

The **Junior Premier Sports League** has had great success over the last 18 years, primarily due to a mutual respect that each school has for the other schools/teams participating in the league. Winning is an important element of competing, many believe the primary goal. However, it is critical that each athlete learn to win with humility, treating your opponent and the game with dignity. Perhaps the greatest test of this is how we handle ourselves as coaches in a lopsided game, when one team is clearly superior to their opponent on the field/court. The finest youth coaches are able to consider not only their own team and parents in these situations, but also the impact that a one-sided game has on the development of their opposition. These coaches identify a competitive imbalance and immediately adjust their coaching goals for the contest, taking the emphasis off of scoring goals/baskets/touchdowns and working on developing weaker players on his/her own team or areas of the sports where their team struggles (example: field spacing and/or passing in soccer). To beat a team 14-1 in soccer, while allowing the same two players to score all the goals and remain attacking the entire match, is a win and your team and parents will leave “happy”. However, it is also a clear missed opportunity to develop other players on your team and earn the respect of your opponent for showing concern over the impact a lopsided defeat has on their enjoyment of the sport.

At **Junior Premier Sports**, we strive to develop a life-long love of sport and competition in our young athletes. This takes a collaborative effort of each coach and director! We are hopeful that our coaches will be cognizant of the impact that they can make each week, not only in the lives of the players on their team but also the lessons and positive examples they can be for all the children in the league.



