



Jefferson County Athletics  
1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg #27  
Golden, CO 80401

August 1, 2019

Student-Athletes, Coaches, Spirit Groups, Parents, and Fans,

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year! We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. Many of our competitive teams have spent countless hours and days throughout the summer working hard to improve as players, coaches, and teams. Athletics remains one of the best educational platforms within our schools. Life lessons are a product of what is taught on our fields, courts, pools, tracks, courses, ice rinks, ski slopes, mats, etc. throughout the year. And, though we can't all walk away with individual and/or team championships, we can all be champions in our efforts, including how we treat others.

In early June we were all inundated with non-stop coverage of an ugly incident that took place at a local baseball game for seven-year-olds. What I witnessed was nauseating, at best. What stuck in my mind were the scared, young kids running away to be comforted by parents or fans. What sickened me was the behavior of some adults. And the end result was that the kids weren't able to complete their season. The kids were punished due to adult behavior!

I feel blessed that within our Jeffco high school athletic communities, we have overwhelming positive support for our programs. From spirit teams, students, parents, and fans, our experience is one of positive reinforcement for our players, coaches, and officials. We certainly experience isolated incidences where this is not the case, but our school administrators do an outstanding job of addressing these issues.

Let us all keep in mind the important role that officials play in our contests as well. In many cases, these are individuals who want to give back to a game they enjoyed playing when they were younger. Each year there will be a new group of officials with little experience at the high school level who deserve the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills. We are also faced with a shortage of officials across many of our sports. Negative fan behavior is one of the more common reasons officials choose to not return. Please join the district in treating these individuals with the respect they deserve.

Because of the recent environment we have found ourselves in, I felt compelled to distribute the expectations Jeffco Schools has regarding Sportsmanship. This has always been and will continue to be an emphasis of this district. We should all strive to represent what is good about high school competition and those life-lessons mentioned earlier.

To serve as a reminder, I have attached the Sportsmanship Expectations found in the Athlete's Handbook, followed by the Sportsmanship Announcement read before each varsity contests. Whether as a student-athlete, coach, spirit team member, parent, or fan, we ask that you adhere to these simple expectations and make your experience in high school athletics a positive one for you, the school, and the community!

Sincerely,

Jim Thyfault  
Executive Director of Athletics & Activities  
Jeffco Schools  
[Jim.Thyfault@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Jim.Thyfault@jeffco.k12.co.us)

## **Sportsmanship**

Members of the Jefferson County League are committed to principles of good sportsmanship. We believe that all student-athletes, coaches, and spectators should strive to represent the very best spirit and tradition of interscholastic athletics. Good sportsmanship is the cornerstone of a quality athletics program. Jefferson County Public Schools is committed to bringing sportsmanship as a top priority in all our school communities. The sportsmanship standards we hold for coaches, student athletes, spirit groups and spectators will bring about healthy rivalries and competition in the educational environment.

The following are our expectations:

### **EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES**

1. Exemplify high moral character, behavior and leadership.
2. Set a positive example for all concerned.
3. Respect the judgment of contest officials. Abide by the rules of the contest and display no negative behavior.
4. Discipline those on the team who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
5. Treats own players and opponents with respect.
6. Inspires in the athletes a love for the game and the desire to compete fairly.
7. Knows he/she is a teacher and understands the athletic arena is a classroom.
8. Clean speech and clean minds are most critical.
9. Encourage appropriate use of social media.
10. Don't embarrass your school on or off the field/court/course, etc.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT ATHLETES**

1. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community.
2. Treat opponents with respect.
3. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
4. Plays hard, but plays within the rules.
5. Exercises self-control at all times, setting an example for others to follow.
6. Respects officials and accepts their decisions without gesture or argument.
7. Don't embarrass your school on or off the field/court/course, etc.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS**

1. Realize your attendance at athletic events is to support the teams involved.
2. Should know and understand the rules of the contest.
3. Respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
4. Appreciate the skills of all players participating.
5. Appreciates a good play no matter who makes it.
6. Shows compassion for an injured player; applauds positive performances, does not heckle, jeer or distract players, and does not use profane and obnoxious language and behavior.
7. Respects property of others and the authority of those who administer the competition.
8. Censures those whose behavior is unbecoming.
9. Cheers positively for their team, does not chant at, or get into exchanges with opposing fans.
10. Leaves the venue respectfully and accepts the outcome of the game.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF SPIRIT GROUPS**

1. Stimulate desired crowd response using only positive cheers and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents.
2. Treat opposing teams, spirit groups and fans with respect.
3. Know rules and strategies of the contest in order to cheer at proper times.
4. Maintain enthusiasm and composure, and always serving as role models.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT**

“Members of the Jefferson County League believe that good sportsmanship is the cornerstone of a quality athletic program. The Jeffco School District expects that all student-athletes, coaches, and spectators will strive to represent the qualities of good sportsmanship. Failure to do so may lead to loss of privilege to attend district sponsored athletic events. (School Name) requests your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Thank you.”