



CODE OF CONDUCT

In an effort to promote appropriate values, positive coaching and good sportsmanship at all levels in the game of lacrosse, the Milwaukee Area Youth Lacrosse Association, Inc. (MAYLA) sets forth the following elements as the model for players, coaches, parents, officials and spectators to adhere to both on and off the field.

Failure to comply with this code will result in disciplinary action and sanctions as outlined below.

US Lacrosse believes that it should be a priority of every lacrosse player, team, program and league to “Honor the Game”. MAYLA embraces and will follow this philosophy:

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 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

Additional expectations include:

COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Ensure the safety of all children by careful supervision, proper pre-planning of coaching sessions, using safe methods at all times.
- Consider the well being and safety of participants before the development of performance.

- Encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behavior.
- Treat all young people equally and ensure they feel valued. Have no favorites.
- Encourage all not to discriminate on the grounds of religious beliefs, race, gender, social classes or lack of ability.
- Not allow any rough or dangerous play, bullying, or the use of offensive language, swearing or inappropriate behavior.
- Appreciate the efforts of players and refrain from over-training young athletes. Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of MAYLA at all times.
- Acknowledge all allegations of abuse or improper conduct by reporting such incidents to both the League Director and Commissioner. Parents will also be informed.
- Administer minor first aid in the presence of others and when required refer more serious incidents to the appropriate health care professional.
- Have access to telephone for immediate contact to emergency services if required.
- Foster team work to ensure the safety of players.
- Do not abuse any MAYLA participant physically, emotionally or sexually.
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information.
- Take time to explain coaching techniques to ensure they are clearly understood.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust, respect and patience.
- Be a role model, displaying a consistently high standard of behavior and appearance (disciplined/committed/time management), remember children learn by example.
- Refrain from smoking, “chewing” and consumption of alcohol during league activities or coaching sessions.

- Never condone rule violations, rough play or the use of prohibited substances.
- Protect themselves from false accusation:
 - not spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
 - never taking children to their home
 - not administering First Aid involving the removing of children's clothing unless in the presence of others.
- Hold appropriate valid qualifications and insurance coverage.
- Make the sport/activity **fun**.

COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- Access ongoing training and information on all aspects of leading/managing activities for youths.
- Support in the reporting of suspected abuse.
- Fair and equitable treatment by MAYLA and its participants.
- Be safe from any abuse while participating in MAYLA-sponsored events. Any incidents need to be reported to both the League Director and Commissioner.
- Not to be left vulnerable when working with children.

Any misconduct or violations must be reported to the League Director and Commissioner and will be dealt with in a timely manner.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The MAYLA Board may choose to reinforce expectations by mandating the following:

- a. Additional Education
- b. Suspension (e.g. from game coaching duties [for any reasonable number of games], committee participation)
- c. Termination of coach from coaching in MAYLA if repeated instances are reported and coach is not showing signs of improvement

Persistent breach of the code will result in dismissal from MAYLA. Dismissals can be appealed by the coach/volunteer following the Grievance Policy procedures.

Reference: Adapted from US Lacrosse and PCA

Adopted: September 19, 2011