



Sportsmanship Counts!

The Northwest Ohio Youth Soccer League strives to impress upon soccer players and coaches, the importance of respecting fellow competitors and the game of soccer. The purpose of the award is to promote integrity and sportsmanship in our league.

Both players and coaches can be nominated and recipients of the award. Each month during the playing seasons, nominations will be received by the NWOYSL Executive Board. Each month, up to 10 people will be awarded the Sportsmanship Award. The award consists of a \$20 gift certificate to Dicks Sporting Goods and a Sportsmanship Counts t-shirt. Nominations can be submitted by coaches, referees and observing parents. Nominations can be for your own team as well as opposing teams. We highly encourage nominations of other team members/coaches. Parents cannot submit a nomination for their own child. The Sportsmanship Counts form is available on the NWOYSL website, under the forms section.

Some criteria and a sample checklist to consider when nominating someone for the award:

-I know and abide by the rules of the game.

-I always play fair. Honest and integrity should be an integral part of sports. A player with good sportsmanship does not want a hollow victory, which comes as a result of cheating (dirty fouls, ineligible players, etc.)

-I follow the directions given to me. I listen to the rules and directions and realize that each player's decisions affect the rest of the team.

-I respect the other team's effort. Whether the other team plays better or whether they play worse, the player with good sportsmanship does not use the occasion to put the other team down. Respect for opponents is central to good sportsmanship. I do not gloat, belittle and never minimize the opponent's efforts.

-I offer encouragement to teammates. A sign of good sportsmanship is a player who praises teammates when they do well and who comforts and encourages them when they make mistakes. I never criticize teammates. I never condone unsportsmanlike behavior from my teammates.

-I accept the rulings of the game officials. Part of human condition is making mistakes. I don't argue with an official over a judgment call. The player with good sportsmanship knows that errors may be made, but the player also knows that a game is made up of all the plays and calls from the beginning to the end of the game, not just the call in dispute.

-I end the game smoothly. When the game is over, pouting, threatening, boasting has no place in the life of players with good sportsmanship, who emphasize the joy of participating, regardless of the outcome. Ending the game without antagonistic emotional display will help ensure that the games will continue in the future.

“Sports do not build character. They reveal it.” -Heywood Hale Broun



Sportsmanship Counts—Nomination Form

Nominees Name: _____

Please circle one: **PLAYER** **COACH**

Nominees Team: _____ Age Group: _____ Circle One: **BOYS** **GIRLS**

Date of Sportsmanship Display: _____

Game Location: _____

Please give a brief explanation of why this person is deserving of a sportsmanship award, include examples of good sportsmanship displayed. _____

Name of person submitting nomination: _____

Phone Number: _____ Team Affiliation: _____

The Sportsmanship Counts program is sponsored by Dicks Sporting Goods
and the Northwest Ohio Youth Soccer League.

Nominations can be submitted to: **NWOYSL**
135 Chesterfield Suite 104
Maumee, OH 43557

Or can be faxed to: 419-893-2307