

## District 9 Policy #8 – Sportsmanship

April 18, 2019

Washington State District 9 (District 9) emphasizes the importance of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP from all teams, including League Officials, Coaches, Managers, players and spectators. It's important to realize and understand that GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is the responsibility of everyone. Hopefully, all District 9 Leagues will teach GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP to all and this will help everyone understand and display GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP at all Little League games and functions throughout the year. While many of these may not outlined in the Official Little League Baseball and Softball rule books, the basics for GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP we expect District 9 League to follow are listed below:

1. **Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest** – Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions to or about officials or coaches. The spirit of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.
2. **Exercise representative behavior at all times** – The true value of Little League competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior which is representative of a sound value base. Be aware that you have many eyes on you and your behavior influences others (e.g. players, parents, etc.).
3. **Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of affiliation** – Applause and praise for an opponent's good performance displays caring and generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP but also reflects a true awareness and respect for the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality. You will find that when everyone at the ballpark is praising ALL players, it creates a much more fun and cordial atmosphere.
4. **Exhibit respect for the officials** – The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their abilities. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the decisions made by the officials. This is critical for all involved to learn for later applications in life.
5. **Display respect openly for the opponent at all times** – Opponents should be treated cordially and accorded tolerance at all times. Make sure the purpose and intent of your cheering, speech and actions is positive towards your team, not done with the intent to patronize, distract, or annoy the other team. Be a positive representative for your League, Team and family. Treat them how you would like to be treated. This fundamental is the Golden Rule in action.
6. **Display pride in your actions at every opportunity** – Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgement and your responsibility as a League representative. Regardless of whether you are an adult, player, coach or official. This value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

*Bob Toigo*

Bob Toigo, DA  
Wash. Dist. 9