Seneca Valley Lacrosse Association

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Seneca Valley Lacrosse Association ("SVLA") supports and follows the US Lacrosse Code of Conduct. <u>This Code is applicable to players, coaches, parents and spectators.</u> US Lacrosse supports the following behaviors for those who participate in the sport or are involved in any way with US Lacrosse. The following essential elements of the "Code of Conduct" must be followed for those associated with SVLA:

Players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators are representing SVLA and the Seneca Valley School District and are to conduct themselves in a manner that "Honors the Game" and demonstrates respect to other players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators and fans.

- 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.

- 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 wining.

- The safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance.

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.

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.

- Should always demonstrate positive behaviors and reinforce them to players, parents, officials and spectators alike.

- Must be able to demonstrate a solid knowledge of the rules of lacrosse, and should adhere to the rules in both the letter and the spirit of the game.

- Should provide a basic knowledge of the rules to both players and spectators within his/her program. Attempts to manipulate rules in an effort to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct, is considered unacceptable conduct.

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.

Players:

- Should always demonstrate positive behavior and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.

- Should be on time for practices and games, and should be fully prepared to participate.

Parents and spectators

- Should observe a "Cooling Off" period: Wait to talk to the coach about something you are upset about for at least 24 hours. Emotions can get so hot, that it's often better and more productive to wait a day before contacting the coach. This also gives you time to consider exactly what to say to the coach, and how to say it.

- Spectators involved with the game must never permit anyone to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass or threaten an official, coach, player or opponent.

- Eligibility requirements, at all levels of the game, must be followed. Rules and requirements such as age, previous level of participation, team transfers, etc, have been established to encourage and maximize participation, fair play and to promote safety.

- Parents should recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.

- Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the field. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.

- Spectators must respect team areas, benches and scoring tables as private areas for players, coaches, and officials.