



US LACROSSE YOUTH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE
ADOPTED BY THE ARIZONA GIRLS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION (AGLA)
Spring 2006 Regular Season

Note: This document MUST be signed by all players, parents, officials and coaches before any participation in AGLA events

The Mission of the US Lacrosse Youth Council is to promote the game of lacrosse among the youth of the United States in a safe and sportsmanlike environment. Further, the Youth Council 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 and preserve the "Honor of The Game", the Youth Council expects that players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators will do the following: 1) abide by a "Code of Conduct" that embodies basic common sense principles, 2) demonstrate consideration of others, 3) and project a positive image to our young men and women.

By doing this, US Lacrosse and its Youth Council can further its efforts to both maintain the highest possible standards of sportsmanship and to work together for the betterment of the game of lacrosse at all levels, especially at the youth level where first impressions count the most. To gain a better understanding of the origins of the Youth Council's Code of Conduct, it is strongly recommended that Members read "*The Parent's Guide to the Sport of Lacrosse*" (published & distributed by US Lacrosse)...especially the sections entitled the "Bill of Rights for Young Lacrosse Players," "The Role of Parents" and "The Role of the Coach."

The purpose of the Youth Council's "Code of Conduct" and the enforcement provisions which follow are to promote, project, and protect the image of lacrosse and the interests and safety of all those that participate and give their time and effort to the betterment of the game. Remember that the **ultimate success** of the principles and standards, emphasized in this "Code of Conduct," **rest primarily in the hands of those for whom they have been prepared -- the Players, Coaches, Officials, Parents, Spectators**, and any other affiliated parties which make up the membership of the Youth Council of US Lacrosse.

A: The Code of Conduct

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. 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 teams, and their organization. It is only through such conduct that our sport can earn and maintain a positive image and make its full contribution to youth sports in the United States and around the world.

The US Lacrosse Youth Council supports the following behaviors for those participating or involved in any way with US Lacrosse and youth lacrosse in general:

- The essential elements of the "Code of Conduct" (above) must be adhered to.
- Sportsmanship and teaching the concepts of fair play are essential to the game and must be taught and developed both at home and on the field during practices and games. Permitting, encouraging, or condoning performance that is dangerous or that demeans a player, coach, official, spectator, or anyone connected with the function of the game is unacceptable.
- The emphasis on winning should never be placed above the value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, or the skills of the game.
- **In all circumstances, derogatory comments are unacceptable.** Use positive reinforcement with players and adults alike. It should be remembered that criticism once made can never be retracted.
- 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 with adults.
- Officials are expected to conduct themselves: 1) as professionals and in accordance with those guidelines and rules set forth in the applicable rule books and manuals, and 2) in a manner that demonstrates courtesy and fairness to all parties, while exercising their authority on the field.
- **Adults involved with the game must never permit anyone to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass, or threaten an official.** To do so is a violation of the rules of the game and is unacceptable conduct. The coach must quietly and privately address all concerns to the officials at the appropriate time as defined by the rules; and, if deemed appropriate, place in writing to the Official's Assigning Authority any significant problems with the officiating.
- Knowledge of the Rules of Lacrosse must be respected and adhered to by all who participate in the game of lacrosse, both in the letter and the spirit of 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.
- AGLA guidelines and eligibility requirements, such as grade level, have been established to encourage and maximize participation, as well as promote safety. All who participate in the game of lacrosse must be thoroughly acquainted with these rules and regulations, and should assume the responsibility for their observance and enforcement. Attempts to circumvent eligibility rules, or to use ineligible players, shall be considered unacceptable conduct.

B: Enforcement of Violations of the Code of Conduct

- A **player or coach ejected** from a US Lacrosse-sanctioned game for any **Unsportsmanlike Conduct** (see Definitions) **will be barred from the remainder of the game** in question. The offending individual(s) must **immediately leave the game area**. Failure of the individual(s) to comply with this ruling will result in the team forfeiting the game, and the person being ejected shall also be ineligible to participate in the team's next game. Depending upon the seriousness of the infraction, coaches may also be barred from attending future games as a spectator.

- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct** by **Spectators** (see Definitions), as identified by either a recognized game or event official(s), will first result in the **stoppage of play** and a request by the game officials to the coach(s) to address the offending spectator(s) and ask that the disruptive activity cease immediately. If such behavior continues, a **yellow card** will be given to the home team coach and the offending spectator(s) must then **immediately leave the game area for the remainder of that game**. Failure of the spectator to leave the area will result in the immediate stoppage of play and forfeiture of the game.
- A team that plays an **Illegal Player** (see Definitions) *knowingly or unknowingly* in a US Lacrosse-sanctioned game will **forfeit the game** during which the infraction occurred (zero tolerance).
- A **player(s), coach(s), team representative(s), and/or spectator(s) berating or abusing** an official or another coach, player, or spectator prior to, during, or after a game will be **barred from participating in the remainder of the game** in question. The offending individual(s) must **immediately leave the game area**. Depending upon the seriousness of the infraction, the offending individual(s) may be barred from attending future games in an official capacity or as a spectator.
- Any **player(s) or coach(s)** who at any time while in the game area conduct themselves in an **abusive, offensive or illegal manner**, outside of game situations, may be **barred from participating in upcoming games** (or the next game in the event the current game is completed). Depending upon the seriousness of the infraction, the offending individual(s) or team(s) **may be barred from even attending future games** as a spectator(s). Further, a **spectator(s)** who conducts themselves in an **abusive, offensive, or illegal manner** while in the game area, outside of game situations, will be subject to being **barred from future games**. NOTE: It should be understood that if the offending individual will not leave the area of their own free will, then, in order to enforce any of the above violations, a request will be made to have the offending individual(s) **escorted from the area by a designated authority** (Security, Festival Committee Member, Tournament Director, etc.).

C: Definitions

- **Illegal Player(s)**: An Illegal Player is defined as a player who is either: 1) not listed on the team roster at the start of the game, 2) not in compliance with the AGLA grade requirement (grade 9-12), and/or 3) has been suspended from current game participation due to any previous game ejections that carry forward to the current game.
- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**: Unsportsmanlike Conduct is defined as a player, coach, or spectator who, at any time while on field or on the grounds of a sanctioned US Lacrosse event, conducts themselves in an abusive, offensive, or illegal manner during game situations or outside of game situations. This includes but is not exclusive to:
 - a) Fighting
 - b) Causing property damage at an event site (i.e. property damage to eating areas, any part of the host site's field or physical property, etc.)
 - c) Entering into an argument with an official regarding a decision that has been made
 - d) Attempting, in any way, to influence the decision of an official
 - e) **Using threatening, profane, or obscene language or gestures at any time during a game**

- f) Baiting, taunting, or any other act which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others under any circumstances, including on the basis of race, religion, gender, or national origin

D. Appeal Procedure and Process

- In cases involving the **game-day ejection** of a coach, player, or spectator for Unsportsmanlike Conduct or for any other infraction as stated in the Enforcement Provisions of the Code of Conduct, there will be **no appeal process**. The ruling of the game officials shall be final.
- If the barred person in question wishes to challenge the matter of participation in/spectator at **future AGLA games**, they may make a formal request in writing to the AGLA Executive Board for a special hearing. Once this request has been received, a hearing will be convened in a timely manner. All decisions of the AGLA Executive Board as to future participation will be final.

E. Acceptance of this Document

By my signature below, I hereby accept and agree to implement this Code of Conduct.* I further agree to attempt to understand the formal rules of lacrosse (as promoted in the NCAA Rules Book), and finally, I will become familiar with any other requirements of the AGLA in order to better support the game of lacrosse. Other requirements include, but are not limited to, the AGLA By-Laws (and the rules therein).

ACCEPTED:

_____	_____
Print Name Above	Print Name Above
_____	_____
Signature	Signature
_____	_____
Date	Date
_____	_____
Team Affiliation	Team Affiliation
_____	_____
Capacity (i.e. coach, player, official, parent)	Capacity (i.e. coach, player, official, parent)

* Signature of this form will remain valid through December 31, 2006.