

Chapter 6 End of the Season: Time for Celebration

At the conclusion of your season it is time to celebrate. Regardless of records, the kids, parents, coaches and you deserve a team party. **Each child, manager and two assistant coaches will receive a trophy provided by the league.** Your trophies will be delivered to your dugout following your final game and your last league obligation will be to turn in your equipment, along with this handbook, and collect your equipment deposit.

Having a team party is a great way to get together one last time and enjoy the journey of a season completed and a super assignment for the team parent to coordinate. Teams celebrate in many ways: some hold pool parties, ice cream parties, team BBQs, pot luck dinners etc. The idea is to gather and appreciate the progress everyone has made and to take advantage of this golden opportunity to make each child feel special and valued.

Some managers create their own additional awards for their teams. For example: you could create certificate awards for "Slugger of the Year", "Most Improved Defense", "Outstanding Sportsmanship" and such. Take the time to thank each player individually and mention something memorable about that player's season -- their areas of improvement, a great play, sweet hit etc., as they receive their awards. When you see the smiles on their faces, you will have finally answered the question: What's in it for me?

Regardless of what you choose to do, this is the moment that the real rewards for your hard work and extreme dedication are fully realized. Be sure to allow yourself the joy of seeing your team enjoy each other's company. You started as a list of names on a piece of paper and became a team or more sentimentally a baseball family.

Keep in mind, statistically; the probability of any kid becoming a professional baseball player is not likely. Not impossible, but unlikely. The probability of these kids growing up and coaching their own kids is significantly higher. Give them a great role model to refer to when it's their turn to contribute.

In the end, wins and losses will be quickly forgotten. The friendships, fun times and personal development will last a lifetime.

When the party ends, there will be a moment when the washing machines seem to slow down, the last bit of clay is vacuumed out of your car and an intense feeling of deep satisfaction settles in.

Great job coach! See you next season.