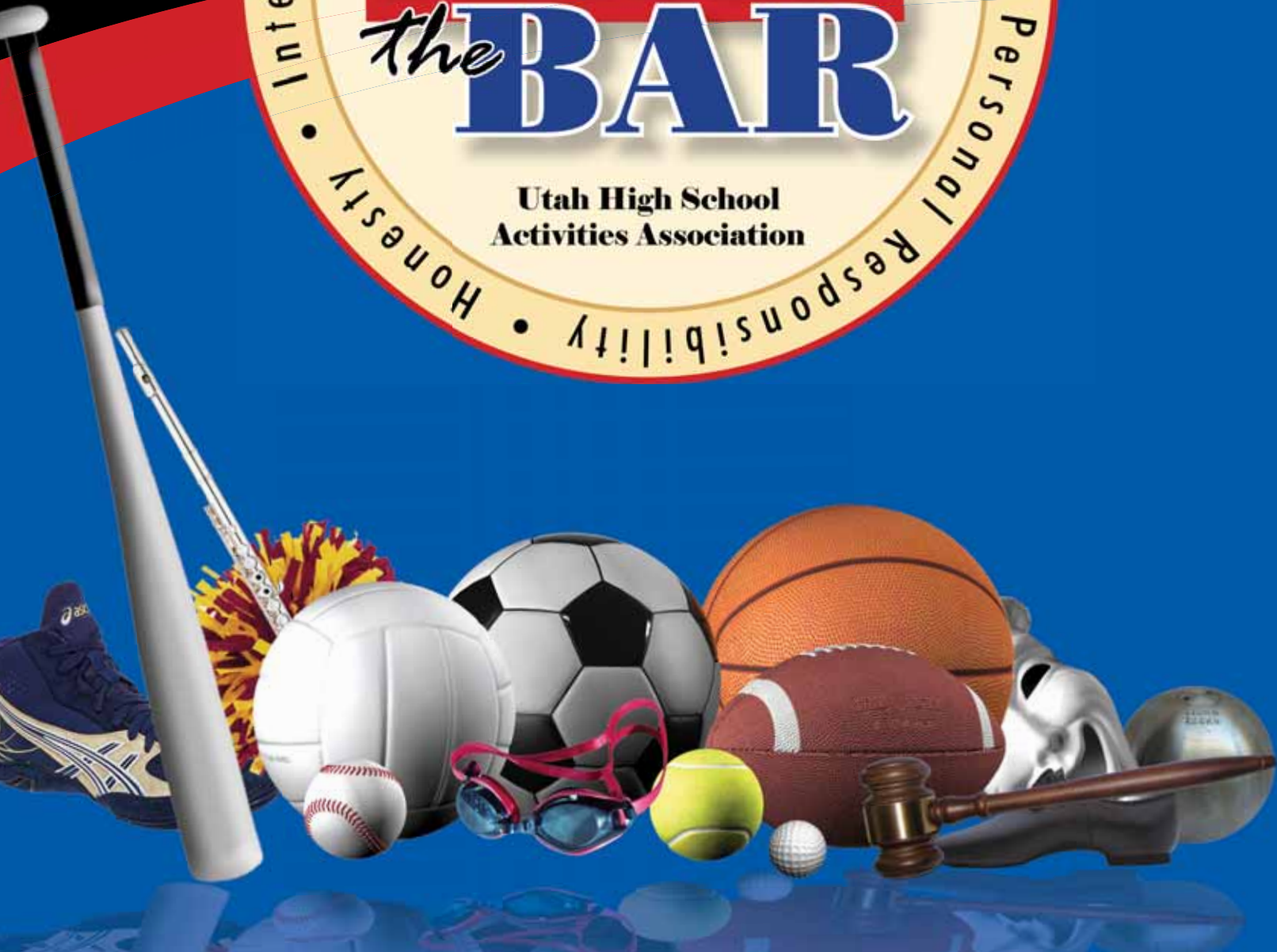


# UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

The Leadership Organization of Education-Based Interscholastic Athletic and Fine Arts Activities





# Sportsmanship Matters!

The UHSAA is the leadership organization for high school athletic and fine arts activities in Utah. Since 1927, the UHSAA has led the development of education-based interscholastic athletic and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The belief is these activities are an essential part of the high school experience and go a long way to improving academic performance and producing better citizens.

The UHSAA is committed to stressing educational and cultural values, improving the participation experience in activities, promoting life skills and lessons involved in competitive activities, fostering citizenship and sportsmanship and assisting those who oversee high school sports and activities in our member high schools. From the UHSAA Mission Statement it reads: "Knowing that student activities are a significant educational force in the development of skills needed to become a contributing member of society, the UHSAA reaffirms that students are the focus and the reason for the Association."

As administrators, athletic directors, coaches and teachers in our member schools, **YOU are US and WE are YOU**. By working together, we can provide the best experiences and quality opportunities for the young people we serve. Former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley said, "No collection of individuals, no matter how good, can be successful unless they form a team." Together as a team, we can continue to do great things for the students who participate in education-based activities.

We can promote the development of character and ensure the teaching of positive values, philosophies and principles of educational value that will last a lifetime. We are the examples who inspire and teach students about life through what we say and

how we live our lives. If we do it the right way, then high school sports and activities offer one of the best opportunities for athletes and performers to learn valuable life lessons including respect, teamwork, personal responsibility, honesty, integrity, leadership, learning to deal with adversity, fair play, goal setting, discipline, citizenship and sportsmanship.

As educators, we must continue to pass on the great things that high school activities have taught each one of us. We can help students dream and succeed by creating one of the most powerful and influential educational experiences that can be provided to young people. We can do this by creating positive learning laboratories where practical life's lessons are taught to promote sportsmanship by enforcing standards of excellence which enhance the educational experience for high school students.

It is our goal to **"Do Rowdy Right"** by promoting positive sporting behavior at all our activities. We must avoid negative behavior and demonstrate respect and appreciation for opponents, officials, fans, coaches and fellow team members. Get loud, have a great time, but remain positive. **Cheer for your team** and not against your opponent. Athletes and performers are good sports when they celebrate their success without diminishing others' efforts, when they accept defeat and their own mistakes in performance with dignity, when they compete fairly and ethically and when they are good hosts for visiting teams or groups.

We must rededicate ourselves to the values and traditional purposes of education-based activities as part of the total educational framework. We must expect high levels of sportsmanship by enforcing standards of excellence within all of our activities at all times. We must answer the call to use **TEAM** (Teach, Enforce, Award, Model) to



**ROBERT C. CUFF, CAA**  
**UHSAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

create appropriate and ethical behavior. As a result, we will enjoy the positive products of our programs as our students and athletes grow and develop in so many ways. Productive programs can be created through working together, and it is the implementation and enforcement at the local level in each member school that matters most.

We encourage all who are involved in high school activities to make the commitment to education-based activities by teaching, enforcing, awarding and modeling the principles of this new statewide sportsmanship program.

We invite all member schools to **TEAM-Up to Raise the Bar, Sportsmanship Matters!**



# Raise the Bar

## New Statewide Sportsmanship Program



Photo by Dave Argyle

The UHSAA is excited to implement their first statewide sportsmanship program, **RAISE THE BAR**, for the 2010-11 school year. The program was developed by the UHSAA Sportsmanship Committee which included coaches, athletic directors, UIAAA, UHSAA, principals, Executive Committee and BOT members.

Approved by both the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, the sportsmanship program will promote the philosophy of education-based athletic and fine arts activities and the responsibilities that come with the privileges of participation. Extracurricular activities are an extension of the school day, a unique learning lab, which offers valuable opportunities to learn life skills and universal values including - respect, teamwork, personal responsibility, honesty, integrity and leadership.

**RESPECT** teamwork *Personal Responsibility*  
honesty Integrity leadership

### TEAM-UP to RAISE THE BAR

Victories in the arena of high school sports do not just only apply to winning seasons and state championships. Teaching students the importance of teamwork, self-discipline, and goal setting is the true success of high school athletics. Being victorious requires dedication, commitment, and teamwork. Everyone must pull together and do their part if a team is going to succeed. We must do the same thing in order to RAISE THE BAR with sportsmanship.

This is a call to action to RAISE THE BAR by joining forces and teaming-up in a concerted effort to Teach, Enforce, Award and Model appropriate and ethical behavior in our member schools.

Throughout the year the RAISE THE BAR Sportsmanship Program will be a point of emphasis in the UHSAA E-Newsletter and on the new Sportsmanship webpage ([uhsaa.org](http://uhsaa.org)).



Photo by Craig Adams



# T ★ E ★ A ★ M

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## UHSAA Member Schools Join Forces to TEACH, ENFORCE, AWARD, MODEL Appropriate and Ethical Behavior

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With the start of a new school year it is with great excitement and anticipation that the UHSAA is rolling out a new sportsmanship program. I would like to take a few moments and share with you some of the concepts that the sportsmanship committee and staff have worked on over the past year. We are going to focus on a few items like “**DO ROWDY RIGHT, Cheer for your team!**” and focus on the positives that good sportsmanship is all about. In order for this program to be successful we must unite our efforts as administrators, athletic directors, coaches, players, students, parents and all those who support high school activities.



Photo by Jason Olson, Deseret News

First is the **T.E.A.M.** concept. We must **TEACH**, **ENFORCE**, **AWARD** and **MODEL** (TEAM) the appropriate behavior that we expect from everyone involved. As educators, our first responsibility is to teach and model appropriate behavior at our high school contests/events. We are asking you to **TEACH** your patrons and students that cheering for their team is not only appropriate behavior but it is the right thing to do. Challenge them to be better and have a higher standard than those we see at the college and professional level. Those who play, perform or compete at the high school level do it for the love of the game and not for a pay check. Next, be willing to step up and **ENFORCE** appropriate behavior. As an administrator, I know that we would never allow some of the behaviors we see at games take place in our classrooms. High school activities are and have always been an extension of the classroom and we are asking

that we treat it as such. If it becomes necessary, be willing to ask students, parents or fans to leave the game or contest if their behavior is inappropriate. Even in the heat of the battle, we are asking coaches, players, students, parents and fans to display appropriate behavior.

We also need to **AWARD** those who display appropriate behavior. Every school in the state will be given a sportsmanship banner to hang in their gymnasium. Each banner will have empty spaces for gold stars which can be earned by the school by completing the criteria outlined on the “School Sportsmanship Award Application” (located on the back page). Schools will identify areas of success and needs improvement as part of the application. Schools that have excessive coach or player ejections, for example, will not be given the gold star to place on the banner for the following year. The UHSAA will post on the newly designed Sportsmanship web page “best practices” that have been submitted from schools so that we can share with each other what is working from around the state. Right now, so many schools are doing so many things “right” as it pertains to sportsmanship.

And finally, be proud to **MODEL** that behavior that is appropriate at games and activities. Administrators, be clear with your coaches what your expectations are as they represent you and your school. Coaches are a critical component to good sportsmanship. The behavior they display has a tremendous impact upon players and fans. Make sure that they have high expectations for their players and that they are clearly on display at all times.

I know that with the outstanding administrators, coaches, players, parents and fans we have in this great state we can make this program work. Good sportsmanship is everyone’s responsibility. Together we can make this happen.

*By Craig Hammer, Washington School District,  
UHSAA Executive Committee Chair and Sportsmanship Committee Chair*



The UHSAA "RAISE THE BAR" Sportsmanship Program is based on the philosophy that high school activities should be education-based, an extension of the school day. Building character is the core curriculum. TEAM will be the UHSAA four step program to TEACH, ENFORCE, AWARD and MODEL appropriate and ethical behavior at our high schools contests and events. People pulling together with a common purpose can make extraordinary things happen. LET'S TEAM UP, because sportsmanship really does matter!

Photo by Michael Brandy, Deseret News



### **RAISE THE BAR - PROGRAM GOALS:**

1. Promote the philosophy and purpose of EDUCATION-BASED activities.
2. All associated with high school activities will demonstrate good sportsmanship.
3. Teach, Enforce, Award & Model appropriate and ethical behavior.
4. Implement a "School Sportsmanship Banner Award Program."
5. Maintain a Sportsmanship web page to share resources, strategies & successes.
6. Hold a UHSAA/UIAAA Statewide Student Sportsmanship Summit on June 23, 2012.

## **RAISE THE BAR: Sportsmanship Initiatives**

The following is a brief outline of the five new sportsmanship initiatives that were developed by the Sportsmanship Committee. Additional information will be presented to each Region Board of Managers and will also be available in a PowerPoint presentation on the UHSAA Sportsmanship page located at uhsaa.org.

### **1. DO ROWDY RIGHT!**

- Do Rowdy Right: "Cheer for Your Team" and not against your opponent.
- Post a "Code of Ethics & Expectations for Positive Sporting Behavior" in visible area.
- Activities are an extension of school day - appropriate conduct is required!
- POSTIVITE PARTICIPATION from players, coaches, officials, spectators and fans.
- TEAM-UP to RAISE THE BAR and we are ALL WINNERS!

### **2. "WE WILL" Sportsmanship Pledge**

- Encourage schools to make the "We Will" Commitment to "Raise the Bar."
- Schools are asked to create a "We Will" DVD using their athletes & coaches.
- Create UHSAA Sportsmanship PSAs to be played prior and during games/contests.

### **3. STATEWIDE STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (Saturday, June 23, 2012)**

- The UHSAA & UIAAA will join forces to hold a statewide student conference.
- All members schools will be invited to send two students to participate.

### **4. PROMOTE the POSITIVE**

- Submit Stories of "Exemplary Sportsmanship" and inspiring photos.
- Recognize "Legends of the Game" who exemplify the highest of ideals and character.
- Select "FANTom FANS" who will attend games and report on a blog spot on the Sportsmanship Page.
- Recognize deserving individuals/teams with the "GOOD SPORT AWARD."

### **5. RAISE THE BAR, EARN YOUR STAR!" – School Sportsmanship Banner Award Program**

- Schools receive a "School Sportsmanship Banner" to hang in their gym/school.
- "School Sportsmanship Banner Award Application" outlines the required criteria to earn a star.
- The completed application and requested documentation are due by June 15th each year.
- Any school that meets all of the criteria will receive a STAR to attach to their banner.
- "Five Star Schools" (2011-2015) will be honored at a celebration event.

Photo by Scott Winterton, Deseret News



# DO ROWDY RIGHT

## *Cheer For Your Team!*

The Utah High School Activities Association is supporting positive sportsmanship by reminding fans of a basic principle: **CHEER FOR YOUR TEAM!** What a simple concept. However, sportsmanship problems in high school activities often begin when fans forget this basic idea. Instead of cheering for their team, they begin to cheer against the competition.

Focusing negative energy on the other team can lead to derogatory cheers, which can quickly lead to trash talking, taunting, and humiliation. This never results in a good outcome. Be passionate, be enthusiastic, be supportive. Cheer for your team; encourage the best from your side; create momentum by building up rather than tearing down. Simply put: **DO ROWDY RIGHT!**

*By Bill Boyle, UHSAA Board of Trustees, Region 19 Rep*

Activities are an extension of the school day and require appropriate behavior from all participants. Cheers or behaviors that are inappropriate should be stopped and not allowed to be repeated. Players, parents, officials, cheerleaders, athletic directors, administrators are needed to model and enforce positive school spirit. "Expectations of Appropriate Fan Behavior" should be clearly posted and personnel should be present to enforce the standards of appropriate behavior. Regardless of the school, our message has to be the same, "Do Rowdy Right!"



Photo by Tom Smart, Deseret News



Photo by Michael Brandy, Deseret News

## A Call to Action:

# NOW IS THE TIME!

Shaquille O'Neal once said, "Excellence is not a singular act but a habit. You are what you do repeatedly." If we as educators expect our students to act properly, their behavior must become habitual for the good. Knute Rockne spoke to this issue with this quote, "**One person practicing sportsmanship is far better than a hundred teaching it.**" The UIAAA is thrilled to team up with the UHSAA to promote the "Raise the Bar" Sportsmanship Initiative. This groundbreaking initiative is the first of its kind in Utah. The depth of this program is something that has never been attempted, and the positive consequences will be far reaching. It is a call to action. It is a call to stop talking about sportsmanship, and acting to make our sports and activities atmosphere better for our students and adult spectators. After all, what is it that we are trying to impress upon our students and adult fans? What is it that we as educators are trying to teach and model? The answer is obvious.

Mike Singletary of Chicago Bears fame said, "Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play!" As educators we must never lose sight of that statement. Perhaps the late singer songwriter, Harry Chapin, said it best when he asked the following questions, and I paraphrase. "Are we satisfied singing harmony, or are we striving to sing the song? Are we happy just answering the telephone, or is it, I believe, time to take the call? Are we content to reach for the shelf, or do we dream to reach for the stars?" **NOW is the time!**

*By Marc Hunter, Jordan High AD, UIAAA Executive Director; UHSAA Sportsmanship Committee Member*



# “We Will” Sportsmanship Pledge

The UHSAA encourages member schools to have their student-athletes make the “We Will” Sportsmanship Pledge. The most effective way to deliver the message that sportsmanship matters is to enlist the help of our student-athletes as positive role models. Their actions strongly influence their peers. Create a “We Will” DVD for your school by organizing a combination of student-athletes and coaches reciting assigned portions of the UHSAA “We Will” Pledge. Sample DVD clips will be posted on the UHSAA Sportsmanship web page at [uhsaa.org](http://uhsaa.org), along with helpful instructions on how to create your “We Will” DVD.

Photos by Stuart Johnson, Deseret News



Photo by Scott Winterton, Deseret News



*We will...  
Play fair and play by the rules  
Represent our schools with integrity*

*We will...  
Treat our opponents with the dignity that they've earned  
And respect coaches and officials*

*We will...  
Value our opportunity to compete  
And thank those who support us*

*We will...  
Always do our best to achieve what we can achieve  
Individually and more importantly – as a team*

*And when the game is over  
We will shake hands - win or lose*

**UHSAA & UIAAA will TEAM-Up to sponsor the first Statewide Student Leadership Summit, Saturday, June 23, 2012. Additional details will be sent later in the year.**



# UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD APPLICATION "Raise the Bar, Earn Your STAR!"



School \_\_\_\_\_ Classification \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**UHSAA member schools** are challenged to "Raise the Bar and Earn A Star" by completing the requirements listed under the four STAR components. The completed application and documentation must be received by the UHSAA office by June 15, 2011. *The UHSAA School Sportsmanship Banner Award Program has been endorsed by the UIAAA.*

**S**UPPORT the UHSAA "Raise the Bar" Program in your school by completing ALL of the following criteria:

- Hang your school's UHSAA Sportsmanship Banner in your main gym.
- Prominently post your school's SPORTSMANSHIP policy which must clearly communicate the standards of behavior that are expected when attending or participating in school activities.
- Student-athletes and parents sign the UHSAA Sportsmanship Pledge (See Tryout Checklist Form).
- Zero coach ejections in 2010-11. If a coach is ejected he/she must complete the NFHS Course: *Teaching and Modeling Behavior (nfhslearn.com) within 30 days of ejection.\**
- Present the "Raise the Bar" Sportsmanship Program, the "We Will" Sportsmanship Pledge and the "Do Rowdy Right" Sportsmanship Initiative to your staff and student body (i.e. Assembly).

**T**EACH the principles of positive and ethical behavior by accomplishing THREE of the following:

- Utilize the NFHS "Sportsmanship: It's Up To You" materials.
- Develop a "We Will" Commitment DVD and show to the student body.
- Read a sportsmanship message prior to every home varsity sporting event.
- Hold Player-Parent Orientations prior to the first contest that address proper conduct.
- In scheduled meetings, review with all team captains the personal responsibility they have to provide leadership, demonstrate respect and be a positive role model for good sportsmanship.
- Have students participate in a Leadership Conference or Sportsmanship Summit.

**A**WARD or acknowledge individuals that have modeled, inspired or shared the ideals of education-based athletic and fine arts activities. Provide evidence that three individuals/teams from your school or community were recognized or honored by your school for their example or contribution (i.e. article in school paper, recognized at assembly, posted on school web site).

**R**EVIEW your school's areas of success and specific areas of needs improvement in regards to sportsmanship in an end of year meeting with students, student-athletes, coaches, faculty and administrators/athletic directors. Provide the UHSAA one area of success and one area of needs improvement (just a brief explanation).

Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Multiple coach ejections during 2010-11 may eliminate your school from receiving this award.**