



**Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.**  
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**TO:** All Pop Warner Association, League & Regional Officers  
**FROM:** Jon C. Butler, Executive Director  
**RE:** **Sportsmanship**  
**DATE:** October 2020

One of the most serious concerns of everyone in sports is the decline in sportsmanship at all levels. Especially at the very impressionable Pop Warner age level, we believe that everyone involved should read and remember the following sportsmanship credo:

- Our number one priority is the physical and emotional welfare of our young athletes.
- Respect everyone – opponents, Officials, rival coaches and administrators. Support the decisions of the Officials and remember that all volunteers have worked as hard as you, so behave in a manner that earns respect.
- Educate your participants about the “spirit” as well as the “letter” of the rules.
- Prohibit the teaching of techniques or philosophies that violate the spirit or letter of our rules.
- Clearly communicate to all athletes and their families that there are consequences for unacceptable behavior, and that they will be held accountable.
- Ensure that your fellow coaches, participants and parents respect the Officials and accept their decisions without argument.
- Do not make or tolerate others making insults, spreading rumors, or practicing unethical behavior. All adults should be role models for our young participants.
- Observe good sportsmanship in both winning and losing. Be polite and considerate in victory, and calm and controlled in defeat.
- Respect your opponents. Without them, you wouldn't have a game.
- Remember that 20 years from now, your young athletes will care much more about the fabulous experience than whether they won or lost.

**Since sportsmanship is such an important part of overall behavior at Pop Warner events, we will hold accountable Head Coaches and their Associations for instances of obvious poor sportsmanship in accordance with the Pop Warner Members' Code of Conduct stated in the 2020 Pop Warner Official Rule Book.**