



Bedford Youth Lacrosse

BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

... the fastest game on foot!



Bedford Lacrosse Player / Parent / Coach Agreement

In order to promote the positive growth of Lacrosse in Bedford, the Town in conjunction with the Mass Bay Youth Lacrosse League (MBYLL) and Mass Bay Girls Lacrosse League (MBGLL) is providing you the parent and your player, this information package. This material must be reviewed and understood by you and your player, and then you must acknowledge that you have read, understood and agree with the Agreement by signing and returning the last page to your player's coach.

The goal of this package is to encourage you as parents and friends to attend as many games as possible in order to support our players regardless of their ability, regardless of the number of goals scored and regardless of the win / loss record. The primary goal of this program is to develop skills and promote a love and appreciation of the game. Winning is not a priority, scoring goals is not a priority. These players need to understand you support appropriate behavior. This is one of the best sports to watch, and all you have to do is sit back and enjoy. At the same time, it is one of the most challenging and most likely will be the fastest, most fun sport your child will participate in. It will require the most skill for your player and will seem very frustrating to them at times, so patience on your part as well as the coaches will be required.

Appropriate behavior of our players depends to a great degree on the example the coaches, the parents and the fans display at each practice and game. The coach manages the team participation in practices and games, the referees run the field of play, and the timekeeper runs the clock and scorecard. Parents and fans are encouraged to support our team and at the same time required be good sports regardless of the action in the field.



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US LACROSSE CODE OF CONDUCT

One for all

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. Through 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 of 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 should 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, parents 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 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.
- + 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, harass or threaten an official, 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, etc, have been established to encourage and maximize participation, fair play and to promote safety.

...under the direction of the Parents, Coaches and Players

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CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESS

Understanding that conflicts may arise, it is imperative that any issues be resolved quickly and to the satisfaction of all parties involved. As such, the following process will be followed in resolving conflicts or grievances:

1. Aggrieved persons shall first try to resolve their issues with the offending person. If the issue is deemed too volatile to the wronged person, he or she may raise the issue with the BYL Vice President, Director of that child's program.
2. The BYL VP shall obtain information from both or all parties in order to determine a reasonable resolution.
3. If wronged person either disagrees with the BYL VP or feels that the BYL VP was biased in his or her decision, the wronged person may bring the matter to the BYL President.

PRACTICE POLICIES

Lacrosse is the ultimate **TEAM SPORT**. As such, it is imperative that the team must practice together and learn the game as a team. Instrumental to this philosophy is the attendance by each and every player at practice. Each team will have two practices per week in preparation of that week's game. Game captains may be chosen from the players who excel during the practices in terms of not only skill, but effort, leadership and attitude.

We ask that you abide by the following:

1. **Be at every practice except for excused absences.** We want to instill a sense of personal responsibility in each of the players to their team and their coaches in this regard. Please support this by having your child call their coach if he cannot make a practice.
2. **Be on the field fully dressed at the specified playing & practice time.** Please support us by encouraging your child to be ready to play. Forgetting equipment at home may result in unsafe participation in games and practices and therefore your player will not be allowed to participate without ALL the appropriate equipment.
3. **Follow the instructions of the coaches.** Players and parents must yield to the experience and instructions of the coaches who are there to help your child be the best player he can be. We are always open to you and your child's feedback and questions after a practice or game, however during the practice or game the coaches will not be available for these issues unless extraordinary circumstances arise.
4. **Help fellow players be better players.** We require that players treat each other with respect and encourage each to develop coaching skills of their own by assisting less experienced players, by giving and receiving constructive feedback about each others abilities as lacrosse players and by holding team harmony as the highest goal.
5. **Refrain from using profanity in public.** Each player and coach MUST honor this requirement, as one of the principle goals of the lacrosse program is to promote the game and respect for the game. The use of profanity is symptomatic of a level of disrespect for each other, the game and the viewing public and will not be tolerated.

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GAME DAY POLICIES FOR PLAYERS AND PARENTS

Players

- I will carry my own equipment bag. It builds strength, responsibility and character.
- I will give my best effort in practices and games at all times.
- I will never criticize my teammates or the referee.
- I will not slam my stick on the ground in anger.
- I will be a good winner and never brag.
- I will be a good loser and congratulate the other team.
- I will do my best in school. School is more important than lacrosse.

Parents

- I will cheer for both teams and support all the players, just as I would want the other parents to support my player.
- I will not yell at the officials, coaches or players from either team.
- I will leave the coaching to the coaches and NEVER enter the playing field or box.
- I will not yell my child's name during the game or tell them where to be on the field, as it will distract my child and could leave him open to injury.
- I will email or have my player call the coach if he can't make a practice or game.
- I will have my player dressed and ready at the start of practice and 30 minutes before the game start time, and then will leave the bench area to the players and coaches.
- I will give the coaches 10 minutes after the game to talk to the team.
- I will never embarrass my child on the sideline by breaking any of these policies because I understand that it is never about me, it is about my child and their team.

Coaches

- I will be positive with the players and encourage them to do their best at all times.
- I will challenge the players to be their best and ask more of them than they think they can give - but at the same time will realize when they have reached their limits.
- I will play every child equally.
- I will remember that they are still just a team of children playing a game.
- I will teach the players responsibility, team work and sportsmanship.
- I will be accessible to the parents outside practices and games.
- I will never embarrass the team by breaking any of these policies because I understand that it is never about me, it is about the players and the team.
- I will remember that Wins are not always on the scoreboard, Wins are every player giving 100% for each other and for the team. Wins are learning the game and skills required to play at a high level.

We have read, understand and agree with the principles as presented to us.

Player

Parent

Parent

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