

# USA LACROSSE CODE OF CONDUCT

## OVERVIEW

Lacrosse is the oldest American sport. Native Americans played lacrosse centuries ago and, through the sport, they celebrated and emphasized their spiritual and cultural values.

In an effort to promote appropriate values in the modern sport, USA Lacrosse has partnered with the Positive Coaching Alliance to establish and promote positive coaching and good sportsmanship at all levels of lacrosse. The following Code of Conduct is included as part of the US Lacrosse membership application to encourage and foster appropriate values in players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators, as well as those who are involved in any way with US Lacrosse.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

US Lacrosse believes that it should be a priority of every player, coach, team, program and league to “Honor the Game”. Players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators shall conduct themselves in a manner that “Honors the Game” and demonstrates respect for other players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators. In becoming a member of the lacrosse community an individual assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to the sport of lacrosse and its participants. Essential principles of this Code of Conduct are honesty and integrity. Those who conduct themselves in a manner that reflects this Code of Conduct will bring credit to the sport of lacrosse, their organization, their team and themselves. Adhering to this Code of Conduct will enable lacrosse to earn and maintain a positive image, which will contribute to the sport’s development and help to assure a consistently positive experience for participants. The Code of Conduct’s components are as follows:

Sportsmanship and fair play are essential to the sport and shall be taught and developed both at home and on the field during practices and games.

The value of good sportsmanship, fair play and the player development shall always be placed above winning. The safety and welfare of players are of primary importance.

Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their players, and shall strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people they serve.

Coaches shall always demonstrate positive behaviors and reinforce them to players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators. Players should be specifically encouraged and positively reinforced by coaches to demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, officials, parents and spectators.

Players shall 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 among other participants.

Grievances or misunderstandings between coaches, officials or any other parties involved with the sport should be communicated through established channels, policies and procedures, but never on the field in public view.

Officials shall conduct themselves as professionals and in a manner that demonstrates courtesy and fairness to all parties while exercising their authority on the field.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

The rules committee wants to emphasize the critical role of sportsmanship in the safety and positive experience for the student athlete. Sportsmanship is based on a respect for the rules of the game and for one's opponent. Coaches, players, officials, administrators, and spectators in the interscholastic environment have an expectation to demonstrate behavior that creates a positive and encouraging atmosphere. The committee encourages officials to provide effective communication and game management to help deter acts of unsportsmanlike conduct. When such methods are not enough to manage behavior, those in violation should be held accountable with the administration of cards. Event management can serve as an asset in creating an expectation of respect within the playing facility and creating a positive and competitive atmosphere.

## **PROFESSIONALISM**

USA Lacrosse continues to encourage all coaches, players, officials, and administrators to conduct themselves in a professional manner before, during, and immediately following all contests. The rules committee reminds coaches and players to avoid the use of excessive dissent or abusive language and reminds coaches to stay in his or her coaching area. The committee encourages calm, patient, and productive dialogue between coaches, players, and officials.