



Code of Conduct 2018

Asheville Empire Lacrosse (Empire) abides by a strict Code of Conduct. Players, coaches, spectators and parents are to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect to other players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators. In becoming a member of the Empire community an individual assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to the game of lacrosse, to the Empire and its participants.

The essential elements in this "Code of Conduct" are HONESTY and INTEGRITY. Those who conduct themselves in a manner that reflects these elements will bring credit to the sport of lacrosse, themselves, their team and their organization. It is only through such conduct that our sport can earn and maintain a positive image and make its full contribution to youth sports in the United States and around the world. US Lacrosse and the Empire believe that it should be a priority of every lacrosse player, team and program (including parents, guardians and its leaders) to HONOR THE GAME in every sense of these words. The following essential elements of the CODE OF CONDUCT are expected from players, parents, guardians, coaches, leadership and officials:

- Sportsmanship and teaching the concepts of fair play are essential to the game and must be taught at all levels and developed both at home and on the field during practices and games. The value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, and the skills of the game should always be placed above winning.
- The safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance.
- Players should always demonstrate positive behavior and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.
- Officials are professionals and are therefore expected to conduct themselves as such and in a manner that demonstrates total impartiality, courtesy and fairness to all parties.
- Coaches, players, parents and spectators are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect for officials and reinforce that respect to players/ teammates. Coaches are also expected to educate their players as to the important role of lacrosse officials and reinforce the ideal of respect for the official to players/teammates.
- Spectators involved with the game must never permit anyone to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass or threaten an official, coach, player, opponents or any other parties involved with the sport.
- Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their players. They are to strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people, as well as adults.
- Grievances or misunderstandings between coaches, officials or any other parties involved with the sport should be communicated through the proper channels and procedures, never on or about the field of play in view of spectators or participants/players. The 24-Hour rule is expected from all members of the Empire community.

All members of the Empire community agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and to be subjected to the consequences of violating the Code. It is understood that players, parents and coaches are all bound by this Code of Conduct and its validity is hereby a matter of record and is not dependent upon physical signature.

The Empire Board has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY in connection with any inappropriate adult behavior. These actions include but are not limited to the following: i) approaching a coach during a game; ii) confronting a coach on the field or bench during a game or practice; iii) **ANY** violation of the Empire 24-Hour Communication Rule.

Neither parents nor players are to ask coaches about 'position' changes or playing time during games. Parents, if you feel your child is not being given opportunities appropriate to their ability, you will need to adhere to the 24-Hour Communication Policy to address these issues and any league concerns at an appropriate time with the coaching staff, leadership or board members. Please do not address these concerns during a game, practice or in front of players, parents, opponents, officials or spectators.



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The Empire Board may take immediate action on any parental violation and reserves the right to ban parents, guests, or any person from the fields due to inappropriate behavior. The Empire Board may also remove the parents and their player from the league with no refund. The Empire Board may also call parents in for a meeting at any time.

Players-

- I will exhibit good sportsmanship and fair play on and off the field during practices and games.
- I will give 100% effort at each practice and every game.
- I will not use foul language (cursing/swearing) when involved with any and all Asheville Empire Lacrosse activity.
- I will not direct derogatory comments toward teammates, coaches, officials, opposing players, parents or spectators.
- I will respect, listen and learn from my coaches and will address any issues with them in private.
- I will support and encourage ALL my teammates and set a positive example.
- I will learn and understand ALL the rules of the game of lacrosse and abide by them.
- I understand that the safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance.
- I will not criticize, badger, harass, or threaten a game official.
- I will not attempt to manipulate the rules to take unfair advantage of an opponent, nor will I engage deliberately in unsportsmanlike conduct.
- I will not use or possess a controlled or illegal substance (including alcohol and vaping).
- I will bring and wear the required equipment and proper uniform at all games and practices.
- I will keep all my gear/equipment well-maintained.
- I will be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Parents-

- The emphasis on winning should never be placed above the value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, or the skills of the game. Respect the game of lacrosse and its roots.
- Do not coach your child at practices or games (unless, of course, you are their coach). Let players play and coaches coach, and support both in a positive manner.
- Derogatory comments are unacceptable. Use positive reinforcement with players and adults alike. Do not EVER criticize Empire players, fellow parents or anyone on the fields regardless of the circumstance. It should be remembered that criticism, once made, can never be retracted.
- Follow our "24-Hour Communication Rule": Simply put, parents, coaches and administrators will not discuss a game, practice or situation until at least 24 hours after the fact. This important rule does two things. First, it moves the discussion away from the presence of the players or adults involved. Second, it allows all parties to have time to put things in perspective and "cool off", if necessary. A full description of our 24-Hour Communication Rule is available on our website: www.ashevilleempire.com.
- Eligibility requirements, such as age and previous level of participation, must be followed to promote safety and participation. Parents shall communicate all health issues/concerns directly with coaches and will remain confidential.



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Coaches-

- The safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance.
- Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their players and must reinforce the self-image of each player. Coaches must strive to be positive role models and provide a constructive environment in dealing with their players, their parents and fellow coaches on and off the field.
- The emphasis on winning should never be placed above the value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, or the skills of the game. Respect the game of lacrosse and its roots.
- Derogatory comments are unacceptable. Use positive reinforcement with players and adults alike. Do not EVER criticize Empire players regardless of the circumstance. It should be remembered that criticism, once made, can never be retracted.
- Practice transparent communication with players and parents. Coaches are expected to be receptive to all player communications and engage players (and their parents) proactively regarding issues involving practice or game performance, behavioral concerns or attendance issues.
- Teach the rules of lacrosse. Abide by those rules in practices and games.
- Establish objectives for the team and individual players and inform each player of team and individual goals.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

All-

- Knowledge of the Rules of Lacrosse must be respected and adhered to by all who participate in the game of lacrosse, both in the letter and the spirit of the game.
- Any conduct, including abusive language and/ or gestures, racially insensitive remarks, **derogatory**, inflammatory or hostile communication, damage to property or belongings, or any other conduct that reflects poorly on yourself or Asheville Empire Lacrosse is deemed to be unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This rule applies to all players, parents, siblings, guests, coaches and officials AT ALL TIMES.
- During all tournaments, AWAY play days, scrimmages or games, you are representing the Empire. Any conduct unbecoming will not be tolerated (on or around fields and surrounding areas).
- Officials must never be openly or maliciously criticized, badgered, harassed, or threatened on or off the field.

Consequences

The following sets forth the discipline guidelines for responding to league participant Code of Conduct violations; HOWEVER, the Empire Board reserves the right to vary its response from these guidelines based on the severity of the violation of Code. No refunds will be granted to those players dismissed from the club for violating the Code of Conduct.

<i>Offense</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Parent</i>	<i>Coach</i>
1st	Warning; Bench time	Warning	Warning
2nd	Game Suspension	Season Ban from Games & Practices	AEL Coach Committee Review
3rd	Season Suspension	Dismissal	