



Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award

In their continued commitment to youth and high school athletics, Georgia's Electric Membership Cooperatives started the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award in 2006 aimed at promoting sportsmanship at competitive events.

The major thrust of the campaign is to honor high schools that exemplify superior sportsmanship. The Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award will be presented annually to Georgia High School Association (GHSA) member high schools singled out for good sportsmanship.

"Good sportsmanship is an essential aspect of school-based athletics," says Ralph Swearingen, Executive Director of the GHSA. "It is good citizenship demonstrated during competition."

Noting that the attributes of good sportsmanship fall in line with the principles by which cooperatives operate and live, it was an easy decision for Georgia's EMCs, which have supported GHSA championship events for years, to join in promoting good sportsmanship.

"Cooperative principles stress important values, such as cooperation and teamwork, just as relevant on the high school playing field as they are to co-op employees in the workplace," says Marty Myers, GEMC Marketing Coordinator.

Up to 40 awards will be presented each year, one for each of the five classifications within GHSA's eight regions. Selected by GHSA region secretaries, the awards honor not only sportsmanship demonstrated by athletes but by fellow students, parents, coaches and spectators also, making the award a tribute to the entire school community.

The first Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards covered the 2005-06 school year and were presented by Georgia's EMCs to winning schools throughout the state during halftime at fall football games.