

# Richland Lacrosse Club

## Code of Conduct Agreement for High School Player – Parent - Coach

Richland Lacrosse Club (RLC) expects all players, parents, and coaches to foster a positive reputation for our club, our schools, and our community. Representing our schools and community as a member of RLC is a privilege, not a right. It is understood that the behavior demonstrated by all is to be of the highest standards at all times whether in the classroom, in the community, or on the sporting field.

### **A. CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT**

The Richland Lacrosse Club Board of Directors has developed and approved this Code of Conduct Agreement. It is the governing document for all behavioral expectations, team expectations, and consequences for Code of Conduct violations. All RLC student athletes, parents, and coaches are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct and conduct themselves in accordance with its contents at all times. Failure to do so will result in consequences as outlined herein.

The Code of Conduct Agreement covers critical requirements for participation in RLC, including:

- Personal behavior
- Attitude
- Courtesy
- Appearance
- Academics
- Sportsmanship
- Commitment to the program

All players, parents and coaches are expected to “Honor the Game” as set forth by guidelines from US Lacrosse and Washington High School Boys Lacrosse Association (WHSBLA).

Each player and parent are expected to thoroughly review this Code of Conduct Agreement and return the signed and dated acknowledgement form to the RLC Board of Directors prior to the first practice. Failure to do so will result in the player being ineligible to practice until such time as the signed and dated form is submitted.

Each coach is expected to thoroughly review this Code of Conduct Agreement and return the signed and dated acknowledgement form to the RLC Board of Directors prior to the first practice. Failure to do so will result in the coach being ineligible to participate in any coaching activities until such time as the signed and dated form is submitted.

## B. GENERAL BEHAVIOR (Includes Board Members, Coaches, Parents, and Players)

- a. **Attitude:** There is an expectation that all athletes be courteous, mature, cooperative and respectful at all times. Individuals should conduct themselves with the knowledge that they, alone, are responsible for their own actions.
- b. **Sportsmanship and Fair Play:** In all practice and game situations, athletes are expected to perform to the best of their ability, within the context of specific rules of the sport. Sportsmanship and fair play to teammates, opponents, and officials, will be in the forefront of the team's basic philosophy and attitude. Shaking hands with opponents after competition will be a routine procedure.
- c. **Team Initiation – Intimidation (Bullying):** Team initiation of any kind shall be strictly prohibited and is further regulated by WHSBLA.
- d. **Language:** The use of profane or improper language is not acceptable. Extreme verbal outbursts show a lack of self-control and immaturity; these reflect on the team as well as the individual.
- e. **Governing Organizations:** All RLC members will abide by rules as established by US Lacrosse, WHSBLA, and the RLC Code of Conduct.

## C. PARENT/SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR

Parents and spectators are an important part of Richland Lacrosse and their support is a big part of club and team success. Individuals are responsible for their own actions and shall be held accountable to the contents of this Code of Conduct.

Expectations for parent/spectator behavior is as follows:

- a. **General:** All parents and spectators shall conduct themselves with courtesy, maturity, cooperation, and respect. This includes all interactions with game officials, opponents, players, coaches, and other parents.
- b. **Practice:** Parents and spectators are welcome to attend practices as observers, not participants or coaches. They are expected to stay in the spectator areas and off of the practice field to avoid interfering with practice activities. Parents and spectators are not allowed to coach, advise, or otherwise communicate directly with any player or coach during practice; general cheering and encouragement is allowed.
- c. **Games:** Parents and spectators are welcome and encouraged to attend home and away games. They are expected to stay on the spectator sideline before, during, and after the game; per WHSBLA rules they are not allowed on the team sideline. General cheering is welcome and encouraged; coaching, stepping onto the playing field, or otherwise giving direction to a player or coach is not allowed. **Any parent or spectator violating these expectations will be given one warning; a second violation will result in being asked to leave the field.**
- d. **Game officials:** Parents and spectators are expected to treat all game officials with respect and courtesy, regardless of the situation or circumstances. Emotions often run high during competition; however, it is not acceptable to verbally insult, abuse, or otherwise mistreat any game official. **Any parent or spectator violating these expectations will be given one warning; a second violation will result in being asked to leave the field.**
- e. **Opponent Parents and Spectators:** All parents and spectators shall interact with opponent parents and spectators with respect and courtesy, regardless of the situation or circumstances. At home games they will be treated as guests; at away games we shall behave as guests.
- f. **Sideline Manager:** Per WHSBLA rules, a parent or spectator will serve as the Sideline Manager during every home game; this individual will be readily identifiable by a team-provided vest and will be acknowledged by game officials. His/her role is to encourage parents and spectators to remain

positive and respectful during games. All parents and spectators are expected to cooperate with the Sideline Manager.

- g. **Repeat violators are subject to further consequences at the Board's discretion.**

#### **D. GENERAL COMMITMENT TO THE TEAM**

**Academics:** Academics are the priority for all high school athletes, and players are expected to maintain acceptable standards of academic achievement. It is understood by all that academic responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Cooperation
- General behavior
- Respect for teachers and fellow students
- Respect for school property
- Genuine effort on all homework assignments, tests, projects and examinations.

Student athletes are required to make acceptable progress toward graduation. Individuals who may be struggling in a subject should seek extra help. Any action that results in suspension from school will also result in suspension from the team for the same duration. Any action that results in expulsion from school will also result in expulsion from Richland Lacrosse Club.

Players are required to comply with WIAA and Richland High School scholastic standards during the current semester to participate in team practices. This requires a player to be passing at least 5 classes during the current semester. A player with a GPA of less than 2.00 may be allowed to participate in games at the coach's discretion if:

- a) The player provides a weekly progress report to the coach each Friday
- b) The player's progress report shows improvement

Proof of performance must be provided to the Head Coach at the start of the season and prior to any post season play.

**Use of illegal substances:** The use of illegal substances will not be tolerated under any circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to: alcohol, tobacco, smoking, smokeless tobacco, vaping, legend drugs (drugs obtained through prescriptions), controlled substances and drug paraphernalia. Any player found to have used these types of products will be immediately subject to the penalties established by WHSBLA, Richland School District and the WIAA. (please see WIAA Handbook section 18.25.0)

**Dress Code:** Coaches and players are expected to present a neat appearance at all team functions. Coaches may choose to establish particular dress codes for various functions (away games, out-of-town trips, banquet, playoffs, etc.) and shall use proper discretion in determining specific requirements.

**Jobs/Part-time employment:** Students must realize the difficulty of making a serious commitment to both school activities and part-time employment. Priorities should be established, and if an individual chooses to work at a job which may interfere with practices or games, it is generally understood that this will hinder his/her responsibility as a team member. Players devoting time to jobs in lieu of practice time cannot expect

automatic playing time or game involvement; their playing time and game involvement will be reduced or eliminated based on their level of participation in practices.

**Uniforms/Equipment:** All participants have a personal responsibility to properly care for all club equipment and uniforms. This includes a neat and orderly appearance for all games, competitions, and other team functions, as well as return of all uniform/equipment item(s) by the deadline specified. Uniforms will be collected immediately following the last game of the season. Prior to the start of the season, all players are required to submit a credit card authorization form to receive a uniform. If the uniform is not returned at the end of the season, the credit card on file will be charged a \$175 fee for the cost of the uniform.

## **E. ATTENDANCE AND COMMITMENT TO TEAM**

All coaches, players, and parents must understand the importance of game preparation. The game of lacrosse is all about team commitment and chemistry, and those teams who perform the best are those whose expectations include making the level of commitment necessary to create a true team environment. The coaching staff spends a great deal of time and energy focusing on how to create a strong team by combining players in ways that maximize their interactions to build overall team success. When a player misses practice or a game this disrupts the entire team and puts their teammates at a disadvantage.

All players are expected to maintain a high level of dedication to their teammates and the overall success of the team. The focus will be on learning life lessons, team work, dedication and individual / team improvement in a high level setting.

RLC enforces strict expectations regarding attendance and commitment to the team because these elements are critically important for the team as a whole. By the first practice, players should email or submit in writing to the head coach any practices and games they know they are going to miss and the reason why they will be missed. If a player knows he is going to miss a practice or a game, he should inform the coaches in advance and as early as possible.

**Varsity Attendance Policy:** If a player misses a practice, he will miss a quarter of a game.

**Overlapping Sport Seasons:** Individuals who choose to participate in overlapping sports must realize that their primary commitment is to the "in season" team. Any participation in the second sport while the first is continuing may only be done with permission of the coach of the "in season" sport.

**Playing time:** All players are entitled to receive coaching instruction and participate in all practices. Playing time in games is at the sole discretion of the coaching staff and reflects a player's effort, dedication, practice attendance, coach-ability and skill. It is the intention of the Richland Varsity team that we will compete to win. Coaches will aim to play those players who give the team the best opportunity to win games. Role of the Junior Varsity team is to develop players.

## **F. COMMUNICATION:**

If a specific issue arises during the season or if there are questions regarding a general issue, players and parents are expected to follow the communication process outlined below.

**NOTE: Issues related to playing time will not be discussed with anyone other than the coaches and player.**

Please review this process thoroughly and refer to it during the season as needed.

**Step #1 - Player communicates directly with the coach.** The first step is for the player to communicate directly with the coach regarding an issue or concern. Direct communication between player and coach is expected to be the primary path of communication.

**Step #2 – Player and parent communicate directly with the coach and program director.** If the issue or concern is not resolved using Step #1, the second step is for the player and parent to communicate directly with the coach and program director. This communication should take place at least 30 minutes prior to or after practice, and at least 24 hours after a game.

**Step #3 – Player and parent communicate directly with the coach, program director and a RLC Board member.** If the issue or concern is not resolved using Step #1 or Step #2, the third and final step is for the player and parent to communicate directly with the coach, program director and a RLC Board member. This discussion will take place at a mutually agreeable time that is at least 30 minutes prior to or after a practice, and at least 24 hours after a game. The Board member may, at his or her discretion, confer directly with the coach as part of the resolution process.

**24 Hour Game Rule** – Game days can be an emotional time for players, parents and coaches alike. There shall be no negative direct communication between parents and coaching staff or parents and RLC Board members for at least 24 hours following a game. Failure to abide by this rule will result in the parent being suspended from attending the next scheduled game. No exceptions!

Richland Lacrosse Club  
High School Code of Conduct Agreement  
Player – Parent - Coach

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

We have thoroughly reviewed the **Richland Lacrosse Club Code of Conduct Agreement**.

By signing this form, we acknowledge that we have read and understand all rules and expectations in this Code of Conduct Agreement and we agree to abide by them at all times.

We understand that failure to adhere to the Code of Conduct Agreement will result in consequences as specified herein.

Printed name of Player: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Player: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of RLC Board member