



CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

1500 Rice Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55117  
www.stpaul.gov/parks

Telephone: 651-558-2255  
Facsimile: 651-558-2237

## Sportsmanship Code for Spectators

- ▶ Keep cheering positive
- ▶ Respect the opposing team and fans
- ▶ Learn and understand the rules of the game
- ▶ Respect the judgment of the officials
- ▶ Accept winning or losing with dignity

The Department of Parks and Recreation is taking a serious approach to ensuring that youth participating in our athletic programs have a safe, healthy and positive environment in which to play and develop their skills.

At each site where youth games are being played, it is our expectation that spectators will behave in an appropriate manner. If a spectator exhibits behavior that is inappropriate or unsportsmanlike, a staff person (if on-site and available) will remind the spectator about the sportsmanship policy and attempt to resolve the situation. If there is no staff person on-site, the game official may ask the coaches for assistance with the spectator, or may eject the spectator from the premises if the behavior is disruptive, disrespectful, or derogatory, as outlined below.

If the spectator refuses to leave the premises, the staff person, or the game official(s) will declare the game to be over.

### Examples of Unacceptable Sportsmanship Behavior

- ▶ Disrespectful or derogatory yells or gestures (such as pointing and chanting i.e. you!, you!, you!)
- ▶ Loud negative reaction to officials calls
- ▶ Distracting players by yelling or stomping your feet when players are attempting a free throw, a penalty kick, a serve, to bat (depends upon the sport)
- ▶ Swearing
- ▶ Chants or yells with inappropriate content (racial, sexual or gender connotations)
- ▶ Degrading yells about a player's body size or shape
- ▶ Degrading yells about a player's lack of skill or ability
- ▶ Encouraging players to inflict injury on other players
- ▶ Throwing objects onto the playing field or court
- ▶ Arguing with coaches, officials or other fans



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