vision and mission of our school.

Learning for Leadership will strive to ensure the development of, and adherence to, high expectations of sportsmanship that emphasize treating all guests, opponents, officials, and community members with respect. In order to achieve this, it is necessary for us to target not only our players, coaches, and staff, but also our families, friends, and other members of the Learning for Leadership community. All parties must understand their role in the modeling and reinforcement of the characteristics of good sportsmanship. This will create a culture of respect and appreciation not only for our activities, but for our entire school community.

In addition to our administrators, coaches, and staff, Learning for Leadership Charter School shall create a Sportsmanship Committee that consists of the following: Captains from each of our boys and girls activities teams, high school and middle school, the School Director, the Activities Coordinator, and one parent or community member. The committee shall be tasked with ensuring the promotion of good sportsmanship.

II. Codes of Conduct

Administration Code of Conduct:

- Serve as a positive role model and expect the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel.
- Develop a program for teaching and promoting sportsmanship.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible.
- Apply sportsmanship policies/rules equitably at all times.
- Develop a crowd control plan for both home and away games.

Coaches Code of Conduct:

- Honor the flag during our National Anthem.
- Follow the rules of the sport at all times.
- Accept the decisions of contest officials. They are final.
- Avoid offensive gestures, language, or other negative behaviors.
- Remember: "Humble in Victory, Gracious in Defeat."

- Avoid public criticism of game officials.
- Teach sportsmanship and reward/acknowledge players that display good sportsmanship.
- Show respect and concern for all injured players, coaches, or officials.
- Emphasize positive coaching: provide instruction, training, and motivation without put-downs and/or the use of abusive language.
- Educate and sensitize themselves to cultural differences, gender equity and disability issues.

Player Code of Conduct:

- Honor the flag during our National Anthem.
- Show respect at all times for coaches, opponents and game officials. This includes before, during, and after the contest.
- We shake hands. Win or lose, we thank opponents, game officials, and coaches for their efforts.
- Play like a champion. Accept the decisions of contest officials. They are final.
- Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- Remember: “Humble in Victory, Gracious in Defeat.”
- Follow the rules of the game at all times.
- Abide by the rules, policies, and codes of conduct for the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), your school, and your team at all times.
- Show respect and concern for all injured players, coaches, or officials.
- Show respect for public property and equipment. It is there for everyone to enjoy.

Spectator Code of Conduct:

- Honor the flag during our National Anthem.
- Demonstrate self-discipline – no profanity, negative chants, booing, “trash talking”, or name calling.
- Respect our opponents and their fans. They are guests.
- Respect the officials.
- Respect the game – do not interfere with it.
- Remember – there are only two teams and two team benches, so your task is to enjoy the contest as a “fan.”
- Enjoy the game, and remember, “It’s great to be a Mustang!”

Cheerleaders/ Bands Code of Conduct:

- Know the contest rules and cheer/play at proper times.
- Encourage support for any injured participant.
- Show respect for opposing cheerleaders/bands.
- Lead positive cheers which praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
- Dress in school-approved uniforms.
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
- Show respect for public property and equipment. It is there for everyone to enjoy.

Game Officials Code of Conduct:

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Know the rules, apply them equitably and assertively at all times and keep the game moving.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
- Ensure the integrity of sportsmanship values, and the values of the game.
- Never show emotions or argue with a player, coach or fan.
- When watching a game as a spectator, give the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.

Management/ Contest Staff Code of Conduct:

- Supervise all areas of the facility including open areas of the school, parking lots, and restrooms.
- Welcome our guests and be a gracious host to them.
- Be consistent in applying sportsmanship policies and rules.
- Wear school badges or other LLCS gear so that you may be identified as contest staff.
- Follow clean up and closing procedures before leaving the contest site.
- Ensure the safe departure of all guests, participants, and officials at the end of the contest.
- Know, understand, and follow the Emergency Action Plan, and where to find it.

III. Promotion Strategies

In our efforts to promote sportsmanship at Learning for Leadership Charter School, and in the broader community, we shall undertake the following ways to spread the word about sportsmanship:

- Conduct mandatory preseason meetings that address the concept of good sportsmanship. These will include strategies such as role plays, videos, positive and negative examples. We will also invite officials to these meetings in order to provide any introductions or clarifications about the rules, new or old.
- Bring in at least one local speaker who has been positively influenced by good sportsmanship.
- Utilize our existence as a K-12 school with a mentoring program and have students speak to the younger classes about the characteristics and benefits of good sportsmanship.
- Provide news releases and public service announcements to local media, such as the Northeaster, The Sun Focus, KFAI Radio, and other local radio stations. These news releases will not only announce our participation in the Good Sports Program, but also speak to the importance of good sportsmanship.
- Students will create banners and/or posters that provide examples of good sportsmanship. These will be visible in public areas of the school and serve as a great reminder to all.
- Continue to thank opposing teams, programs, and schools that welcomed us by sending thank you notes, either by email or by mail.

- Public Address announcers at events shall read announcements and reminders about our codes of conduct and good sportsmanship before, during, and at the end of each contest.

Awards and Recognition: All activities awards have a sportsmanship aspect to them. In order to qualify for awards such as the Hustle Award, Defensive P.O.Y., or MVP, students must display good sportsmanship. Additionally, acts of sportsmanship that go above and beyond will be recognized at quarterly school assemblies.

Consequences for Misconduct: All consequences for violating our codes of ethics shall be progressive, unless a severe violation occurs, which may lead to immediate dismissal from their station in activities. All consequences listed here are superseded by MSHSL rules and regulations.

Coaches:

- 1st offense: A warning from administration shall be issued, with restitution such as an apology letter or public apology to injured party a likely outcome.
- 2nd offense: Suspension for one game or three practices, whichever is longer.
- 3rd offense: Meeting with School Director and Activities Coordinator, with an additional lengthy suspension or dismissal from the coaching position a likely outcome.

Players:

- 1st offense: Write up and miss half of next contest
- 2nd offense: Miss next practice and next contest.
- 3rd offense: Miss next two contests, meet with Coach, Parents.
- 4th offense: Dismissed from team for remainder of season.

Spectators/ Band/ Cheerleaders:

- 1st offense: Offender will be met by Activities Coordinator or Site Manager in the crowd and be asked kindly to refrain from further abuse of the code of conduct. Expectations will be shared with that person, as well as that if the behavior continues, they will be asked to leave.
- 2nd offense: Offender will be asked into the hallway by the Activities Coordinator or Site Manager to speak with them out of the public eye. A final warning will be issued, with a simple choice given: Behave or Be Gone.
- 3rd offense: The offender shall be escorted out by security and the Activities Coordinator or Site Manager. A follow up letter will be sent home, explaining any additional consequences, such as a ban from future events at the school.

IV. Evaluation Procedures for Sportsmanship Program

- a. Three times per season, visitor and spectator feedback will be sought with Onsite Sportsmanship Report Cards, which will be collected and examined by administration.

- b. Sportsmanship Committee will meet three times per year to discuss our progress, any concerns, and how to improve our program.
- c. Learning for Leadership will complete the MSHSL Sportsmanship Report Card.
- d. At the end of the school year, the Sportsmanship Committee shall meet and work to implement improvements or other measures to strengthen our sportsmanship program. This will be based on results from a., b., and c., as well as other feedback received by the school.