

## PARENTS PLAY KEY ROLES

As we approach the beginning of another school year, parents and student-athletes will be asked to review the Visalia Unified School District Athletic Handbook to review our district guidelines which can be found on our school website. A hard copy can be provided per request. Because our extracurricular lives seem to exist in a highly competitive environment, it is sometimes easy to forget that the real mission of our programs is to provide opportunities for all young people in our school to participate equally under the rules of an activity and enjoy playing the activity.

As parents and coaches, our roles should be compatible. We all should promote and reinforce sportsmanship, teamwork, unity, compliance with eligibility rules and the value of team membership. Unfortunately, we have not had a chance to view many positive role models on television or at professional sporting events. In the eyes of some people, it seems to be more important to show clips of fights; penalties; negative, rather than positive, acts of good sportsmanship, and athletes violating laws with regard to alcohol or drugs. As a school and community, it should be our position to bring our athletic and cocurricular participants into compliance with the CIF Central Section, Visalia Unified School District, and El Diamante High School.

What can you do as a parent? State your position openly and clearly. Many students report they do not know how their parents feel about sportsmanship or the use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco among their friends. Verify your teen's whereabouts. Most drinking goes on at parties where there is no supervision. Communicate with other parents. Most will appreciate it. A few may not. Set the example for sportsmanship. Get acquainted with your student's friends. Praise your student's efforts as well as their accomplishments. Be supportive of the coaches, including their rules, principles and decisions.

The spirit of this information is to get the school, community and parents working together to deliver a consistent message to our young people. At El Diamante High School, it is our goal to enhance the health and development of our young people through co-curricular activities. The true champion is the one who treats an opponent with respect, positively prepares themselves, plays by the rules of the game, is in compliance with CIF and VUSD rules and regulations, attends practices consistently, and supports sportsmanship.

Thank you for being interested in and supporting our students in these activities at our school. I encourage you to join the Miner Foundation ([edhsminerfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:edhsminerfoundation@gmail.com)) or the booster club for the sport your student participates in. Contact your students' head coach to learn more about each sports booster club. All coaches and their contact information can also be found on our school websites athletics page.

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