



Program Mission Statement:

The Program's mission is to organize, develop, and promote lacrosse for all high school boys who attend Viera High School, and to instill the values of scholastic achievement, sportsmanship, and individual development. Furthermore, the Program is committed to preserve the "Honor of the Game" for the players, coaches, officials, parents, and all others who enjoy the sport of lacrosse.

To fulfill our mission, all members of the Program – parents, players, and coaches – must commit themselves to act with the highest level of sportsmanship, athleticism, and integrity at all times; and to abide by our "Statement of Expectations and Conduct" which embodies the following: common sense principles, consideration of others, and projecting a positive image to our young men.

The Program will put forward the best team possible with the objective of winning every game and the state title every year.

Coaching/Team Philosophy:

Every coach or athlete must prepare to the best of his ability and put his talents to work for the team. We will accomplish far more as a team when we put individual glory aside.

Athletes first, winning second. We will not win at all costs – this mentality puts winning ahead of the safety of our athletes and takes the fun out of the game. If we are dedicated to following our mission statement - winning will follow.

The head coach of each team has the responsibility and accountability for who plays, how much each player plays, and for which team if at all. Playing time is earned; it is not assured.

JV Lacrosse Team – Participation on the JV team is an introduction to high school lacrosse. Skill development, sportsmanship and the team philosophy are important goals at this level. Viera High School lacrosse will attempt to provide the opportunity for all students to participate. The commitment and dedication to the team and sport also must be increased at this level. The athlete will be given the opportunity to earn his playing time through the demonstration of his increased skills at practice and dedication to the team. Every attempt will be made to give each team member playing time, but playing time will not be equal for each player.

Varsity Lacrosse Team – Varsity level lacrosse is the focus point of the Viera High School Lacrosse Program. To be a part of the Varsity Team is an honor in itself that must be earned. At this level there is no guarantee of playing time. The intensity of the competition will determine when the best athletes will be on the lacrosse field. When both varsity and junior varsity teams are offered students will be placed on the appropriate team as deemed necessary by the coaches.

We will strive to treat all athletes fairly and equally. The athletes will be governed by the VHS Lacrosse Statement of Expectations and Conduct, NFHS Lacrosse Rule Book, Brevard Public Schools Senior High Athletic Handbook, and the FHSAA Handbook.

The coaching staff believes in an "open door" policy to address questions or concerns from our athletes and parents. Good communication by ALL is critical if we expect to achieve our goals.

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS AND CONDUCT

1. All policies, requirements, and procedures contained in the FHSAA and Brevard Public Schools Senior High Athletic Handbooks will be followed, without exception.
2. Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco use will not be tolerated. The FHSAA and the school's policy are clear regarding this issue. These substances have been proven harmful and detrimental to the performance of athletes and pose a substantial health risk over the long term.
3. It is expected that every member of this team will conduct himself properly in regards to sportsmanship. Always be supportive of each other, never argue a perceived bad call (they don't exist), never instigate a confrontation (always walk away from trouble), and never commit a foolish penalty. Leave profanity in the locker room, there is no place for it on the field or in school.
4. Always represent Viera High School and this lacrosse team with pride. Strive to be gentlemen. Impress teachers and parents of other schools with your politeness and respect. Never find yourself in compromising situations on or off campus. You are responsible and accountable for your actions.
5. Always be punctual to games and practices. Practice times may vary during the season. Always be attentive to time changes and use your time before practice to improve skills (wall ball). Failure to report to practices on time will indicate a lack of discipline, desire, and a willingness to improve as a player and will be reflected in playing time. Notes do not excuse you from practice. You must see a member of the coaching staff if you are unable to practice (Unless you are absent from school for an excused reason – i.e. sick, family issue or college visit).
6. You must display flexibility and strive to improve every day. The way in which you practice is the way in which you will play in games. Therefore always hustle, listen, learn, and give as much of yourself as you possibly can. You must be prepared to play any position on this team and do whatever may be necessary in order make this team as successful as possible. Lack of playing time can easily be remedied by pushing yourself harder and correcting deficiencies in every practice.
7. Strive to excel in every drill situation. Every drill we run is run for a purpose. All of our drills will represent a very small fundamental, which will contribute to improving our offense and defense. Do not expect to come down to the field every day to scrimmage.
8. Because the playing field is a forum for teaching and learning we must insist that you remain focused on the task at hand. If you are not immediately involved in a drill you must listen, watch, and learn. The quickest way to pass time is to fool around on the sideline while others are involved in the action. Stay focused. Watch the defense; look for tendencies, look to exploit weaknesses, offer encouragement for your teammates. Do not be sensitive. Criticism is occasionally given so that a player may learn from mistakes. However, leave the criticizing to the coaching staff.
9. The discipline that you apply to athletics must also be applied in academics. Organize your time and strive to be the best student/athlete you possibly can. Colleges love to admit dedicated and disciplined student athletes. Athletic ability alone will not open the door to college opportunity.
10. You must wear socks, cleats (keep running shoes in your bag), shorts, practice jersey, mouth guard, and all protective equipment to practices and games (this includes cup). Jewelry cannot be worn under any part of the helmet or uniform. If you forget any required equipment you will not be allowed to play or practice. You are responsible for the maintenance of your equipment throughout the season.
11. You have made a commitment to being a high school athlete. Every member of the team makes sacrifices. If you are going to miss games because of a family or school related trip you must understand that someone will have to assume your position in your absence. You will have to earn your position back when you return. Vacations with friends are not acceptable and will result in loss of playing time, suspension, or dismissal from the lacrosse team.
12. Your signature below indicates your acceptance of this statement of expectations and player conduct. Failure to comply with the stated practice procedures and training stipulations, conducting yourself in a manner that is embarrassing to your family or Viera High School, and/or not being coachable, will result in the loss of playing time, suspension, or dismissal from the lacrosse team.

I, _____, fully understand the program's mission and agree to abide by the philosophies, rules and expectations listed and outlined by the Coaching Staff.

Athlete's Signature: _____ Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____