



USA LACROSSE SPORTSMANSHIP BEST PRACTICES FOR LACROSSE ORGANIZATIONS

COMPETE WITH CLASS AND HONOR THE GAME

USA Lacrosse encourages all players, coaches, officials, and spectators to honor the game by maintaining the integrity of the sport. It is our responsibility to honor the traditions of the game and be respectful all participating in an event. We each share in the responsibility to ***Compete with Class and Honor the Game.***

Code of Conduct

Each season coaches, parents, and players shall be required to sign a code of conduct. Below is an example of code of conduct policy that has been developed by the Youth Sports Research Council at Rutgers University.

I pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, or participating in a youth sports event and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct:

1. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
2. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
3. I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or wellbeing of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
4. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety or wellbeing of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
5. I will not use drugs or alcohol while at a youth sports event and will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
6. I will not permit my child, or encourage any other person, to use drugs or alcohol at a youth sports event and will not permit my child, or encourage any other person, to attend, coach, officiate or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
7. I will not engage in the use of profanity.
8. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in the use of profanity.
9. I will treat any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or ability.
10. I will encourage my child to treat any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or ability.
11. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
12. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
13. I will not initiate a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
14. I will not encourage my child, or any other person, to initiate a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.



I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the foregoing while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a youth sports event I will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following in any order or combination:

1. Written warning issued by a league or organization from Youth Lacrosse League Board of Directors.
2. Suspension or immediate ejection from a youth sports event issued by Youth Lacrosse League Board of Directors.
3. Suspension from multiple youth sports events event issued by Youth Lacrosse League Board of Directors.
4. Season suspension issued by Youth Lacrosse League Board of Directors.

Name

Signature

Date



Sportsmanship Issues and Violations of the Code of Conduct

Who hears appeals on sportsmanship issues or inappropriate behavior? Complaints relating to sportsmanship issues or inappropriate behavior are handled by a youth lacrosse associations Board of Directors (BOD) or by a special committee appointed by the BOD to handle sportsmanship issues.

What is the task of this special committee or the BOD?

The task is to establish a formalized sportsmanship policy and complaint process that can be utilized when issues occur. The goals of the committee are to have a process that will provide the following.

1. Educate all stakeholders affiliated with the league that a process exists and the importance of maintaining a high level of sportsmanship.
2. Adopt a process into their organizations bylaws that details what is expected of players, parents, coaches, and officials and examples of behavior that are not acceptable.
3. Develop reasonable recommendations on how acts of good sportsmanship are rewarded and acts of poor sportsmanship are punished.
4. Be transparent regarding the process for handling complaints.
5. Create an easily accessible platform to report violations.
6. Consistently apply the same policy and procedures for handling issues regardless of the parties involved.

Formal Complaints and the Process for Handling Complaints

Formal complaints about sportsmanship issues or code of conduct violations must be sent to a Youth Lacrosse Association Board of Directors or an appointed subcommittee of the Board of Director regarding a player, coaches, officials, or spectator. The complaint can be sent 48 hours after the incident has occurred and must be sent between 3 to 7 days of the incident.

Who may submit an appeal?

Only the leadership of a club or team can make the determination and file the complaint to the proper authority. Complaints may not be submitted by individuals who are not in highest leader leadership on a team or club unless the complaint deals directly with that leader in question.

Legal Example: A parent or assistant coach wishes to file a complaint about a player on an opposing team. The parent files a complaint to their club president. The club president then submits it to the league board of directors.

Illegal Example: A parent or assistant coach directly contacts the board of directors directly about an issue with a player from an opposing team. (This example is illegal because they did not file the chain of command for filing a formal complaint.)

What should the complaint include?

The complaint shall be made in writing and may not be made anonymously. It shall detail specific issues relating to sportsmanship issues or inappropriate behavior that has occurred or continues to occur on a regular basis. The complaint should include but is not limited to:

- Name and contact information of person submitting the complaint
- Name and affiliation of the person who the complaint is being filed against.
- A detailed description of the incident(s) and parties involved
- Supporting material to help illustrate the incident(s)

How are complaint appeals conducted?

All complaints shall be decided at a face to face meeting, via conference call or by electronic ballot. The chairman of the committee or board of directors has the authority to choose which is best to deliver a timely and fair decision.



What are the possible outcomes of an appeal?

Denied Appeals - If an appeal is denied the decision is communicated to the appellant, individual(s) in question, and team president/leader. No further action is needed beyond this point.

Approved Appeals – If an appeal is approved then a suitable punishment and path forward shall be handed down to the individual in question and the decision shall be communicated to the appellant, individual(s) in question, and team president/leader.

What are suitable punishments?

1. Written warning issued by a league or organization from Youth Lacrosse League Board of Directors.
2. Suspension or immediate ejection from a youth sports event issued by Youth Lacrosse League Board of Directors.
3. Suspension from multiple youth sports events event issued by Youth Lacrosse League Board of Directors.
4. Season suspension issued by Youth Lacrosse League Board of Directors.