

## **Coaches ASA Certification/Background Check/Lanyard Requirements**

Coaches,

The Prince William Lassie League has worked very hard to develop and promote a “safe” and “secure” environment for its players so that they can enjoy their time on the field of play, as well as to minimize the “on the field confrontations” with umpires by untrained coaches and/or parents that had been a problem in previous seasons. Over the past two seasons, the league has been employing our three year (phased-in) plan to improve the quality of play for its players and to assist our coaches with better coaching tools for their benefit.

One of the primary improvement programs the league introduced was to provide better training to our coaches, umpires and players. For our coaches and umpires, we utilized a readily available training source provided by ASA known as the ACE (Achieve, Certify, and Educate) program. To ensure all of our coaches would participate in this program, we began making this a requirement for all Head Coaches (in 2012) and at least one Asst. Coach (2013). For 2014 all coaching staff will be required to participate in the ACE program. This program was instituted for two main reasons; one, to aid our coaches with better coaching tools and player development skills so they could be a better coach and second, to establish a limitation on who can and cannot address the umpire during the course of a game. The idea of limits on who can address the umpire was drawn from research and review of other sports leagues and has been deemed to be the best method to minimize the potential for confrontations between umpires and “non-umpires”.

To enforce this measure the league has established a policy of requiring both the Head Coach and the primary Assistant Coach to display their ASA ACE credentials on the lanyard the league has provided to each team. The display of these credentials is how the umpire will know who the coaches are for each team. The umpire is being directed that only these two coaches with their credentials displayed are the only ones allowed to address them during the course of a game.

Starting April 1 all coaches are required to wear/display their ACE credentials during each game. If a coach forgets or doesn't have their ACE credentials, then they will not be allowed to address the umpire during “actual game play” with the following exceptions; coaches meeting with the umpire just prior to the game, and if an injury to one of their players occurs during the game. The coach and/or assistant coach without ACE credentials will be allowed to address the umpire between innings, but not during actual play. However, they must identify themselves to the umpire prior to game start.

This policy may seem harsh to some coaches, but each ACE certified coach is a direct representative of the league and they need to fulfill their responsibilities accordingly. I don't think any coach would try to have its players play a game without the proper equipment (bats/balls/helmets, etc...) therefore the ACE credentials worn on a lanyard are part of your game equipment.

Again, the ultimate goal is to make the Lassie League experience more enjoyable for all and to have a safe and secure environment for our players.

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Jack Paddie PWLL, President