



## Respect:

*To treat others with a positive feeling of esteem or deference*

*Synonyms: courtesy, esteem, appreciation*

## Respect Story

Respect in a sports setting is demonstrated in the attitude of a player to their coaches, teammates, referees and opponents. The goal of a sports team is to win games. However, the way the game is played is as important as winning or losing. John Wooden, a coach who modeled and taught character, said: "It isn't what you do, but how you do it."

A clear example of respect took place in a 2013 league soccer match between the opponents, Al Nahdha and Al Ittihad. Early after the halftime break the score was tied 2-2. The goalkeeper for Al Nahdha was about to complete a goal kick when he noticed his boot was loose because his shoe laces were untied. He motioned to his teammates to get their attention to assist as he was not able tie his boot with his gloves on. But they missed his dilemma because they were heading downfield.

The visiting Brazilian striker, Jobson, noticed the problem and to not delay the match, rushed over to the goalie. The opposing goalie unsure of his intentions picked up the ball. However, in an unusual gesture of respect, Jobson came to assist and bent over to tie the shoe for the goalie. After the unexpected act by Jobson, the goalie reached out to shake Jobson's hand in a further sign of respect.

That pause in taking the goal kick earned the goalie a delay of game foul by the referee and awarded the opposing team, Al Ittihad, a free kick at the top of the box. That's when Jobson and fellow Brazilian teammate Leandro Bonfirm demonstrated an unusual show of respect a second time to the opposing team.

While the match was tied 2-2 at the award of the free kick, Bonfirm elected to not go for the goal but intentionally kick the ball wide of the net. The result of this respectful act was to give the ball back to Al Nahdha to pursue the long-awaited goal kick. Right afterwards, the goalie raised his hands above his head and applauded Bonfirm while the teammates did as well. This simple gesture of sportsmanship received worldwide attention.



