



# PLAYER/PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

v. 01/30/2019

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 Empire. The following essential elements of the CODE OF CONDUCT are expected from players, parents, guardians, coaches, leadership and officials:

- 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.
- Coaches, players, parents and spectators are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect for officials, coaches, and fellow parents/spectators.
- 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.
- By becoming a member of the Empire, parents/guardians agree to respect and adhere to the policies and decisions made by Empire leadership and coaching staff at ALL times.
- Any grievances regarding club or team decisions or policies made by coaches, leadership, officials or any other parties involved with the sport should be communicated through the proper channels. At no time should discussions take place on or about the field of play in view or earshot of spectators, participants/players or officials. **Adherence to the 24-Hour rule is critical.**

The Empire Board has adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY in connection with any inappropriate or aggressive adult behavior. These actions include but are not limited to the following: i) approaching a coach or official during a game; ii) confronting a coach on the field or bench during a game or practice; iii) disrespecting the confidentiality of all players and decisions made by coaches or Empire leadership; iv) 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, defer to the 24-Hour Communication Policy and address your issues or any league concerns at an appropriate time with the appropriate personnel. Please do not address these concerns during a game, practice or in front of players, parents, opponents, officials or spectators. The Empire Board may take immediate action on any violation and reserves the right to ban parents, guests, or any person from the tournament venue or practice fields. The Empire Board may also permanently release/remove the parents and their player(s) from the organization with no refund.

All members of the Empire community agree to abide by the Code of Conduct and are subject 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. In summary, players, parents/guardians and coaches must agree to read and fully understand the following Empire expectations:

## All Empire -

- At home or away, you are representing the Empire. Any conduct, including abusive language, malicious behavior, indecent gestures, racially insensitive remarks, derogatory comments of team/club decisions or policies, inflammatory or hostile communication, damage to property or belongings, or any other conduct that reflects poorly on a parent, guardian, player or member of the Empire family or Asheville Empire Lacrosse as a club 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.

## Players -

- Commit to learning and understanding the sport of lacrosse and give 100% effort at each practice and every game.
  - Exhibit good sportsmanship and fair play on and off the field during practices and games.
  - Do not use foul language (cursing/swearing) when involved with any and all Asheville Empire Lacrosse activity nor should you direct derogatory comments toward teammates, coaches, officials, opposing players, parents or spectators.
  - Respect, listen and learn from coaching staff and privately address them with any issues or concerns.
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**Players (continued) -**

- Support and encourage ALL teammates and set a positive example.
- Acknowledge that the safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance.
- Understand that officials have a job to do and players will not criticize, badger, harass, or threaten a game official.
- Demonstrate responsibility by taking good care of gear/equipment and uniforms. This also includes bringing and/or wearing the required equipment and proper uniform at all games and practices.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Understand that any player found using or possessing a controlled or illegal substance (including alcohol and vaping), will be subject to appropriate and immediate consequences.

**Parents -**

- Sportsmanship, competition and fair play are cornerstones of the Empire program. The emphasis on winning should never be placed above any of these cornerstones.
- Respect the decisions made by leadership and coaching staff. Respect the game of lacrosse... quite simply, honor the game.
- Do not coach your child at practices or games. Let players play and coaches coach. Be supportive of both in a positive manner.
- Derogatory comments are unacceptable. Never criticize Empire coaches, players, opposing teams, officials, fellow parents, spectators or anyone on the fields regardless of the circumstance. Remember that criticism, once made, can never be retracted.
- Understand and adhere to our "24-Hour Communication Rule": Simply put, parents/guardians, players, coaches and leadership will not discuss ANY club decisions and/or policies, team make-up, results of a game, how a practice is run or any other circumstance until 24-hours have passed.
- A full description of our 24-Hour Communication Rule is available on the homepage of our website at [www.ashevilleempire.com](http://www.ashevilleempire.com). This rule does two things - *first, it moves the discussion away from the presence of the players and/or adults not involved in the situation or circumstance; second, it allows all parties to have time to put things in perspective and "cool off", if necessary.*

**SPECIAL NOTE: Coaches must also adhere to their own code of conduct which includes but is not limited to:**

- Establish objectives for the team and individual players and inform each player of team and individual goals.
- The safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance. The concept of winning at any cost should never be taught.
- Be positive role models and provide a constructive environment in dealing with their players, their parents and fellow coaches on and off the field. Derogatory or inflammatory comments are unacceptable.
- Practice transparent communication with players, parents and Empire leadership. Coaches are expected to be receptive to all player communications and engage players (and their parents) proactively regarding behavior, attendance, engagement or performance.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

**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.

OFFENSE	PLAYER	PARENT
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bench Time	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Game Suspension	Full Day Suspension
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Season Suspension	Season Ban from Games & Practices