

Gary Ferbey Award



Sportsmanship awards will be given to one player from each Atom level team. A plaque will be presented to the award recipients from each team and their name will be added to the Gary Ferbey Memorial Trophy to be displayed in the VMH's trophy case. Criteria established includes:

Open and visible displays of sportsmanship (see checklist below).

Attends 90% of team practices.

Attends 90% of team games.

Open and visible displays of enthusiasm for the sport.

Open and visible displays of enjoyment and fun during the sport.

Player abides by the rules of the game. Part of good sportsmanship is knowing the rules of the game and playing by them. If a player decides to play a given sport, it is the responsibility of that player to learn not only how to play but how to play according to the rules which have been established and standardized to allow competitive games to be played in an orderly fashion. The more a player knows the rules the more that player can enjoy the sport.

The player always plays fair. Honesty and integrity should be an integral part of sports. A player with good sportsmanship does not want a hollow victory, which comes as a result of cheating or poor attitude.

The player follows the directions of the coach. A player with good sportsmanship listens to and follows the directions of the coach, realizing that each player's decisions affect the rest of the team.

The player respects the other team's effort. Whether the other team plays better or whether they play worse, the player with good sportsmanship does not use the occasion to put the other team down. In the field of competition respect of opponents is central to good sportsmanship. If an opponent out-performs a player, that player accepts it, learns from it, offers no excuses and moves on. If a player out-performs an opponent, that player enjoys the victory, but does not gloat, does not belittle, and does not minimize the opponent's effort.

The player offers encouragement to teammates. A sign of good sportsmanship is a player who praises teammates when they do well and who comforts and encourages them when they make mistakes. Criticizing teammates in the heat of battle simply distracts from the focus of working together and gives the advantage to the opponent who develops a sense of confidence when seeing signs of weakness or a lack of unity in the midst of the competition. Further, good sportsmanship implies that the player on a team is a team player and that his or her behavior reflects on the team in general. A team player does not condone unsportsmanlike conduct for teammates, but instead promotes good sportsmanship among teammates.

The player accepts the judgment calls of the game officials. Part of the human condition is making mistakes. Arguing with an official over a judgment call simply wastes energy. The player with good sportsmanship knows that errors may be made, but the player also knows that a game is made up of all the plays and calls from the beginning to the end of the game, not just the call in dispute. The player with good sportsmanship may be upset, but that player also has learned to focus his/her energies back on the game and on doing the best he/she can do for the rest of the game.

The player ends the game smoothly. When the game is over, pouting, threatening, cajoling have no place in the life of the players with good sportsmanship, who emphasize the joy of participating, regardless of outcome. They're not devoid of emotions but they know that their efforts to end the competition smoothly, without antagonistic emotional display, will help ensure the games will continue in the future.

The player's skill level should not be a factor in the award. "Sports do not build character. They reveal it" Heywood Hale Brown U11 Boys Director and U11 Female Director are to have coaches select players to receive awards. Directors to have plaques made up with name of award, year and recipient's name engraved on them.