



## New South Wales Lacrosse

### Code of Practice and Conduct

#### 1. Code of practice and conduct

To ensure that all activities in New South Wales Lacrosse Inc (NSWLI) are conducted in the best spirit possible the following codes of practice and conduct have been adopted. The emphasis of these codes is on junior sport, however, the sentiments of these codes and in most cases the codes themselves also apply to senior sport.

##### 1.1. **Players Code of Practice and Conduct**

Play by the rules.

Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.

Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted in any sport.

Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.

Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they be by your team, or the opposition.

Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another player.

Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.

Play for the "fun of it" and not just to please parents and coaches.

##### 1.2. **Administrator's Code of Practice and Conduct**

Involve young people in the planning, leadership, evaluation and decision-making related to the activity.

Give all children equal opportunity to participate.

Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules suit the age, ability and maturity level of participating children.

Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players.

Remember that children participate for enjoyment. Do not overemphasise awards.

Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.

Ensure that *everyone* involved in junior sport emphasises fair play, not winning at all costs.

As appropriate, give a code of practice and conduct sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, players and the media, and encourage them to stick to it.

Remember, you set the example. Your behaviour should be positive and supportive.

### 1.3. **Coaches Code of Practice and Conduct**

Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy and enthusiasm.

Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.

Whenever possible, group players to give reasonable chance of success.

Avoid over playing the talented players. The "just average" players need and deserve reasonable time.

Never ridicule or yell at the players for making mistakes or losing a competition.

Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and the rules of the game.

Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.

Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.

Keep yourself informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

Avoid using derogatory language at all times.

Set the example for members of your team in respect of good behaviour towards officials and opponents.

The Code outlined above (1.3) applies to teachers in schools who are coaching lacrosse on behalf of NSWLI, with the additional considerations outlined below:

- Prepare children for intra and inter school competitions by instruction in basic sports skills;
- Make children aware of the positive benefits of participating in sporting activities;
- Help children understand the fundamental differences between the junior games and competitions they play and professional sport;
- Help children understand that playing by the rules is their responsibility; and
- Given *all* children equal opportunity to participate.

### 1.4. **Parents Code of Practice and Conduct**

Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.

Encourage children to participate. Do not force them.

Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.

Encourage children to always participate according to the rules.

Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game.

Remember that children learn best from an example. Applaud good plays by all teams.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.

Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise. If you disagree with an official raise the issue through the appropriate channels. Do not question the official's

judgement and honesty in public.

Show appreciation of volunteer coaches, officials and administrators who give their time and resources to provide the opportunity for your children to participate.

#### 1.5. **Spectators' Code of Practice and Conduct**

Remember that children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.

Applaud good performances and effort from each team. Congratulate all participants on their performance, regardless of a games' outcome.

Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do the same. If you disagree with an official raise the issue through the appropriate channels. Do not question the official's judgement and honesty in public.

Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.

Condemn the use of violence in any form, be it from spectators, coaches, officials or players.

Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.

Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.

Do not use foul language or harass players, coaches or officials.

#### 1.6. **Officials' Code of Practice and Conduct**

Modify rules and regulations to match the skill levels and needs of children.

Compliment and encourage all participants.

Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.

Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.

Ensure that the "spirit of the game" is not lost, by using common sense and not overemphasising errors.

Encourage and promote rule changes which will make participation more enjoyable.

Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.

Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating and knowledge of growth and development of children.

Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.

Ensure that everything you do is seen by all as unbiased and fair even though you know that it is.

#### 1.7. **Media Code of Practice and Conduct**

Be aware of the differences between adult sports programs and children's sports programs.

Don't highlight isolated incidences of inappropriate sporting behaviour.

Focus upon children's fair play and their honest effort.

Do not place unfair expectations upon children. They are not miniature professionals.

2. **Responsibilities**

All involved in NSWLI are expected to ensure these codes of behaviour are adhered to.