

CODES OF CONDUCT

The Board of Lacrosse Victoria actively supports the Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport, which ensures every person in Victoria has the right to participate in community sport which is safe, welcoming and inclusive of anyone regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religion, culture or disability, and will have the opportunity to participate in our sport without fear of abuse, intimidation or sexual harassment.

Lacrosse Victoria accepts the responsibility of ensuring participation in our community sport event is free of any anti-social behavior both on and off field which would prevent others from taking part and getting active.

All clubs will have the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the code through the proper reporting processes and enforcing the Code through sport specific penalties. Any club from Lacrosse Victoria who does not adhere to and enforce the Code could be responsible for the cancellation of any existing funding to the sport from Sport and Recreation Victoria, and any existing funding may cease.

Lacrosse Victoria seeks to provide all players, officials and supporters with a high quality, enjoyable and energetic competition. It is expected that all involved will display, as their prime objective, good sportsmanship and fellowship in order to attain maximum enjoyment, recreation and social interaction for all concerned.

If a breach of this code of conduct has been made, please refer to the Complaints Flowchart on the last page of this document.

CHILD SAFETY

All Lacrosse Victoria staff and volunteers are responsible for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

- Adhering to our Child Safe Policy, this Code of Conduct and other Lacrosse Victoria policies
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions
- Welcoming all children and their families and carers and being inclusive
- Respecting cultural, religious and political differences and acting in a culturally sensitive way, particularly when interacting with children who are Aboriginal or otherwise culturally or linguistically diverse and those with a disability
- Modelling appropriate adult behaviour
- Listening to children and responding to them appropriately
- Reporting and acting on any breaches of this Code of Conduct, complaints or concerns appropriately and treat them seriously and with respect.
- Complying with our guidelines on physical contact with children
- Working with children in an open and transparent way – other adults should always know about the work you are doing with children
- Respecting the privacy of children and their families, and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know.

Lacrosse Victoria staff and volunteers **MUST NOT**:

- Seek to use children in any way to meet the needs of adults
- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or language with children
- Engage in rough physical games
- Discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability or sexuality
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- Develop 'special' relationships with specific children or show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking site or email addresses with children
- Have unauthorised contact with children and young people online or by phone.

PLAYERS

1. Lacrosse Victoria will actively encourage all participants to:

- Be an ambassador for lacrosse at all times
- Show a spirit of cooperation in every aspect of the game
- Refrain from the use of derogatory and abusive language, particularly based on gender, sexuality, race, culture or ability
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of everybody
- Respect those in a leadership position
- Be a proper role model to those younger than you
- Always endeavour to develop and improve the sport of lacrosse

2. Lacrosse Victoria will actively encourage all players to:

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, ask your captain or coach to approach the official during a break or after the game
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players is not acceptable
- In particular, acknowledge the difficult task that officials have and resist the temptation to abuse them in any circumstances
- Work equally hard for yourself and the team
- Be a sportsman and acknowledge good play whether from your team or the opposing team
- Actively discourage on or off the field sledging despite examples in other sports. It is not consistent with sportsmanship
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated yourself. Don't interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of others
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates, officials and opponents. Without them there wouldn't be a competition

COACHES

LACROSSE VICTORIA EXPECTS COACHES IN THE SPORT TO:

- 1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being**
 - Within the context of the activity treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnicity or religion
- 2. Ensure the athletes time spent with you is positive experience**
 - All athletes are deserving of equal attention and opportunities
- 3. Treat each athlete as an individual**
 - Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete
 - Help each athlete reach his or her full potential
- 4. Be honest with athletes**
- 5. Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions**
 - Display control, respect, dignity and professionalism to all involved with the sport – this includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrator, the media, parents and spectators
 - Encourage your athletes to demonstrate the same qualities
- 6. Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your athletes**
 - Maintain or improve current NCAS accreditation
 - Seek continual improvement through performance appraisal and ongoing coach education
 - Provide a training program, which is planned and sequential
 - Maintain appropriate records
- 7. Operate within the rules and spirit of the game**
 - The guidelines of national and interval bodies governing your sport should be followed. Please contact your sport for a copy of its rule book, constitution, by-laws, relevant policies i.e anti-doping policy and selection procedures
 - Coaches should educate their athletes on drugs in sport issue in consultation with the association with Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA)
- 8. Any physical contact with athletes should be:**
 - Appropriate to the situation
 - Necessary for the athlete's skills to develop
- 9. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards your athletes**
 - This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse
 - Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards your athletes from others while they're in your care
- 10. Refrain from any form of harassment towards your athletes**

- This includes sexual and racial harassment, racial vilification and harassment on the grounds of disability

11. Provide a safe environment for training and competition

- Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards
- Ensure equipment, rules, training, the environment are appropriate for the ages and ability of athletes

12. Show concern and caution toward sick and injured athletes

- Provide a modified training program where appropriate
- Allow further participation in training and competitions only when appropriate
- Maintain the same interest and support towards sick and injured athletes
- Encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required

13. Be a positive role model for athletes whom they supervise

IN ADDITION COACHES SHOULD:

- Be treated with respect and openness
- Have access to self-improvement opportunities
- Be matched with a level of coaching appropriate to their level of competence

It is anticipated that all coaches will personally practice this code of ethics.

OFFICIALS

OFFICIALS WILL BE EXPECTED TO:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others
- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others
- Be professional and accept responsibility for their actions
- Make a commitment to providing quality service
- Beware of, and maintain an uncompromising support for standards, rules, regulations and policies
- Implement rules of the sport
- Place the safety and welfare of players/participants above all else
- Accept responsibility for all actions taken
- Be impartial
- Avoid any situation which may lead to conflict of interest
- Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion and interaction
- Value the individual
- Refrain from any form of harassment/discrimination
- Show concern and caution to others who may be sick or injured

PARENTS

PARENTS OF LACROSSE PLAYERS WILL BE EXPECTED TO

- Encourage children to participate, if they are interested however, if a child is not willing, do not force him or her
- Focus upon the child's efforts and performance rather than the overall outcome of the event (This assists the child in setting realistic goals related to his or her ability by reducing the emphasis on winning)
- Teach children that an honest effort is as important as a victory, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment
- Encourage children to always participate within the rules
- Never ridicule or yell at children for making an error or losing a game
- Remember children are involved in organized sport for their enjoyment not yours
- Remember children learn best from examples
- Applaud good plays by all teams
- If there is a disagreement with an official, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than questioning the official's judgment and honesty in public (Remember that most officials give their time and effort for your child's involvement)
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches (They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for the children and deserve your support)
- Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender

SPECTATORS

SPECTATORS MUST BE EXPECTED TO:

- Remember that children play organized sports for fun (they are not playing for the entertainment of spectators only)
- Applaud good performances and efforts from each team and congratulate all participants upon their performance regardless of the event outcome
- Respect the official's decisions (If there is a disagreement, follow the appropriate procedure in order to question the decision and teach the children to do likewise)
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during competition. Positive comments are motivational
- Condemn the use of violence in any form be it by spectators, coaches, officials or players
- Show respect for your teams opponents. Without them, there wouldn't be a game
- Encourage players to follow the rules and official decisions
- Demonstrate appropriate social behaviour by not using foul language, or harassing players, coaches or officials
- Avoid use of derogatory language based on gender

Complaints Flowchart

If you find a problem

