



Thunder Baseball League, Inc.  
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Thunder Academy  
6900 W. 117<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
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From the Desk of Shawn and Darron



**Shawn Williamson**  
Executive Director

**Darron Cox**  
President

February 11, 2015

RE: Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) "Honor the Game" patches

Dear Coaches,

We are pleased to present the second annual "Honor the Game" program for 2015. This exclusive Thunder designed program will continue to differentiate Thunder Baseball League from other baseball programs. In conjunction with our alliance with PCA, we will be providing each head coach with an "Honor the Game" patch.

The patch will be awarded to the player on the team who implements and exemplifies the elements taught during the off season. Ideally, the award will be presented to the player by the coach, prior to your first league game in April. The 8 and 9 year old winners will be presented at the "Opening Day" celebration on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

The player selected should encompass elements of A Triple-Impact Competitor®

A Triple-Impact Competitor® - committed to having three levels of impact by improving yourself, your teammates and the game as a whole - focuses on the ELM Tree of Mastery. We use an acronym, ELM: E for Effort, L for Learning and M for bouncing back from Mistakes.

Having a "teachable spirit" is the key to becoming a Triple-Impact Competitor. Having a teachable spirit means being a sponge, willing and able to absorb everything that can make you a better player and us a better team. We want you to be curious.

As a Triple-Impact Competitor®, you think not just about yourself, but how to help your teammates improve. One way to do so is by filling their Emotional Tanks. An Emotional Tank is like the gas tank in a car. When it's empty we go nowhere. When it's full we can go anywhere. As a team, we will perform better if we all have full tanks.

As a Triple-Impact Competitor®, you compete by a code of Honoring the Game to actually make the game better. You win graciously and lose with dignity. To help you remember to Honor the Game, we'll use an acronym, ROOTS, which means respecting Rules ("R"), Opponents ("O"), Officials ("O"), Teammates ("T") and Self ("S").

Thunder Baseball League, is about promoting good character, developing young players skills in a positive manner and preparing for high school baseball and beyond.



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Specific opportunities to incorporate into your practice and game planning:

- There are three big things we want us to work on this season - having fun, working hard and being a good sport. If we can do all three, we'll have a great season.
- All athletes, even great ones, make mistakes, but great athletes know how to bounce back from mistakes.
- We're going to use a Mistake Ritual to help us focus on the most important play - the next play. When someone on this team makes a mistake, we are going to flush that mistake down the toilet by making a flushing motion with our hand.
- If we win by dishonoring the game, we can't be proud of that win. And the reverse is true. If we Honor the Game and we lose, we can still feel good, even though we are disappointed we lost.
- In order to get good at anything, we need to give our best efforts at every practice and in every game.
- Many people think that talent is the most important thing in being good at a sport (or anything else in life). They think that either you are good at something or you aren't, but really any of us can get better if we work hard and have determination to improve.
- That's why we say "Determination Is More Important Than Talent." To help you remember that, take the first letter of each word in that sentence, and it spells DIMITT
- You can also fill Emotional Tanks by cheering for your teammates, giving them high-fives, smiling at them and telling them you are glad they are on the team.

Respectfully,

Shawn and Darron

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