

**Proclamation by the PIAA District 5 Committee
Recognizing the Importance of Sportsmanship in Athletics**

WHEREAS, the PIAA District 5 Committee is committed to fostering an environment that upholds the highest standards of integrity, respect, and fairness in all athletic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, sportsmanship is the foundation of success in athletics, promoting respect for officials, players, coaches, and spectators, as well as instilling values of teamwork, perseverance, and mutual appreciation; and

WHEREAS, officials are vital to maintaining the integrity and fairness of competitions, providing impartial judgment and promoting a safe environment for all participants; and

WHEREAS, coaches play a critical role in modeling positive behavior and guiding athletes to develop not only their skills but also their character; and

WHEREAS, athletes, as representatives of their schools and communities, have the responsibility to compete with honor, respect their opponents, and embrace the true spirit of the game; and

WHEREAS, spectators are encouraged to support their teams with enthusiasm while demonstrating respect toward all participants and officials;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the PIAA District 5 Committee does hereby:

1. **Affirm the importance of sportsmanship** as a cornerstone of scholastic athletics and call upon all individuals involved in athletics to prioritize respect, dignity, and integrity.
2. **Encourage players, coaches, officials, and spectators** to foster a positive atmosphere by exemplifying behavior that reflects the values of fairness, cooperation, and good character.
3. **Recognize the vital contributions of officials and coaches**, urging all stakeholders to show appreciation for their efforts in supporting athletic programs.
4. **Commit to addressing unsportsmanlike behavior**, ensuring that violations of respect and integrity are met with appropriate consequences to uphold the standards of the PIAA.

Let this proclamation serve as a reminder that the heart of athletics lies not in victory or defeat, but in the character, resilience, and respect that participants demonstrate on and off the field.

Adopted this 21st day of January, 2025 by the PIAA District 5 Committee.

Signed,

PIAA District 5 Committee