

# Sportsmanship Guide for Fans

We are very pleased that you are attending one of our athletic events and supporting Mustang Athletics. High school athletics are a very important part of our school and community, and the coaching staff at Horseshoe Bend High School have done their best to put a competitive team on the field / court; win or lose, a team you can be proud to support.

Please understand, however, that attending an athletic event is a privilege, not a right, and fans will be expected to demonstrate proper sportsmanship during the athletic event. Horseshoe Bend School District #73 reserves the right to remove, or have removed, anyone who jeopardizes the safety of those involved in the athletic contest (players, coaches, officials, fans) or who abuse, either verbally or physically, anyone involved in the athletic contest.

## EXPECTATIONS OF FANS

- Respect the decisions made by the officials. This is often the most difficult aspect of proper sportsmanship to adhere to, but the officials are doing the best they can. Understand that officials don't receive much pay and are really doing the job for the love of the game and the kids, and despite what may seem obvious at the moment, are not intentionally making poor calls (or non-calls) against the team you are supporting.
- Please keep negative or inciting comments to yourself. Paying the entry fee to attend an athletic event does not give anyone the license to verbally abuse officials, players, coaches, or other fans. A verbally abusive fan embarrasses him/herself, the community, the team he/she is supporting, and most tragically for you parents, your own children who hear everything you shout. Keep it positive!
- Do not confront the coach before or after the contest with the following issues:
  - Playing Time
  - Team Strategy
  - Play Calling

The coach is a professional who makes judgment decisions based on what he/she believes to be best for the team in general. They may not always be the right decisions, but as long as an athlete's safety is not in jeopardy, it is the coach's responsibility and right to make contest decisions without the fear of having to confront angry fans after the contest.

- Follow the chain of command. If you have a complaint about the coach, please follow the proper chain of command below:
  - Head Coach (See expectation above)
  - Athletic Director
  - Principal
  - Superintendent
  - School Board Members
- Have Fun! Horseshoe Bend School District knows that 99% of all fans are supportive and demonstrate proper sportsmanship. This is simply a reminder for the 1% who may need to put high school athletics in its proper perspective.