

Honoring the Game

By George Wessberg

The foundation for Positive Coaching consists of three essential components that support the concept of double-goal coaching. The first of these essential components is called, "Honoring the Game."

During the Basic Coaching Workshop on November 19th, PCA trainer Rob Baarts told us that the important concept of "honoring the game" is supported by strong ROOTS. This mnemonic reminds coaches and athletes to respect the sport and the individuals involved above all other reasons for playing the game.

- Rules – The rules of the sport must be respected at all times. Abiding by the rules, regardless of the circumstances, is a reflection on the integrity of the team.
- Opponents – Worthy opponents elevate the performance of good athletes, so it is appropriate to respect the competition and focus on the quality of the performance rather than the outcome of the game.
- Officials – Most judges and officials are volunteers attempting to do the best they can to perpetuate the sport. Regardless of their decisions, officials deserve the respect of athletes, coaches and spectators.
- Teammates – Members of a team should respect one another for making their best effort regardless of individual performance or outcome of the game.
- Self - Athletes must respect themselves by setting their own standards and living up to them. An athlete that does not respect himself will not respect others.

One of the advantages of "honoring the game" is the creation of a "team culture" that reflects favorably on the entire organization. The Positive Coaching philosophy is developed proactively to achieve the desired outcome. The "team culture" is explained using the phrase, "This is the way we do things here."

An example of "team culture" was apparent during the opening ceremony for the 2002 Daddy Haine 4-Man Volleyball Tournament on September 1. Prior to the tournament, Marc Haine reminded the competitors "how Daddy played the game." Daddy always put playing fair above winning. He called his own "nets" and the close calls always went to the opposing team.

Thomas Haine, All-American athlete, Club President, and member of the Winged "O", honored the sport he loved by the manner in which he "played the game." Because of Daddy's positive influence, volleyball is still one of the predominant athletic programs at the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Hundreds of children and adults benefit from the generous support of our membership each year. Our many athletes and coaches will be working harder to continue the OCC tradition of "honoring the game." And in doing so, they will continue to bring honor to the Outrigger Canoe Club and its membership.

