



Code of Conduct for Parents

As the parent(s) of a Hawks Lacrosse Club (HLC) player, you play a special role in the development of your son and his teammates. Your encouragement and positive example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

1. Support your child

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

2. Always be positive

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into an opportunity to learn and work toward improvement.

3. Don't be a sideline coach or ref

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship. Do not openly question their judgment or honesty.

4. Demonstrate a positive attitude toward your opponents and their families

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good hospitality at home and to represent HLC in a positive way when visiting other clubs. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

5. Remember that your child wants to have fun

Your child is the one playing lacrosse, not you. Children must establish their own goals to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

I/we will set a good example to my/our child in his lacrosse development by adhering at all times to the following:

- We will not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after games.
- We understand that timeliness is important to a child's success. We will make every effort to arrive prior to games and practices so that our child will have time to gear up and be ready for practices and games.
- We will give only positive feedback to players.
- We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome. We will be mindful in "lopsided" games where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood.
- We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.
- We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and remind our child to thank the referee after the match without regard to the result.
- We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every game.
- We shall support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
- We understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the referee or a club official so that the coach does not receive a yellow card caution or a red card ejection due to the action of the parent spectator.
- We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.
- We understand that HLC can, and will if necessary, suspend our child from playing for HLC and/or suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
- We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.

Acknowledgement

I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide by and support this HLC Parents' Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that HLC reserves the right to immediately terminate my child's participation in HLC if I violate this Code of Conduct and there will be no refund of fees that were paid for my child's participation. Please sign and return to coach.

Parent's name(s): _____

Parent's signature: _____

Today's date: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Today's date: _____

Team name: _____