

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

3                                   1999 GENERAL SESSION

4                                   STATE OF UTAH

5                                   **Sponsor: David Ure**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28           WHEREAS, in order to minimize health and safety risks to student athletes, maintain  
29 ethical standards of fair play, and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never  
30 supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for  
31 performance enhancing purposes;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Legislative Review Note**

**as of 1-20-99 12:03 PM**

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**