



Sportsmanship.....good manners in the game

By: Cindy Grosso

Sports in America have become big business. Tickets to games are something we often pay big money to obtain. Your enjoyment of the event and others enjoyment of the game is greatly enhanced by the use of common courtesy.

Golf probably more than any other sport is a game based on etiquette. However, competition of any kind, filled with a lot of activity or not has certain etiquette rules. Proper etiquette is expected by the players, as well as by the fans.

Now a days, it seems that some fans have forgotten good manners. It has always been the accepted custom of fans to cheer for their player or team. However, that does not include insulting the opposing team, umpires, coaches, players, etc. That type of behavior is still considered to be rude and unappreciated by most people.

When attending a game, you must obey the "guest" rules of the game; that is to show courtesy at all times to the people around you. An example of this may be not standing and blocking the view when others are seated around you, by not being too rowdy or using fowl language or gestures and ruining it for those who are unfortunate enough to have to be seated near you. A good time is remembered by all, but there is an acceptable behavior limit that once exceeded is no longer appreciated.

The term sportsmanship is another term for good manners in the arena. As a participant, respecting yourself and your opponent enough to keep an even temperament is a sign of a class athlete. If you show your temper, by cursing, complaining or protesting, you likely will be perceived negatively by your opponents, as well as by the fans.

Obedying the rules, means not trying to bend, protest or change them. If there were no rules, there would be no sports. No matter what your skill level, just play the game according to the rules using your honor.



A good winner remains humble and does not triumph too loudly. If you lose, do not brood or try to make excuses. Either of these actions shows your true ability or lack of it, to react with acceptable social behavior.

Refrain from arguing with the referees or umpires, whatever the call, accept it and move on. No body appreciates a whiner.

If you have teammates or partners in your particular sport, do not criticize an error they have made. No one likes to be blasted for a mistake especially in front of others. It is proven that people are not motivated to do better by being put down.

In any sport, the most appreciated player is the one who plays by the rules, is a gracious winner or loser, is humble in his or her attitudes and positive with their words. For it is not just ability that separates the great players from the rest, it also is a respect for themselves and others that elevates them above the crowd.

Although your behavior during the game is as important as the rules of play, sportsmanship is about more than just the game. We all need to do our part to teach good sportsmanship in the game of life. Our children need to see us abiding by the rules of respect, in order to learn by example...our example. So go ahead....get in the game.

