

“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. Sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair.”

Nelson Mandela

THE ONE HUDDLE PLEDGE

I am a [football player, basketball player, golfer, manager, mascot, or whatever other role is applicable]. No matter my age or ability, I am a role model to many. I am an ambassador for myself, for my family and team, and for my game.

I will hold myself to the highest standards and will conduct myself with integrity, with accountability, and with sportsmanship.

My team has many brothers and sisters, but only One Huddle. We do not simply “tolerate” one another – that is not enough. We love each other unconditionally, without regard to race, sex, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, or any other trait that some people would use to separate “us” from “them.”

By my words and by my actions I will do everything I can to help make our society more like my Huddle.

ABOUT ONE HUDDLE

In what Coach Bill Curry refers to as the **MIRACLE OF THE HUDDLE**, the differences that people use to separate “us” from “them” – including race, religion, nationality, and socio-economic status – fade away and dissolve as sports teammates work toward a common end.

In all sports, teammates learn quickly that the blood looks the same, the sweat smells the same, and each player must count on every other player just to survive.

Teammates from every imaginable background become best friends. Young people who were raised to hate each other become brothers and sisters. They are transformed and, in turn, they transform others. This is the power of “team” – the power of the Huddle.

Unfortunately, American society does not always reflect the Miracle of the Huddle. The One Huddle Pledge is dedicated to spreading the love and unity embodied by all that is right and good about team sports – the Miracle of the Huddle. One Huddle also endeavors to remind athletes of all ages and skill levels – from middle school substitutes to college and professional superstars – that they are role models for many others and accordingly have incredible power to bring about positive transformative changes to our culture.

BREAKING DOWN THE PLEDGE: ACTIVITY QUESTIONS

- “I am an ambassador for myself, for my family and team, and for my game.” What does “ambassador” mean in this context?
- Three powerful words: *integrity*, *accountability*, and *sportsmanship*. How do your team and players stack up in each area? How do you stack up?
- “We do not simply ‘tolerate’ one another – that is not enough.” How do we break these barriers down with teams and classrooms? How do we move from mere acceptance to love?
- “We love each other unconditionally.” How difficult is this? What can coaches and leaders do to help and encourage this mindset?
- Can parents cause issues within the Huddle? How should administrators, coaches, and players respond to any outsiders who challenge the Miracle of the Huddle or otherwise seek to divide.
- “By my words and by my actions I will do everything I can to help make our society more like my Huddle.” Eyes are watching, ears are listening – like it or not, you are a role model to many. What can be done to reinforce this concept in every player, coach, and administrator?



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