



## SWYLAX PARENT AND PLAYER HANDBOOK (2017)



### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the South Western Youth Lacrosse Club (SWYLAX). We are all excited about your interest in the sport of lacrosse. Lacrosse started in South Western area in 2001 at the high school level as the South Western York Lacrosse club and grew to field several teams at the youth level. In 2007, the high school and youth programs separated, and the South Western Youth Lacrosse, Inc. formed. 2009 was the first year that the high school team was sanctioned as a Varsity school sport. At the youth level (Pre-K through Grade 8), we are members of the York County Lacrosse Organization and play games mostly in York County.

### MISSION STATEMENT

It is the goal of our coaches and board to promote the sport of lacrosse, by teaching the fundamental skills of the sport through practice and competitive play. You will find that our coaches are caring, fair, and dedicated to providing your child with the best possible experience. We are an organization that is committed to providing the sport of Lacrosse to children in the South Western area of York County. Our goal is to provide physical exercise, team skills, and character building to those children who participate.

### GRADE BASED DIVISION OF TEAMS AND CUT-OFF DATES

The SWYLAX club follows grade guidelines set by the YCLA. For the **2017** season, all players will be assigned to their teams based on their current school year grade level as outlined below:

Pre-K, Kindergarten (Pockets)

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Please note club's policy for "playing up":

All players registering to play for South Western Youth Lacrosse shall be registered in their current grade appropriate division. If a coach desires a player to play up a grade division,

the coach must obtain approval from the other coach and then invite the player to play up. If the player and their parent/guardian accepts the invitation to play up, the coach of the team in which the player will playing up on, shall present the request to the board for review. If the board approves the request, the coach shall present the request form to the parent/guardian of that player and parent/guardian must sign the form agreeing to play up a division.

If a parent/guardian desires for their child to play up, whom has not been invited to do so by the coach, the parent/guardian may present a written request to the board. The board shall then consult with both coaches for the grade appropriate division and for the requested grade division. The board will then decide whether it is appropriate for the player to play up based on his age/grade, size, skill, physical development and any other relevant factors.

As determined by the YCLA by-laws: Players are currently permitted to play up a maximum of 3 games in a season (including playoff games) and remain on the original roster (original grade-appropriate team). If a player plays up more than 3 games in a season, the player will be officially registered/rostered on the higher level team for the remainder of the season.

## REGISTRATION

Registration session(s) for the Spring season are typically held between mid-November to mid-February. **NO PLAYERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER REGISTRATION SESSION(S) UNLESS APPROVED BY THE SWYL BOARD.** Approval will depend on the number of available roster positions open at the specific grade levels. Club fees are collected to cover the cost of insurance, league fees, coaches' clearances, coaches' clinics, equipment, referees, and field maintenance. Club fees are due by dates set by the board.

## INSURANCE

As with any athletic activity there is a certain amount of risk involved, therefore players must be properly insured. Parents/guardians must acknowledge at the time of registration that their child has medical coverage through an active insurance policy.

## ATHLETIC WAIVER

As there are potential hazards involved with lacrosse, a parent/legal guardian must accept the athletic waiver found in this Parent Player Handbook and release of liability for a child(ren) to participate.

## REFUNDS

The club will grant a 100% registration fee refund up to February 1<sup>st</sup>. The club will grant a refund of 50% of the total registration fee up to March 1<sup>st</sup>. A parent/guardian must present the request in writing to a coach or board member for official consideration.

**No refunds will be given after March 1<sup>st</sup>.** A parent must present in writing to the board any exceptions or hardship cases.

**No refund** will be given for **Pockets** registration unless approved by the board.

## FUNDRAISING

**The club may hold mandatory fundraisers.** If this is the case, the player/household must participate fully in the fundraiser (sell a minimum dollar amount or number of items). **Fundraiser money will be due at the time of registration and be the responsibility of the participant(s) to sell those items to retain a portion or the entire fundraiser amount.** A fee will be assessed for any returned checks for this or any other circumstance regarding payment to the club.

Pockets club members are exempt from mandatory fundraiser activities, however are encouraged to participate.

## EQUIPMENT

Individual equipment is the sole responsibility of the player. Equipment belonging to the club is intended for official use, and may not be used by individuals unless specific permission has been granted. Violation of this policy can result in immediate dismissal. Additionally, players are expected to care for their own equipment, keeping it in good condition and in accordance with league and/or US Lacrosse guidelines. Equipment needed to participate may consist of: stick, helmet, pads, gloves, mouth guard and cleats.

Pockets players only need only provide their own stick and regular athletic shoes (no cleats are required). The club encourages the use of a mouth guard for Pockets, however not required.

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Knowing when and how to communicate with your athlete's coach is a concern for almost every parent at some point in the season. We encourage the athlete to discuss matters with the coach or with the Player-Parent Representative if a problem should occur, or if an expectation is unclear.

When a parent has an issue that is specific to their athlete, they are welcome to discuss it with the appropriate coach or representative. However, the parent is encouraged to set a meeting time to discuss the issue. Immediately before, during or after the game is not the best time to approach a coach. Coaches are not obligated to discuss their coaching decisions. Coaching decisions may include playing time, substitutions, who is playing when or where, etc. Playing time is a complex determination of the individuals' abilities, potential, safety and the needs of the team. The coach will not be required to defend their thought process in these determinations, and it is improper for a parent to request this.

Coaches will not discuss individual athletes with anyone other than a parent of said athlete. Additionally, they will not discuss the actions of any other coach. If you have legitimate concerns about a coach or another player, please address the Head Coach or Player-Parent Representative. Often times, these issues are a matter of miscommunication or misunderstanding that can be resolved by simply addressing the issue when it arises. Listed below are the procedures to follow should you or your player incur a problem:

1. The player should speak with the coach.
2. The parent should meet or speak with the coach or representative.
  - a. A scheduled time is requested.
  - b. Meetings are to be at times and locations other than games. If a parent approaches a coach, the coach has the right to refuse the conversation, until the proper channels have been followed.
  - c. The recommended time for a meeting is either before or immediately after a scheduled practice, if the matter is still unresolved.
3. The parent may speak with the Head Coach and/or Player-Parent Representative to request a meeting.
  - a. In special situations, we may ask the player to attend the meeting. Or we may ask that the player not attend.
  - b. Meetings should be scheduled privately. Coaches will not schedule a meeting directly before, during or after a game.
  - c. Coaching strategy will not be discussed during this meeting.

Other general policies regarding grievances:

1. Aggressive confrontations should not and will not be tolerated. This applies to coaches, parents, officials and players.
2. Asking uninvolved parties to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and the club.
3. Competitive sports often create situations where everyone is not always happy. Please be discreet, as team morale can suffer in the shadow of disputes.
4. Any member who hears remarks or stories that concern them is advised to take matters to the Head Coach or Representative. They are also encouraged to suggest the complaining party to discuss matters with the Head Coach or Representative, so that all of the facts can be determined.
5. It is detrimental to everyone when complaints are repeated to uninvolved parties. Please use your utmost discretion.

### CONFLICTING ACTIVITIES

Many of our athletes are involved in activities other than lacrosse. We understand and accept this, however it is expected that your player will attend as many practices and games as possible. We ask that the Head Coach of your players' team be notified ahead of time of any practices or games that will be missed.

Players should discuss conflicts with their coaches so that a mutual agreement can be reached. It is important to realize that lacrosse is a team sport and individual playing time could suffer because of attendance. Lack of attendance impedes both the team and the individuals' abilities.

### BEHAVIORAL CODE FOR PLAYERS

- All players will act in a responsible manner. The definition of "responsible" lies solely with the club and coaches. Responsibility is expected both on and off the field.
- Substance abuse will not be tolerated. Any player found to be in possession of or using a substance will be immediately dismissed without refund.
- Players are expected to attend all practices. In the event of a cancellation, coaches will notify you.

- Any athlete damaging club equipment will be responsible for its replacement. Under certain circumstances, the player may be dismissed from the club.
- Players will refrain from the use of vulgar or abusive language, racial slurs, etc., directed towards other players, coaches, officials or parents.

## BEHAVIORAL CODE FOR PARENTS

Parents are expected to...

- ...encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support of all coaches, players and officials.
- ...remember that the game is for the players, not the parents
- ...help their child respect other players, coaches, and officials
- ...support the decision of the coaching staff.
- ...conduct themselves in a civilized and discreet manner, when commenting or criticizing parents, players, coaches or officials.
- Refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol at all sporting events.

## COMMUNICATIONS

If a player or parent has a question regarding practices, schedules, directions to games, etc., they are encouraged to look first at the club website for the information before calling or emailing their team parent, coach or board member. The address of the club website is [leagues.bluesombrero.com/swyl](http://leagues.bluesombrero.com/swyl). The club email address is [swlaxhanover@gmail.com](mailto:swlaxhanover@gmail.com)

## AMATEUR ATHLETIC WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY

### PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE ACCEPTING IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the South Western Lacrosse Club sports program, related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates and agrees that:

1. The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment and personal discipline may reduce risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
2. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks, both known and unknown, even if arising from the negligence of the Releasees or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately; and,
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby release and hold harmless, the South Western Youth Lacrosse Club, their officers, officials, coaches, agents, and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event ("Releasees"), with respect to any and all injury, disability, death or loss or damage to person or property, whether arising from the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise.

*By ACCEPTING the "Parent Player Handbook--MUST READ AND ACCEPT!" section during the registration process, I, on behalf of my child, have read this release of liability and assumption of risk agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I, on behalf of my child, have given up substantial rights freely and voluntarily without inducement.*