

**RESOLUTION PROMOTING HIGH STANDARDS
IN HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

1999 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: David Ure

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE URGING THAT THE UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION CONTINUE TO PROMOTE SUPERIOR SPORTSMANSHIP IN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS AND EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, participation in high school athletics can lay a positive groundwork for understanding ideals of fair play, determination despite adversity, and working as a unit toward a common goal;

WHEREAS, engaging in competitive physical activity that rewards excellence and urges improved performance through skills development can leave deep, positive impressions on student athletes and brace them for the challenges of life;

WHEREAS, too often the behavior of participants and spectators in high school athletics, whether towards each other or officiators, has become ugly and harsh, tainted by a lack of self control, self respect, respect for others, and true team pride;

WHEREAS, sportsmanship is an ideal too often mocked in today's society, but it is the key to preserving much of what is good and lasting about high school athletics participation;

WHEREAS, living up to the ideal of sportsmanship is a challenge faced not only by student athletes and classmates but also coaches, who often serve as role models and mentors to student athletes, and parents, who in their children's early years set a powerful example of what is acceptable treatment of others;

WHEREAS, the use of profane and vulgar language by participants and spectators at athletic contests degrades the game, everyone connected with it, and erodes any feelings of respect on the playing field, on the sidelines, and in the stands;

WHEREAS, in order to minimize health and safety risks to student athletes, maintain ethical standards of fair play, and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never

supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance enhancing purposes;

WHEREAS, athletes can gain valuable experience in developing discipline and self control as they learn to control their temper and shun the physical and verbal violence so often displayed at other levels of sports competition;

WHEREAS, athletics participation, which can supplement and enrich the high school experience, can be harmful if it overshadows the academic mission that makes participation possible;

WHEREAS, the kind of discipline that leads to scholastic excellence can also help athletes achieve true sportsmanship, and success in both endeavors should be highly prized by student athletes, parents, coaches, and anyone who exerts a significant influence in the life of a high school athlete; and

WHEREAS, the members of the State Board of Trustees, acting for the good of the entire state, can exert strong leadership to reestablish the ideal of excellence in academics and sportsmanship:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urge that the Utah High School Activities Association continue to engage in efforts to promote sportsmanship among Utah's high school athletes and all participants and spectators involved in high school athletics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognize the positive influence that participation in high school athletics can have when experienced as a supplement to the mission of education rather than its purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all 118 member schools of the Utah High School Activities Association.