



Code of Conduct for Players

Introduction

The Hawks Lacrosse Club (HLC) sponsors youth lacrosse activity with the goal of providing our children an opportunity to develop superior life skills through team play, sportsmanship, top competition, and hard work. Our mission is to provide Hawks youth the opportunity to play lacrosse at the highest level commensurate with their individual ability, potential, and interest. An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our club's mission. To better achieve that mission, we provide the following Code of Conduct for all Hawks players.

This Code of Conduct is a covenant between Hawks players and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. This Code expresses our core values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed.

The Code of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles: (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude; (2) Setting a good example; and (3) Maintaining good relationships with all youth lacrosse participants - including officials, opponents, and our own teams' players, parents, and coaches.

1. Demonstrating a positive attitude

Players are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of HLC.

2. Setting a good example

Each player associated with HLC is accountable for his own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. HLC will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes: vulgarity; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents.

3. Maintaining good relationships

Officials - The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human and they do make mistakes. Players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches will inform the appropriate club officials about blatant officiating problems to ensure concerns are reported through appropriate channels. Verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection for a player.

Opponents - Players are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of lacrosse, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. **It is the expectation of HLC that our players rise above and maintain club standards regarding opponents.**

The Team - In an environment where you are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coaches' authority.

Player's Code

It is a privilege to play on a Hawks lacrosse team. As an HLC player, I will:

1. Play the game for the game's sake and not just to please my parents or coach.
2. Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
3. Respect the game of lacrosse and its rules, learn these rules and try to follow them, and play the game fairly.
4. Work for the good of my team and give my best effort at all times.
5. Show respect for the authority of the referee, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.
6. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. I understand that lacrosse is a game and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
7. Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated.
8. Help my parents and fans understand the rules of lacrosse so that they can watch and enjoy the game. I will be sure they understand that dissent is not permitted in Hawks lacrosse.
9. Control my temper and not retaliate, even if I believe I have been wronged.

Acknowledgement

I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide by and support this HLC Players' Code of Conduct. Please sign and return to your coach. [I understand that if I violate this Code the HLC Board may determine that I can no longer play lacrosse for HLC.](#)

Player's name: _____ HLC Team: _____ Date _____

Player's signature: _____