

New England Youth Lacrosse All-star Tournament - 2009 Coach's Code of Conduct

As Head Coach of the _____ Team, I hereby agree that all players, Coaches and parents abide by this "Code of Conduct" that embodies basic common sense principles, demonstrates consideration of others, projects a positive image to our young men and women and maintains the highest possible standards of Sportsmanship.

- 1) Players, coaches, spectators, and parents are to conduct themselves in a manner that "Honors the Game" and demonstrates respect to other players, coaches, officials, and spectators. Derogatory comments are unacceptable
- 2) Permitting, encouraging, or condoning performance that is dangerous or demeaning to a player, coach, official, spectator, or anyone connected with the function of the game is unacceptable.
- 3) The emphasis on winning should never be placed above the value of good sportsmanship and the concepts of fair play
- 4) The safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance
- 5) Coaches are to strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people, as well as with adults.
- 6) It is the coach's responsibility to support and respect the officials who will conduct themselves as professionals and in accordance with those guidelines and rules set forth in the applicable rule books and manuals; and in a manner that demonstrates courtesy and fairness to all parties while exercising their authority on the field. The coach must quietly and privately address all concerns to the head official or the Tournament Director at the appropriate time when any problem with the officiating occurs.
- 7) Adults involved with the game must never permit anyone to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass, or threaten an official, coach or player. To do so will be considered unacceptable conduct.
- 8) The Rules must be respected and adhered to by all who participate in the game. The Rules are designed to protect the players, provide common standards and control the game. Attempts to beat these rules, to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct is considered unacceptable conduct.
- 9) Guidelines and eligibility requirements, such as age and previous level of participation, have been established to encourage and maximize participation, as well as promote safety. Attempts to circumvent eligibility rules, or to use ineligible players, shall be considered unacceptable conduct
- 10) I pledge to "Honor the Game." I understand the importance of setting a good example for my team. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game including other coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans, and officials. I understand that officials make mistakes.

Failure to abide by the above rules could result in one of the following actions:

A) Warnings: When a coach, player or parent yells at an official about a questionable call or violates one of the above guidelines, there must be a consequence. Most effective is when other adults (on the same team) intervene to let the misbehaving adult or youth know that his behavior is not acceptable because this is an educational-athletic event for young athletes. You as the coach are required to establish and protect a positive culture for your team by taking a stand. Here are some guidelines for how to intervene when someone dishonors the game. Ask the misbehaving adult or youth a question. **"Do you think you are honoring the Game right now?"** or you could make a statement that will serve the same purpose as a question. **"You seem pretty upset."** You can then remind them that part of the way we do things here is that we respect the official even if we disagree with a call. **"You may be right about that call being incorrect, but in this organization, we Honor the Game and show respect to officials even if they are wrong."** Here are some other things you can say: **"That's not the way we do things in this organization!"**, **"Yelling at the official is not Honoring the Game."**, **"It's not okay to act like that in this organization."** or **"That kind of behavior has no place here."**

B) Official Warnings: If the misbehaving person does not control himself or herself, official sanctions will take effect. If you are not an official of the organization, contact the official to tell him, or her, what is happening so appropriate action can be taken.

The official will issue a warning to the head coach of the team whose coach, player or fan is misbehaving. The coach will be told that it is his responsibility to control himself, his players or fans or the game will not continue. The coach should be directed to talk with the misbehaving player or adult to let them know that their actions are unacceptable.

C) Physical Removal: If the offending adult or youth continues his/her misbehavior. The game will be stopped and that game will not continue until he or she leaves the premises. (This will be done in conjunction with the head official and or the Tournament Director) If the misbehaving adult refuses to leave, stop the game and call the police to have him or her removed from the premises.

Signed Name

Printed Name

Date