

NEW MEXICO ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION



1.7 NMAA SPORTSMANSHIP INITIATIVE – “COMPETE WITH CLASS”

1.7.1 Purpose. The NMAA Sportsmanship Program – “Compete with Class” was developed through a collaboration process involving athletic directors, coaches and school administrators (NMAA Sportsmanship Committee), input from student and adult communities, and a student input contest in the spring of 2014. “Class” was a concept repeatedly mentioned, especially from students, and refers to the personal qualities encompassed in the core values of respect, integrity and responsibility. “Compete” describes the competitive and performing events that provide the settings for learning and demonstrating sportsmanship in education-based athletics and activities.

1.7.2 Sportsmanship. The act of treating others in a respectful manner; taking personal responsibility for ones actions and responding with integrity while engaged in competition.

A. Sportsmanship Fundamentals

- Know the rules of the game and follow them
- Recognize good play by both teams
- Respect your opponents—coaches, players, spectators
- Respect contest officials and their decisions
- Practice the Golden Rule—treat others the way you would like to be treated
- Represent yourself, family, school and community in a positive manner
- Take full accountability for your part in the sportsmanship process, based on the roles described in 1.7.4

1.7.3 Core Values

The core values of “Compete with Class” to be learned, valued, and demonstrated in NMAA education-based athletics and activities are:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Responsibility

1.7.4 Role of the individual in “Compete with Class”

“Stay in Your Lane”-- All participants (administrators, coaches, athletes, officials, parents, fans) are expected to: a) conduct oneself in a manner which reflects the program’s core values and b) hold themselves and other participants accountable for actions that do not reflect the core values. For education-based athletics to function successfully each participant must understand and fulfill their role, without crossing into the roles of others. In other words....stay in your lane. The participants in the education-based interscholastic athletic/activity process and their essential roles are as follows:

- A. NMAA—Develop and present the sportsmanship curriculum to all participants in the education-based Interscholastic athletic/activities program and provide resources to schools for implementation. Recognize and reward those institutions and individuals who embrace and demonstrate the core values of “Compete with Class”.
- B. School Administration—Embrace the concept of “top-down” leadership by being actively engaged in the “Compete with Class” sportsmanship initiative and insuring that it is fully integrated into all aspects of the school interscholastic program.
- C. Athletic Directors—Accept primary responsibility for the implementation of “Compete with Class”. Demonstrate leadership of the program with coaches, student-athletes, parents, fans and officials. (See also NMAA Handbook Sections 3.94 Pre-Season Meetings; 7.72 Ejection Policy; 7.73 and 7.74 Contest Behavior)
- D. Coaches— Are the primary standard-bearer of the sportsmanship program message to our student-athletes. The focal point of the coach must be that of the values and personal growth of the student-athlete first.
- E. Student-Athletes—Are the primary focal point and beneficiaries of the” Compete with Class” sportsmanship initiative. The contribution of the student-athlete to the process highlights the important life lesson that with privilege come’s responsibility.
- F. Parents—Key perspective is as the student-athletes primary caregiver. Parents must have a “big picture” perspective when it comes to the personal development of their son or daughter. Athletics and activities are an extension of the classroom. Lessons learned as a result of the privilege of participation will last a lifetime.

- G. Fans/Spectators—Must adopt an education-based perspective with respect to the school’s interscholastic program and its impact on the community as a whole.
- H. Officials—Are an integral part of the “Compete with Class” program. Competition does not take place without the official, whose primary role is to enforce the rules of the contest in a fair and equitable manner. Officials must adopt a “level playing field perspective” in the conduct of their role.

1.7.5 “Compete with Class” Curriculum

Working in concert with administrators, coaches and student-athletes the NMAA will develop and implement a curriculum for schools and other participants in the education-based interscholastic program to utilize, as follows:

- A. Key Definitions/Concepts—the program will focus on the following key elements
 - Sportsmanship Defined
 - Core Values (Respect, Integrity, Personal Responsibility)
 - Program slogan – “Compete with Class”
 - Roles (coach, athlete, parent, fan, official, administrator)
- B. Resources—The NMAA will provide the following materials and resources to schools and participants including but not limited to:
 - “Compete with Class” Banners, Posters, Lanyards etc.
 - In-Person educational seminars
 - “Compete with Class” DVD
 - PSA’s for utilization during athletic events
 - Sportsmanship Kits with a variety of resources
 - Sportsmanship Certificates
- C. Various other resource materials covering such topics as:
 - The core values of “Compete with Class” (respect, integrity, responsibility)
 - “Stay in your lane” – Roles reminders
 - Respect for officials/authority
 - Value of athletics/competition
 - Gamesmanship vs. Sportsmanship
 - Golden Rule Athletics
 - Education-based athletics/activities

1.7.6 Ejection Policy/sanctions. Participants (Coaches, athletes, parent/fan, officials) who fail to uphold the core values of “Compete with Class” will be subject to consequences as outlined in section 7.72 of the NMAA Handbook.