

# **Sportsmanship**

**“COMPETE WITH CLASS - HONOR THE GAME” PLEDGE**



A great example of the "Honor the Game" Pledge in action!

<https://www.usalaxmagazine.com/fuel/us-lacrosse/the-power-of-the-sticker-sportsmanship-key-in-vermont>

### **Compete with Class Honor the Game Pledge**

The "Compete with Class - Honor the Game" pledge summarizes important elements of the lacrosse experience and confirms your commitment to Sportsmanship and Fair Play.

### **HOW CAN YOU COMPETE WITH CLASS AND HONOR THE GAME?**

- Respect your coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, and the fans.
  - Compete with heart, honor, and hustle.
  - Honor the traditions of the game and respect the ancestors of the sport.
  - Have fun, be passionate, and adhere to the spirit of the game both on and off the field.

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

1. Read the information on this page to understand the importance of Safety and Sportsmanship
2. Sign the Compete with Class - Honor the Game Pledge
3. Nominate a team, coach, or official for special displays of sportsmanship.
4. Promote and express the importance of Safety and Sportsmanship in the fastest game on two feet to players, coaches, fans, and officials.

# THE PLEDGE

This season, as a parent, coach, player, or official, I pledge to COMPETE with CLASS and HONOR THE GAME...

- I will honor the history of lacrosse and commit to maintaining the core values of the game's culture.
- I will recognize the value of safe and fair play by teaching, enforcing, and playing by the letter and spirit of the game.
- I will practice and encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other lacrosse event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of our players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will support coaches and officials working with players to encourage a safe, positive, and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will do my very best to make the sport fun for everyone who participates.
- I will ask all family members and fans to be tolerant and inclusive by treating other players, coaches, fans, and officials with high regard and respect.

## **BACK MOUNTAIN BANDITS - 2023 SEASON “HONOR THE GAME” - POST GAME SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS**

In order to encourage sportsmanship and build a tradition of “Honoring the Game” of lacrosse at an early age, the Back Mountain Bandits have decided to create a system for recognizing and rewarding sportsmanship. We hope this will have a lasting, positive impact on lacrosse players and teams.

Before each game, coaches will remind their team that they will be selecting two opposing players whose actions, behaviors, and game play “honor the game”. Players should know that this is not

an MVP Award. They should watch for more subtle occurrences that embrace the idea of sportsmanship and make lacrosse a fun game to play.

After the game, players will gather at mid-field so spectators can view the celebration. The coaches will highlight the strengths of the opposing team and the team will present the “Honor the Game” decals to their selected opponents. These award decals can be worn or displayed for the remainder of the season to celebrate their efforts in sportsmanship.

## **HOW DO LACROSSE PLAYERS “HONOR THE GAME”?**

Parents and coaches should have conversations with players about the sort of actions that might deserve recognition. For example:

- A player goes out of their way to encourage and support their own teammates.
  - A player constantly gives their 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 attack and defenders, when the ball is on the other end of the field.
  - Telling an opponent when they have loose equipment (loose mouthguard, untied shoe, etc.)
  - A player who readily accepts being called for a penalty and makes a conscious effort to learn from their mistakes.
  - Players who apologize for an illegal check that was not called.
  - Players who willingly switch teams to help an opponent who was short of players.
  - Congratulating an opposing goalie for a great save.

## **EVERYONE CAN “HONOR THE GAME”**

The Back Mountain Bandits organization believes that we all have a part in honoring the game. Parents, coaches, and spectators have an opportunity to lead by example. Our standards of behavior should exceed that of our players. We hold players and spectators alike to our Pledge. Generate positive energy, celebrate effort, reinforce sportsmanship, and keep the game fun!

***Remember: These are KIDS and this is a GAME. Coaches and parents are volunteers. Referees are HUMAN. Opponents are not our enemies. No college scholarships or professional contracts will be offered today. 70% of kids who quit sports do so because they stopped having fun. Let's make it a great season!***