

Code of Conduct

US Lacrosse and the Positive Coaching Alliance

Lacrosse is the oldest American sport. Native Americans played lacrosse centuries ago, long before our colonies were settled. Though lacrosse, Native Americans celebrated and emphasized their spiritual and cultural values.

In an effort to promote appropriate values in the modern game, US Lacrosse has partnered with the Positive Coaching Alliance to promote positive coaching and good sportsmanship for all levels of lacrosse. US Lacrosse has included the following “Lacrosse Code of Conduct” as part of its membership application to encourage and foster appropriate values in players, coaches, parents, officials and spectators. US Lacrosse believes that it should be a priority of every lacrosse player, team, program and league to “Honor the Game.”

US LACROSSE CODE OF CONDUCT

Players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators are to conduct themselves in a manner that “Honors the Game” and demonstrates respect to other players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators and fans. In becoming a member of the lacrosse community an individual assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to the game of lacrosse and its participants. The essential elements in this “Code of Conduct” are:

HONESTY and INTEGRITY

Those who conduct themselves in a manner that reflects these elements will bring credit to the sport of lacrosse, themselves, their team and their organization. It is only through such conduct that our sport can continue to earn and maintain a positive image and make its full contribution to amateur sports in the United States and around the world.

US Lacrosse supports the following behaviors for those who participate in the sport or are involved in any way with US Lacrosse. The following essential elements of the “Code of Conduct” must be followed:

*Sportsmanship and teaching the concepts of fair play are essential to the game and must be taught at all levels and developed both at home and on the field during practices and games. The value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, and the skills of the game should always be placed above winning. The safety and welfare of the players are the primary importance.

*Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their players. They are to strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people, as well as adults.

*Coaches must always demonstrate positive behaviors and reinforce them to players, parents, officials and spectators alike. Players should be specifically encouraged and positively reinforced by coaches to demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, officials and spectators.

*Players should always demonstrate positive behavior and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials and spectators.

*Coaches, players, parents and spectators are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect for officials and reinforce that respect to players/ teammates. Coaches are also expected to educate their players as to the important role of lacrosse officials and reinforce the ideal of respect for the official to the players/teammates.

*Grievances or misunderstandings between coaches, officials or any other parties involved with the sport should be communicated through the proper channels and procedures, never on or about the field of play in view of spectators or participants.

*Any coaching issues or complaints need to be addressed directly to the coach through an email. The Coach and assistant coach will respond via email within 48 hours. If the problem or complaint has not been addressed completely parents have to the right to bring the issue to the SEALS board to be addressed.

*Officials are professionals and are therefore expected to conduct themselves as such and in a manner that demonstrates total impartiality, courtesy and fairness to all parties.

*Spectators involved with the game must never permit anyone to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, coach, player or opponent.

*Coaches must be able to demonstrate a solid knowledge of the rules of lacrosse, and should adhere to the rules in both the letter and the spirit of the game.

*Coaches should provide a basic knowledge of the rules to both players and spectators within his/her program. Attempts to manipulate rules in an effort to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct, is considered unacceptable conduct.

*Eligibility requirements, at all levels of the game, must be followed. Rules and requirements such as age, previous level of participation, team transfers have been established to encourage and maximize participation, fair play and to promote safety.

Participant Waiver

In consideration of my membership in US Lacrosse and my participation in US Lacrosse sanctioned, recognized or sponsored events ("Covered Events"). I agree to the following:

- 1. Waiver and Release:** I am fully aware of and appreciate the risks, including the risks of catastrophic injury, paralysis and even death, as well as other damages and losses, associated with participation in a lacrosse event. I agree on behalf of myself, my heirs and personal representatives, that US Lacrosse, the host organization and the sponsor or sponsors with respect to a Covered Event, together with coaches, officials, volunteers, employees, agents, officers and directors of the host organization and any such sponsors shall not be held liable for any injury, loss of life or other loss or damage as a result of my participation in a Covered Event. This Waiver and Release shall also be for the benefit of and run in favor of any youth organization that require participant's to become members of US Lacrosse as a condition to their participation in such organization's youth lacrosse events, which shall constitute Covered Events for the purpose of this Waiver and Release, and any such youth lacrosse league shall constitute the host organization for such Covered Events.
- 2. Medical Attention:** I hereby give my consent to US Lacrosse and the host organization of any Covered Event to provide, through a medical staff of its choice, customary medical/ athletic training attention, transportation and emergency services as warranted in the course of my participation in Covered Events.
- 3. Readiness to Compete:** I will only participate in those Covered Events in which I believe I am physically and psychologically prepared to compete.
- 4. Information Certification:** I certify that all information provided by me in this application, including without limitation my membership category, is true, accurate and complete and I understand that any untrue, inaccurate or incomplete statement or information will automatically invalidate my membership and all of the benefits of membership with US Lacrosse.
- 5. Code of Conduct:** I have read and agree to all terms below (US Lacrosse/ Positive Coaching Alliance Code of Conduct).

Seals Code of Conduct and Participant Waiver Signature Form

Name of Player (Please Print)

Signature of Player

Name of Parent/ Guardian (Please Print)

Signature of Parent/ Guardian

Date