

## **Herndon-Reston Youth Lacrosse (HRYL) Code of Conduct**

### **The Herndon-Reston Youth Lacrosse (HRYL) League expects all participants to:**

- Always demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship and decorum.
- Always demonstrate respect for all participants, including teammates, coaches, opposing players, game officials, and spectators.
- Be humble in victory and courteous in defeat.
- Refrain from visible or audible complaints or protests about officiating during or after play of the game.
- Refrain from harassing behavior that is unwelcome or offensive to the person or persons it is targeted toward.
- Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted by the other person as hostile, offensive, threatening, intimidating, derogatory, obscene, or humiliating; physical assault upon another participant at any time will not be tolerated.
- Refrain from discriminating in providing participation or leadership opportunities based on an individual's gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected characteristics.
- Follow all field rules and regulations, always respecting the property of others; parents/guardians will be held responsible for property damage incurred by their child.

### **The League further expects Coaches to:**

- Provide balanced direction and feedback to all players during practices and before, during, and after games encouraging and reinforcing positives. whenever possible and constructively pointing out mistakes/opportunities for improvement.
- Play by the letter and the spirit of the rules of the game.
- Refrain from running up scores in lopsided games.
- Seek out game officials in a calm, non-confrontational demeanor before or after the start of a game period to ask about interpretation of a rule or to understand a game officials specific call or non-call.
- Ensure that team members and spectators of his/her team conduct themselves in accordance with this Code of Conduct at all times while in attendance at games and promptly address any issues with the team member or spectator behaving inappropriately.

### **The League further expects Players to:**

- Attend and be on time for all practices and games or notify coaches in advance of their late arrival or absence.
- Follow the direction of coaches, respecting the fact that they are giving freely of their own time to provide the opportunity to play football.

- Play by the letter and the spirit of the rules of the game.
- Always demonstrate teamwork.
- Refrain from addressing game officials or commenting on their decisions during or after the play of the game; the team captain or their designee may address the game officials during the game, but only within the provisions of the rules and in a courteous, respectful manner.

**The League further expects Parents, Guardians, and Spectators to:**

- Arrange for players to be at games and practices on time and ensure that coaches are notified in advance of late arrivals and absences.
- Support coaches during practices and games as requested by the coach.
- Refrain from coaching their child from the sidelines and interfering with the coach's directions to the player.
- Provide positive support and encouragement to the player.
- Cheer for your team in a positive, supportive manner, always refraining from making hostile, negative, or abusive remarks about the opposing team's coaches or players.
- Refrain from going onto the field during game time-outs or intermission; before each game only the teams warming up for the next game should be on the field.

**Violations of the Code of Conduct:**

- Verbal warnings of a Code of Conduct violation may be issued by game officials or League managers.
- If the violation is not egregious, one verbal warning to stop the inappropriate behavior may be given after which penalties can be issued by a game official or League manager.
- If the violation is egregious, no verbal warning need be given, and penalties can be immediately issued by a game official or League manager.

**Penalties for Code of Conduct Violations:**

- If the penalty for a Code of Conduct violation is not specified below, the League Commissioner reserves the right to make the penalty decision.
- Behavior that is deemed excessively dangerous or disrespectful will result in an immediate ejection of the offender from the game field for the day. If the offender refuses to leave the field, the game official will stop the game, the team of the offender will forfeit the game, and the offender will be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.
- All ejections from a game will be considered Code of Conduct violations, the game official or League Manager issuing the ejection will file a report with the League Commissioner within 24 hours of an ejection, and the offender will automatically be suspended for at least one (1) game.

- If a coach is ejected for arguing with a game official, the coach will be suspended for at least one (1) game.
- If a coach is ejected for fighting, the coach will be suspended from the League for the remainder of the season, effective immediately.
- If a player, team member, or spectator is ejected for fighting, the offender will be suspended for a minimum of two (2) games, with no exceptions. A player may still participate in team practices at the discretion of the team coach.
- If a player, coach, team member, or spectator is ejected twice within the same season, the offender will be suspended from the League for the remainder of the season.
- Any player, coach, team member, or spectator striking or shoving a game official will be suspended for the remainder of the season, effective immediately.
- If a player, team member, or coach disregards stated penalties when properly notified by the League Commissioner, the player/coach's team can be permanently suspended from league competition for the remainder of the regular and post season.
- The League Commissioner must approve permission for any suspended player, team member, coach, or spectator to participate in games after the incident for which they were ejected.

### **Appeal of Penalties:**

A written appeal of penalties may be made to the League Commissioner and must be received within twenty-four (24) hours of the penalty issuance, without exception. An email is an acceptable means for submitting a written appeal. The appeal of a penalty issued by a coach, game official, or Boys/Girls Commissioner goes to the League Commissioner. The appeal of a penalty issued by the League Commissioner goes to the Boys/Girls Commissioner. The person receiving the appeal will review the violation supporting information and appeal reports and render a decision within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving the written appeal. The decision on the appeal will be final.

