

## Verona Youth Lacrosse Club Parent Expectations

**You**, the parent, are equally as important to your child's positive lacrosse experience as the coach of the team. In order for your child to get the most out of playing lacrosse, it is important that you consider the following:

**Embrace the Concept of Multi-Talent Teams:** The Youth League supports the use of multi-talent teams because research indicates this type of model develops newer players more quickly and benefits advanced players by helping them master the fundamental skills while providing them with role-model opportunities.

➔ ***Encourage your child to be a role model for developing players. It is a trait that will carry them far in life.***

**Always Practice HONESTY and INTEGRITY:** Coaches and players are required to sign a Code of Conduct reiterating the essential elements of HONESTY and INTEGRITY. The same is expected of you.

➔ ***Ensure your sideline behavior illustrates HONESTY and INTEGRITY toward officials, coaches, opponents, and all players. Players observe both positive and negative behavior on the sideline, especially if it is resonating from their parent. Never share game-related disapproval of a coach, official, or teammate with your player. It undermines the elements of HONESTY and INTEGRITY.***

**Let the Coach Coach:** Coaches are required to complete necessary certifications and abide by the Positive Coaching Alliance Rules. If coaching was easy, more people would be ready, willing and able to do it.

➔ ***Refrain from giving your child advice when he or she is playing. It can detract from your player's focus and ability to listen to the coach's directions. Tell the coach when they did a good job, and offer assistance and/or constructive solutions in private if you are well-versed in the rules and see areas that can be improved. Remember, most youth lacrosse coaches never actually played this sport and will appreciate your knowledge and feedback.***

**Teach Your Player it is About More than the Score:** A worthy opponent brings out the best in both coaches and players, and helps fully develop their skills. Unfortunately, a well-played game can be overshadowed by the score, hurting a player's confidence and self-esteem.

➔ ***Be a role model to your player, their teammates, and other parents/spectators by providing positive reinforcement at all times. Positive reinforcement encourages learning and fun, and helps players rebound from mistakes. Try to maintain a ratio of 5 positive statements (compliments, positive recognition) for each negative statement (criticisms, corrections) in your comments.***

**Ask Your Player what they Liked or Learned in Practices/Games AND Show you are Listening:** Open-ended questions solicit more thoughtful responses than one-word responses. Feedback is the best way to make sure a program is offering your player what you expect. All too often coaches hear only from parents who have complaints.

➔ ***Encourage your player to share positive experiences they have with both you and their coach. This offers life lessons in self-advocacy, and it fuels the coach's Emotional Tanks, just like you want the coach to fuel your child's Emotional tank.***

**Address Concerns Head-on:** If your player expresses a concern about a coach or teammate, listen, ask objective questions, and avoid passing quick judgment. Help your player maturely articulate the concern to determine the severity and identify if it is an issue the player can resolve, whether it should be resolved with the coach in a separate meeting or elevated to a higher level.

➔ ***Resolving concerns head-on will make the season more enjoyable and productive for all involved. It will also teach your players life lessons in handling conflicts and difficult situations.***

**Observe a "Cooling Off" Period:** Coaches have made a huge commitment that involves many hours of preparation beyond the time spent solely at games/practices. If you are upset about something, wait 24 hours before contacting the coach. Phone calls are a preferred method to e-mail. Imagine yourself in their place first and evaluate how you may have handled the situation. When emotions are running high, conversations are rarely productive.

➔ ***A "cooling off" period provides better resolutions to conflicts, and resolutions are in everyone's best interest.***

**Lastly ... Sit back, relax, and enjoy the game, and remember, lacrosse is played for FUN.**

## Verona Lacrosse Club - Youth Player Code of Conduct

Players, coaches, spectators, and parents are to conduct themselves in a manner that “Honors the Game” and demonstrates respect to other players, coaches, officials and spectators. In becoming a member of 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 behaviors from players:

1. I pledge to “Honor the Game” and show respect for all involved in the game including teammates, coaches, officials, and all opposing team members. I understand the Verona Lacrosse Club supports mixed-talent teams in an effort to grow the sport of lacrosse and to help newer players develop their skills more quickly. As a player, I pledge to use my talent, skills, and knowledge accordingly in support of that goal and in an effort to be a role model for developing players and teammates.
2. Sportsmanship and the concepts of fair play are essential to the game of Lacrosse. As a player, I understand that I represent the Verona Lacrosse Club who expects me to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates sportsmanship in games, practices, and off the field activities.
3. I will not let winning the game be placed above the value of good sportsmanship and the concepts of fair play.
4. I will not use obscene, foul and/or derogatory language or gestures during games, practices, tournaments, or as spectators at any event where Verona Lacrosse Club members are representing our club.
5. I will refrain from any form of physical or verbal assault, bullying or harassment of teammates, coaches, officials, and all opposing team members.
6. I will not possess, use, distribute or be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
7. I will follow the eligibility requirements, such as age and previous level of participation. They have been established to encourage and maximize participation, as well as promote safety.

Failure to abide by the above “Code of Conduct” could result in one of the following disciplinary actions:

- Initial warning with immediate corrective measures and notification of parent
- Player game suspension
- Player season suspension
- Player denial of future membership in Verona Lacrosse Club

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's signature

By signing/typing your name, you agree that you have read the above policy and agree to abide by it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parents' signature

By signing/typing your name, you agree that you have read and agree with the above policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date