

Parent/Guardian Expectations

Outdoor Practice:

Practices are held either once or twice a week, depending upon the appropriate age level. Players are expected to arrive at practice 10 minutes before the start of practice, dressed in full equipment, and ready to play at the start of the allotted practice time. Coaches cannot stay late or be expected to drive players home. As with anything in life, attitude is everything. Though every player who attends practice will get playing time in games, those who exhibit a "good attitude", hustle, learn skills, demonstrate good sportsmanship and are attentive will get more game time than those who do not (again, this applies to the older age groups).

Attendance:

In order to expect to play in any game, players must attend at least one of the practices the preceding week. **Preference for playing time may be given to those players who attend both practices.** Among those who attend both practices, playing time, again hinges on attitude, skill level and willingness to hustle.

Parent Role:

The success of the child's experience hinges on the cooperation, support and interest of the parents. Please support the Andover Youth Lacrosse coaches by getting your child to practice and games on time, with the proper equipment. Cheer on the **team** at games. Help drive to away games. Throw the ball with your child. If parents show an active interest in the program, the whole experience should be a positive and fun time for all.

Codes of Conduct

Parents:

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
- Remember that children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than a victory
- Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Your child will then be a winner, even in defeat.
- Do not ridicule your child or your child's teammates for making a mistake or losing a game.
- Set a good example. Children learn best by good examples.
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team
- Do not question referee judgments during or after the game; it's their call and the resulting win or loss should not be determined by a few calls the official did or did not make.
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches, referees and officials and give them their due respect. Without them, it would be very difficult to run such a great youth lacrosse program.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.

Coaches:

- Enthusiastically support and practice “Everyone Plays” and extend **positive coaching philosophies**
- Be **reasonable** in your demands on the young players’ time, energy, enthusiasm and their performance on the field.
- Impress on your players that they must abide by the rules of the game at all times.
- Develop team **respect** for the ability of opponents, and for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
- Ensure that your players’ experience is fun and enjoyable. Players should never be yelled at or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Children need a coach that they can respect.
- Keep informed about sound principles of coaching, growth and development principles relating to children.
- Enlist the support of your team’s parents in your efforts to develop the proper attitudes and values in the players.

Players

- Play for the fun of it, not just to please your friends, parents, and/or coaches.
- Play by the rules.
- **Never argue with or complain about the referee calls or decisions.**
- Control your temper and most of all, **resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.**
- Concentrate on playing lacrosse and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort.
- Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it is your teams’ or your opponents.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve skills and feel good. Don’t be a “showoff”.
- Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents and referees.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Andover Youth Lacrosse has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy toward fighting or **any other behavior** that deviates from acceptable sportsmanship during games, practices or any event sponsored by Andover Youth Lacrosse. Each infraction will be reviewed by Andover Youth Lacrosse resulting in either suspension or ejection from the program.