

Ladies and gentlemen, athletes of all ages,
Today, as we gather to celebrate the spirit of competition, let us also embrace the virtues of respect and integrity. Sportsmanship is not just about winning; it is about playing fair and showing respect to everyone involved, including opponents, teammates, referees, and spectators. Respect means recognizing the effort and dedication each athlete brings to the field. It is about applauding a great play, regardless of which team made it, and shaking hands at the end of the game, win or lose. Integrity is competing honestly, giving your best without resorting to unfair tactics. It is about playing by the rules and setting a positive example for others.

As athletes, you have the power to inspire those around you through your actions. By upholding these values, you contribute to a positive and enriching sporting environment. So, let's commit ourselves to playing with heart, to respecting one another, and to enjoying the game for all the joy it brings.

Thank you, and let the games begin!