

# Sportsmanship

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What is sportsmanship? Sportsmanship is when you play fairly, follow the rules of the game, respecting the judges or referees, and treating your teammates and opponents with respect. You display good sportsmanship when you show respect to yourself, your teammates, opponents, the judges, and referees. But sportsmanship isn't just for those playing with you on the field, but it is also for your fans, cheerleaders, parents, or anyone that is watching. Sportsmanship is like a type of attitude and a style. It can have a positive influence on you and those around you.

If you show sportsmanship to anyone around you, you can have a positive impact on how they play. For example, if you are in a basketball game and there's only 15 seconds left for your team to get a point and your teammate has the ball and they shoot, but they miss just by a smidge. You don't bring them down and say "You made us loose!" or "Ugh, we could've gotten the point." but you say "Good job!", or "Right back!" They did the best they could, and they could not do better than the best they can. You don't want to bring your teammates down and make them think negatively about themselves because of something they have done. You never know, they could be having a bad day that needs some cheering, and if you were in their place, you would want them to say the same to you.

Another way to show sportsmanship is to follow the rules. Following the rules definitely does make a difference. If you play fairly and follow the rules, then it will make it more fun for you and your opponents! Even if you lose by following the rules, you will still have a lot of fun!

Games are not all about winning, or beating your opponent, but it is more about having good sportsmanship and having fun! If you don't win a game this time, remember, you can always try again next time! Whenever playing anything with anyone, you should always have good sportsmanship, even when it sometimes seems unfair. But know you can impact someone when you show good sportsmanship in anything you play. Having a good act of sportsmanship can definitely make a difference. Sportsmanship can make you a better player. And remember to always treat others the way you would want to be treated wherever you go.