

Verona Lacrosse Club - Youth Coaches Code of Conduct

As coaches, you determine the kind of experience our athletes have with sports. In becoming a coach with the Verona Lacrosse Club 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, and the Verona Lacrosse Club. It is only through such conduct that our club can earn and maintain a positive image and continue to recruit quality players.

The Verona Lacrosse Club expects the following behavior from our volunteer youth coaches:

1. Sportsmanship and teaching the concepts of fair play are essential to the game, and must be taught and developed both on the field during practices and games.
2. An emphasis on winning should never be placed above the value of good sportsmanship and the concepts of fair play, or the skills of the game. **Reward effort, not just good outcomes.**
3. **Fill your players "emotional tanks". Use encouragement and positive reinforcement as your primary method of motivating and use the "Buddy System" to teach players to fill each others' Emotional Tanks**
4. The safety and welfare of the players is of primary importance.
5. Knowledge of the Rules of Lacrosse must be respected and adhered to by coaches. Attempts to manipulate rules in an effort to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct is considered unacceptable conduct.
6. Eligibility requirements such as age and previous level of participation must be adhered to. They have been established to encourage and maximize participation, as well as promote safety.
7. Coaches are expected to conduct themselves as professionals and in a manner that demonstrates courtesy and fairness to all parties while exercising their authority on the field.
8. Coaches must discipline any player that uses profanity or derogatory comments towards other players, officials, parents or opposing team members and coaches. Discipline may include verbal warning, game suspension, or season suspension. Player's parents should be notified of discipline.
9. Coaches must discipline players that openly or maliciously criticize, bully, harass, or threaten another player, official, parent or opposing team members or coaches. Discipline may include verbal warning, game suspension, or season suspension. Player's parents should be notified of discipline.
10. **In the event a coach feels the need to address a parent about player behavior, a parent or guardian is required to attend all games and practices for a minimum of two weeks or until behavior improves.**
11. Coaches are required to complete Level 1 Certification/PCA Training.
12. **Parent feedback from the VLC end of season survey on youth coach performance will be shared with individual coaches.**

Failure to abide by the above "Code of Conduct" could result in disciplinary action taken and will be at the sole discretion of the Verona Lacrosse Club Board of Directors.

Coach Signature

Date