

# Sportsmanship

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Most sports have different understandings of sportsmanship. Studying the differences and similarities between them shows how sportsmanship is an important asset for fun, and good character in these sports.

What is sportsmanship? Sportsmanship is, according to google "Fair or generous behavior or treatment of others, especially in a sports contest". To me, sportsmanship is also a set of unwritten rules. These rules are an understanding unique for the sport, for what is right and wrong. Things like bowing to show respect in Martial Arts or chanting for your team while being respectful to the other team in baseball are basic "rules" of sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is the base of every sport, it's the heart and soul.

Sportsmanship is why some parents enroll their kids in sports. Sportsmanship is what teaches kids and even adults several traits that are good for life. Without sportsmanship we would certainly not have the sports we have today.

Why do we need sportsmanship? Sportsmanship is a big part of every sport. Without it, every sport would be ruthless and violent. Most people wouldn't follow the rules, nor would they enjoy playing. Sportsmanship unites players and creates friendships. Having sportsmanship comes hard to some but helps so many people. Sportsmanship is a great life lesson and teaches many internal traits, including patience, diligence, respect, and love for others. Accepting loss and accepting when you or your teammates make a bad call are parts of sportsmanship. Acting with patience even when you cannot remember your forms and when all the effort seems to show no avail. Being easygoing when someone needs your help. On the other hand have diligence when you practice or to do it right, working hard when competing, and not giving up. Respecting the other team or other opponent in sports, appreciating your elders or higher ranks and behaving politely towards your teammates and the rules shows sportsmanship.

Taekwondo is a great example of a sport that requires sportsmanship. Characteristics such as diligence, compassion, respect, humility, and perseverance make up Taekwondo. This sport uses these components that reflect sportsmanship in almost everything they do; sparring, forms, teaching, and passing through the ranks. Taekwondo uses sparring to help the student learn their strengths and weaknesses, a way to control themselves, and a way to learn new techniques. Forms show how diligently the student has worked, and how patient they have been. Forms allow the student to practice technique, which teaches the student to be adroit and accurate or else the techniques aren't admirable and can hurt the student. Teaching is a good lesson for the teacher too. Teaching helps the instructor to memorize what they are teaching. Teaching is used to help both the teacher and student grow and learn. If the teacher isn't diligent and does not give grace, then neither the student nor teacher progress. If the student does not listen diligently and patiently, they will not get all the information and will have bad technique. Passing through the ranks is a good way to show perseverance, and to show persistence. While passing through all the ranks, students will learn many different forms and drills and will have to be understanding with the teacher and themselves. Passing through the ranks also requires the student to be humble and respect higher ranks. Perseverance shows growth, fortitude, hard work, and humility. You must work attentively and be patient to progress to the next rank. You must be humble and know what you need to do and what isn't quite of the instructor's expectation yet. Perseverance is the hardest part of Taekwondo. Day after day you must be there, but quitting isn't the answer. Perseverance isn't for everyone, most leave, only a few stay. Perseverance is one of the biggest lessons of Taekwondo and if perseverance

is achieved to get the students black belt, they have also achieved true sportsmanship.

Baseball is about 152 years old, and a very old representation of sportsmanship. Between friendly games and more serious tournament games, sportsmanship is carried through the best players. In my personal experience, sportsmanship can sometimes truly be hard to find in opponents, teammates and sometimes in yourself. Sportsmanship in baseball is mainly carried through players but also through the audience. Players can taunt the other team, be rude and use excess force, the pitcher can intentionally hit the batter, or even cause fights. These things do not show sportsmanship. Acts of sportsmanship in baseball is respecting the opposing team, not being a sore loser, and shaking their hand after the game. When respecting the opposing team, players do not cheer boastfully, or taunt. Helping other/younger players teaches diligence and patience. Sportsmanship comes and goes in baseball, and really depends on how decent of a person they seem to be or how great the day is going. Polite kids can turn angry and hateful when they lose. These actions show no sportsmanship but definitely show empty room to grow for more sportsmanship and self-control.

Sportsmanship lives in the stands and the audience almost as much as the players. The audience could easily disrespect the other team by cheering too loud while the opposing team is at bat or also cheering boastfully. The audience is a big part of baseball; it keeps their team on their toes. The audience can also control the emotions

of the team. In my experience, a happy audience is a happy game. The audience can easily change both teams' attitudes, which can alter how the players learn to control themselves and their temper. Not being able to choose what you do or say is bad for the players because its teaching them to be arrogant and obnoxious. Having sportsmanship helps them to keep control of their emotions.

Video games have many different and unique ways to show sportsmanship. Video games are also a good way to show how to not have sportsmanship. So many people hide behind the wall of the internet because they forget that who they are talking to and playing with is a real person. Playing video games is a way to tell who someone really is, like a lie detector but for their personality. Almost everyone does or says things they have always wanted to do or say but never have the guts to do in real life. They are never going to talk or see that person again, so why bother being polite?

Sportsmanship in video games is accepting your loss or being humble and mindful of others when you win. Video games can make many people rage. Competitive games, fighting games, even Wii tennis, has made someone rage. Newcomers to a video game, most of the time, have absolutely no idea what they are doing. They rely on the community around them to learn and have fun. I would not play video games today if I hadn't had my friend to play with, help me learn, and enjoy the games we played together when we were younger. There are a lot of trolls and even hackers throughout different video games, but there is also a lot of good friendly people. Trolls are usually people who like to have fun by ruining the game for other people. Trolls take griefing to the extreme and make people rage. For an example, let's say you built a house in a game; a troll would come and destroy it completely, after killing you 10 times. This

makes the friendly side of the internet more loved and necessary. Friendly people are the face of sportsmanship when it comes to video games. Friendly people make an atmosphere of laughter and friendship for the game. Friendly people have compassion for others and grace for when someone needs to learn or messes up. Friendly people help and nourish younger players. They help people grow into loving and enjoying the sport.

All of these sports have different origins and why they were they were made. Baseball and video games came from New York, and Taekwondo came from Korea. Baseball was created by Abner Doubleday in 1839 as just a backyard game yet has become one of the world's biggest sports alongside football, basketball, and soccer. Video games were created in October 1958 at Brookhaven National Laboratory by William Higginbotham. Higginbotham created video games to show that "science wasn't all about war and destruction".

These sports are different, odd in a few ways, and unique, but still relate by having respect, accepting defeat, and character traits. Sportsmanship in baseball has respect for the other team. Taekwondo must respect higher ranks but also lower ranks in order to have sportsmanship's traits. And video games must have respect for their community to show good sportsmanship and its traits.

Taekwondo, baseball, and video games, also all relate by accepting defeat. In Taekwondo, sparring requires defeat, no one will always win. Baseball takes hours of playing to decide who loses and wins, if the player is not on the winning side, sportsmanship comes in handy to have self-control and respect. Video games brings out the worst in every player, especially after dying repeatedly. Video games require

sportsmanship to keep calm and to act on one's best behavior, especially when on the mic.

All three of these sports including teamwork, either against or with each other. Taekwondo students work as a team to help each other get better, either in sparring or working hard to perfect forms. Baseball players work together as a team to win against the other team. And in video games there are countless ways to work as a team, by teaming up in a free for all or being put on a team to work together.

These sports differ between motives. In Taekwondo, students work hard to get their Black belts and eventually are working to improve their character. In baseball players push to gain strength, agility, and knowledge for an advantage over their teammates, for the goal, being the winner. And video games have a weave of different goals, like doing challenges, getting experience from playing, acquiring in game experience to level up your profile or character, leveling up to get rewards, and using the rewards to continue leveling up.

No matter how much these sports differ, sportsmanship has a high importance in all of them. Sports without sportsmanship are like battlegrounds, nothing but hatred, no rules. Sports without sportsmanship would be full of cheaters and would never be fun. Without sportsmanship, sports wouldn't teach any good traits such as respect, teamwork, mindfulness, diligence, or patience. Sportsmanship is vital to the growing of sports and character in everyone who participates in them.