



ASAA

For Immediate Release January 31, 2023

Announcement

High School Athletics aims to **Set The Bar** high for good Sportsmanship

Today, the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) announced a new initiative aimed at promoting good sportsmanship in school athletics across the province.

While the ASAA has been recognizing good sportsmanship at its various championships for decades, this new initiative is a multi-faceted, intentional effort to bring sportsmanship and ethical behaviour to the top of the agenda for sports programs in Alberta high schools.

Aiming to address all involved in school athletics: athletes, coaches, parents, spectators, officials and others, the goal is for no stone to be left unturned in getting the message out that displaying good sportsmanship should occur at all levels of school sport, and that all concerned should feel that school sport is a safe place at all times. It is important to the educators who oversee high school athletics in Alberta that the ASAA Sets The Bar that it wants to see all participants achieve and allows us to set students on the path to life success.

ASAA Sportsmanship Commissioner **Heather Bartling** said "Our committee, made up of representatives from each zone across the province, has worked hard to create an initiative to bring positive sporting behavior to the forefront of high school athletics. We are hoping to recognize those individuals who Set The Bar for others and promote the values and ideals of educational athletics. As we hear more and more about negative interactions in sport, the ASAA is looking to turn the narrative by highlighting those who are leading the way in creating positive sporting environments for both themselves and others."

ASAA Executive Director **John Paton** said "By focusing on 'the positive' throughout this initiative, we are hoping to educate student-athletes, coaches and others about the importance of role modeling at all levels in school sport".

Included in the initiative are the following aspects (see also, attachment):

At School Level

- Set The Bar Sportsmanship nominations can be submitted to the ASAA at any time. An adjudicating committee will choose recipients who will receive a "Set The Bar" T-shirt.
- Set The Bar "Pre-competition script cards" will be provided to every school for use at all games/events
- Set The Bar "Tournament Packages" can be purchased by member schools.

At ASAA Provincials

- Set The Bar "Pre-competition script cards" for event organizers and officials.
- Set The Bar Sportsmanship pins/keychains.
- Set The Bar Team Sportsmanship Banners.
- Set The Bar Spectator Code of Conduct Banners. provided to each host for display at provincials and to be kept by schools following the championship.

Michael Vaughan Spirit of Sport Scholarship

One scholarship of \$1,000 annually will be rewarded to a Grade 12 ASAA student-athlete who displays outstanding sportsmanship, character and leadership.

The ASAA is the governing body for high school sport in Alberta. Its membership includes 400 high schools, encompassing over 50,000 student-athlete participants, 10,000 volunteer coaches, over 3,000 sports teams across 12 sports.

For further information, please contact

John Paton
Executive Director
john@asaa.ca
Ph: 780.421.8182

Proudly Sponsored by



Committed to Teachers in Alberta



ASAA Sportsmanship Initiative

SET THE BAR

At School Level

"Set The Bar" Nominations

Nominations will be accepted via google form throughout the year for individuals who have "Set The Bar" for sportsmanship. Promotion material is available, making nominations easy via a QR code (available at asaa.ca). The ASAA Sportsmanship Committee will adjudicate nominations and award "Set The Bar" T-shirts.

"Set The Bar" Pre-Competition Script Cards

All schools will receive Set The Bar cards for coach and athletic director use. These cards have a message to be read out loud to players, fans and officials before the start of competition, setting the stage for a sportsmanlike and respect-filled event.

Tournament Packages

Schools can purchase a "Set The Bar" tournament package which includes promotional materials and a set number of recognition keychains & pins to distribute to anyone setting the bar of sportsmanship during an event. Tournament organizers will be asked to provide recipient names to the ASAA for social media recognition.

At ASAA Provincials

Pre-Competition Script Cards

ASAA championship hosts will be provided a Set The Bar script card and lanyard, to be read out at the start of each event and worn for the duration of the championship.

Sportsmanship Pins/Keychains

ASAA Championship Hosts will receive a set number of "Set The Bar" pins or keychains to distribute to anyone (student-athlete, coach, other) setting the bar of exemplary sportsmanship during an event. QR code recipient nomination forms are available online at ASAA. While everyone nominated may not receive a keychain, all nominations will be recognized by the Sportsmanship Commissioner via the nominee's school.

Code of Conduct Banner

The ASAA will provide Championship Hosts a "Set The Bar" 6' x 3' banner to display at their championship and to keep afterwards.

Michael Vaughan Spirit of Sport Scholarship

One scholarship of \$1,000 annually will be rewarded to a Grade 12 ASAA student-athlete who displays outstanding sportsmanship, character and leadership.

Promotions

Promotional Toolkit

The ASAA Sportsmanship Committee has created a promotional package for athletic directors that includes posters for downloading, PSAs for game announcements and other helpful materials for easy "Set The Bar" promotion in their schools.

Increased Recognition & Visibility

The ASAA will recognize Set The Bar recipients in a new "Set The Bar" Section of the website, through communication with the recipient's school and the Sportsmanship Commissioner, and on social media throughout the year.

Proudly Sponsored by

