



25th Annual Sportsmanship Essay Contest

What Does Good Sportsmanship Look Like From The Stands?

CONTEST THEME:

Spectators play a powerful role in shaping the atmosphere of any athletic event. Their energy, words and actions can inspire athletes, set a positive tone, and demonstrate the true spirit of the game. Whether cheering in the stands or watching from the sidelines, spectators have the opportunity to model good sportsmanship and support all participants with respect and pride.

Let your voice remind us that good sportsmanship is not just for players – its starts in the stands. Help fans understand how their behavior impacts the game and how they can contribute to a positive and respectful environment. In your essay be sure to:

- Define what good sportsmanship means for fans and spectators
- Describe the types of behaviors that reflect positive support (e.g., cheering respectfully, applauding all players, showing appreciation for officials, etc.)
- Explain why these behaviors matter to athletes, coaches and the community
- Offer suggestions or examples of how spectators can lead by example at games
- Utilize [feedback shared by attendees](#) of the 30th Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit

GUIDELINES:

- **PARTICIPANTS**
Contest is open to students in grades 9-12 at MIAA Member Schools
- **ESSAY ENTRIES**
Must be typed, double spaced, and contain no more than 500 words
- **CONTEST JUDGING**
The contest will be judged by members of the MIAA Sportsmanship Committee using the rubric at [this link](#).

PRIZES:

- First Place (\$400) and Runner-Up (\$200) prizes will be presented.
- Contest winners will present their entries as honored guests during the 31st Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit on November 6, 2025.

CONTEST DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

- All entries must be received by **12:00 pm on Tuesday, October 7, 2025.**
- All entries must be emailed to dharrington@miaa.net.

