Honor the Game Post Game Sportsmanship Awards (56 Level)
WA Chapter US Lacrosse

Summary: In order to encourage sportsmanship and build a tradition of ‘Honoring the Game’ of lacrosse at an early age, the Washington State Chapter of US Lacrosse has designed a system for recognizing and rewarding sportsmanship. We hope that this will have a lasting positive effect on both lacrosse players and teams.

Before each boys’ 56 game, the coaches from each team will select 2 captains. In addition to the standard duties of captains, these players will be responsible for the selection of two players from the opposing team whose actions, behaviors, and play ‘honor the game’ of lacrosse. Players should know that this is not an MVP award. They should watch for more subtle occurrences that embrace sportsmanship and make lacrosse such a fun game to play. The selected players are given a small “Honor the Game” sticker that will be worn for the rest of the season on the back of their helmet.

Before season:

Helmet stickers and guidelines distributed to all 56 teams through organization / club leaders.

Coaches discuss plan with players and parents @ pre season meeting / email newsletters. At a practice before the season, coaches explain to the players how the system will work. Then challenge the players to focus on coming up with a list of individual and team actions that would honor the game. Discuss also actions that would not be acceptable. Perhaps have a practice where two players act the role of captains and choose teammates for their actions at the end of the session.

Before each game.

Coaches choose captains per above. Coaches greet one and other. Verify that the exchange of compliments and stickers will take place following the game. Officials can be invited to be a part of the ceremony, (their option)

Following the game:

Immediately after the hand shake lines, all players from both teams face each other. Parent / spectators form a larger circle around the outside of the lines. With the support and assistance from coaches as needed, each captain steps forward, introduces himself, and announces the number of the player to be recognized. He then shares the specific details about the actions that honored the game. The recipient steps forward, introduces himself, and has the sticker installed. Please take care not to place the sticker over the safety information on the helmet.

Post season
At your year end party, please consider taking the time to recognize the players who received this award and review their specific actions that “Honored the Game”.
How do lacrosse players ‘Honor the Game’? Perhaps you will want to review the sorts of actions which might earn recognition. The following is a brief list of examples. As the year progresses, encourage your players to think of additional ideas.

- Seeing a player who goes out of his way to encourage and support his own teammates.
- Noticing a player who consistently gives his all, playing hard but fair.
- Recognizing verbally a good play, shot, or save by an opponent.
- Helping an opponent up off of the ground.
- Friendly banter between attackmen and defenders when the ball is on the other end of the field.
- Reminding an opponent about his mouth guard or a loose piece of equipment.
- Seeing an opponent who readily accepts a being called for penalty and makes a conscious effort to learn from his mistake.
- Players who apologize for a slash that was not called.
- Recognizing players who willingly switch teams to help out an opponent who is short of players.
- Congratulating an opposing goal keeper for making a great save.

Thanks very much for your support.