



# Honor the Game Day

**Honor the Game Day** (HTGD) focuses players, coaches, parents, officials and fans on Honoring the Game. The Scotts Valley San Lorenzo Valley Soccer Club in Northern California was the first youth sports organization to hold Positive Play Day (the precursor to Honor the Game Day). Among other things, their event included:

1. **Promotion of the event** at all parent, coach and board member meetings
2. Creation of **banners** to hang at all of the fields promoting the themes of the day
3. Players wearing **"We Honor the Game Here"** stickers on uniforms
4. Board members and other league leaders wearing **PCA t-shirts** at all sites
5. **Coaches reading aloud these pre-game statements** to all in attendance

**Coach #1:** Our organization is very pleased to hold "Honor the Game Day" to support and promote the principles of Positive Coaching Alliance: Honoring the Game, pursuing Mastery of Sport through ELM, which stands for Effort, Learning and Mistakes are OK and Filling Emotional Tanks. Today we focus on "Honoring the Game" by respecting the rules of the game, our opponents, the officials, our teammates and ourselves.

**Coach #2:** Our players have agreed to participate in "Honor the Game Day" by wearing patches on their uniforms that proclaim, "We Honor the Game Here." They will now run to the sideline to provide you with pins and cards with information about what YOU can do to "Honor the Game" and our children's youth sport experience.

## KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL HONOR THE GAME DAY

1. **Find an advocate** (or advocates) for HTGD who can persuade and inspire others (such as board members) to support the effort.
2. **Share PCA's themes** as widely as possible to coaches, parents and board members before the event actually takes place.
3. **Create a press release** to encourage media coverage and follow up with local reporters.
4. Distribute HTGD information and materials to coaches **at least one week in advance** to ensure that they have time to practice the event with their teams.
5. **Send out a reminder notice** and/or post reminders on the field (or in the gym), so that everyone remembers the format of this special day.
6. Strongly **encourage board members and other league leaders to be present** at the venues as active participants in upholding the positive environment that HTGD aims to make the standard.
7. **Enjoy** the day!

