

Western Maryland Youth Lacrosse Conference



2009 Youth Lacrosse Rules
Sideline Manager Guidelines

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Sideline Managers are required for each team at each game in the 2008 WMYLC spring season.

The sideline manager's main job is to help encourage, maintain and manage the sportsmanlike behavior of spectators, players and coaches on the sidelines, and fans. These adults are responsible for insuring that the spectators and fans support the athletes, coaches and officials in a positive manner and refrain from behavior not in conformity with the US Lacrosse code of conduct. It is the nature of the sideline manager's duties to help prevent unsportsmanlike behavior so that the players do not witness such behavior and that such behavior does not require the officials to take action to stop or end the game.

It is important that each club and team explain the duties and authority of the sideline manager to the parents and players of each team. It is important for all associated with each team to be informed that each club/team retains the authority to prevent a player, spectator or a parent/relative of a player from attending games with their team. Clubs and teams can prohibit their players and spectators from participation for exhibiting inappropriate behavior. The sideline manager, the head coach, and the club coordinator for that team are all individuals that can enforce this. Each team must clearly communicate this to all players and spectators on a regular basis.

Once the officials arrive at the field, they have the authority (by the rules) to penalize and/or eject players, spectators, coaches, and other game personnel from the contest for inappropriate behavior. The officials also have the authority to stop/terminate the game at any time if in their opinion the game is not controllable and behavior(s) are out of control. Officials will be instructed not to start games for which a sideline manager from each team is not present and actively policing sportsmanship.

1. Each team must have one designated sideline manager for each game. This includes the home team and the visiting team at each game.
2. Sideline managers must maintain a calm and friendly demeanor during the performance of their duties. It is advised that individuals be selected to be sideline managers that are of "even temperament" and have good communication and "people skills".
3. The head coach from each team is responsible for instructing each sideline manager in these guidelines.

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4. Each sideline manager must have received instruction from his or her respective head coach prior to participating as a sideline manager.
5. Approximately 15 minutes before each game, the sideline managers should be present at the table area. At that time, the officials will confirm with both head coaches the presence of the sideline managers for each team. The officials will provide the additional instructions, if any, to the head coaches to pass on to the sideline managers.
6. After the table area introduction, and approximately 10 minutes before the start of the game, the sideline managers will move to the spectator side of the field.
7. On the spectator side of the field, the sideline managers will each take ½ of the sideline and address groups of the spectators, in approximate 10 to 15 yard sections along the side of the field, to instruct the spectators as to the acceptable behavior at WMYLC lacrosse games. This is most easily done by reading the following script:

Good day spectators, welcome to this Western Maryland Youth Lacrosse Conference game. Good sportsmanship by spectators is mandatory.

- *It is acceptable for spectators to cheer on the players and provide positive encouragement to the players.*
 - *It is not acceptable for spectators to comment on the actions of the officials **in any way**.*
 - *It is not acceptable for spectators to bait or taunt players on the field, or spectators from the other team.*
 - *It is not acceptable for spectators to prompt players to commit fouls.*
 - *It is not acceptable for spectators to prompt players to be un-necessarily violent, vicious, fight, or behave in a dangerous manner.*
 - *It is not acceptable for spectators to use profanity in any way or prompt players to use profanity.*
 - *It is not acceptable for spectators to argue or fight with other spectators.*
 - *It is not acceptable for spectators to use tobacco products, alcohol or illegal drugs while at the field.*
8. It is typical that with two sideline managers (one from the home and one from the visiting team), that each manager will probably only have to repeat the script 3 times to present the script to all of the sideline spectators.
 9. Immediately before the game begins and during the game, the sideline managers must patrol to verify that all spectators remain on the opposite side of the field and approximately 10 yards away from the sideline.

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10. Once the game begins, the sideline managers will patrol the spectator sideline together to monitor the behavior of the spectators. If individual spectators exhibit inappropriate behavior, the sideline managers together should do the following:
- Together, ask the name of the individual and to which team the individual is associated.
 - The sideline manager for that team is then to politely ask the spectator to desist from the inappropriate behavior.
 - The sideline manager can also present the individual with a “purple card” that reiterates in writing the proper behavior.
 - The name of the individual is to be recorded (preferably at a time when the individual is not watching).
 - The sideline manager for that team is then to forward the name to the club coordinator for that team.
 - If the individual repeats inappropriate behavior, during the current game, the sideline manager for that team may request the spectator to leave the field area, not to return for the rest of the contest.
 - If an individual is ejected from and game by an official, that individual is automatically not allowed to attend the next game for that team. The sideline managers are to report the ejections to the club coordinator for that team. The club coordinators are responsible for verification that ejected individuals do not participate in the next contest.
 - If the individual repeats inappropriate behavior at a subsequent game, the sideline manager for that team can request sanctions from that team’s club coordinator against that individual. Sanctions can include banning from attendance at future games and suspension of the player connected to the unruly spectator.
 - Inappropriate behavior and unsportsmanlike conduct is very serious. Teams must implement serious penalties for this behavior and enforce the penalties on first offenses to eliminate the inappropriate behavior from WMYLC activities.
11. If individuals do not immediately stop the inappropriate behavior, and will not leave the area if requested to by the sideline manager, head coach, or officials, the police may be contacted to help remove the individual from the area. If a spectator threatens violence at any time, the police will be contacted to help remove the individual from the area. It is possible that the contest is very close to termination by the officials if behavior deteriorates to that level.

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12. If the officials become aware of inappropriate behavior, the officials may elect to implement an “officials” timeout and discuss the situation with the head coaches. The head coaches will communicate to the sideline managers the issues involved. The sideline managers from both teams together will communicate the issues to the spectators. The head coaches and sideline managers are to communicate with the individuals involved to eliminate the inappropriate behavior.
13. At the beginning of halftime of each game, the officials will meet with the head coaches at the table area to review the 1st half and determine if any additional actions by the sideline managers are needed.
14. At the end of the game, the sideline managers are to meet with the head coaches to review the 2nd half and to receive from the officials any information regarding ejections that require subsequent actions by the team to prevent participation of the ejected individuals in the next contest. This information will be communicated by the head coaches to the sideline managers for communication to the club coordinators.
15. At the end of the game, the sideline managers are to observe the departure of the spectators, players, and game personnel to verify that inappropriate behavior does not occur during that time.

Purple Card:

Attention!

You are exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct at this WMYLC game.

You will be asked to leave if you do not stop this behavior.

It is acceptable for spectators to cheer on the players and provide positive encouragement to the players.

*It is not acceptable for spectators to comment on the actions of the officials **in any way**.*

It is not acceptable for spectators to bait or taunt players on the field, or spectators from the other team.

It is not acceptable for spectators to prompt players to commit fouls.

It is not acceptable for spectators to prompt players to be un-necessarily violent, vicious, fight, or behave in a dangerous manner.

It is not acceptable for spectators to use profanity in any way or prompt players to use profanity.

It is not acceptable for spectators to argue or fight with other spectators.

It is not acceptable for spectators to use tobacco products, alcohol or illegal drugs while at the field.

Your actions have run contrary to the high level of sportsmanship expected of participants at all events sponsored by the Western Maryland Lacrosse Conference

Clean up your act

or you will be escorted off the field and from the site of this event.

Your behavior does not reflect “the spirit of the game“ Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated by anyone.

Period.

WMYLC Code of Ethics Declaration Form

_____ Year

I _____ as a player, coach, parent, volunteer, officer, spectator, or official do hereby affirm and declare that I will uphold the principles of good sportsmanship and fair play endorsed by U.S. Lacrosse (addressed in the *U.S. Lacrosse Parents Guide to the Sport of Lacrosse*, *National Federation Rule Books*, and *NCAA Rule Books*).

By doing so, I will exhibit a civil and respectful behavior toward all game officials, opposing teams, their coaches, their fans, conference organizers/ administrators, and any other individuals I might encounter during the course of any practices, games and activities.

I will encourage all young people of any age, gender, ethnic background, or religion to learn all they can about the sport of Lacrosse, its historical origins, and the differences (and the similarities) between the boys and girls versions of the sport. Further, I will strive to assure that there is an opportunity for any young person that wishes, to learn and play the sport of Lacrosse.

I will provide a positive influence by encouraging young people to be responsible, reliable, dependable, and trustworthy team members, giving positive reinforcement at every opportunity, while refraining from critical remarks about their play, their coach, and/or game officials.

As a spectator, player, coach, or official, I will conduct myself in a manner that respects the other participants and provides positive encouragement of the players. I will not comment on the actions of the officials in any way. I will not bait or taunt players on the field, or spectators from the other team. I will not prompt players to commit fouls. I will not prompt players to be un-necessarily violent, vicious, fight, or behave in a dangerous manner. I will not use profanity in any way or prompt players to use profanity. I will not argue or fight with other spectators, players, or participants. I will not use tobacco products, alcohol or illegal drugs while at the field.

If coaching, I will emphasize the learning and enhancing of the skills necessary to play and enjoy the sport, allowing the players to make mistakes and allowing all players to *participate, play, and have fun*. Competitiveness will not be an overriding concern; teaching and enjoying the sport of Lacrosse will be the paramount goal. I will be available and open for questions and discussions with all players and their parents. I will treat all players, parents, opposing coaches, opposing teams, conference officers and game officials with the same level of respect and courtesy that I wish to be treated.

If a player, I will treat every other lacrosse player, coach, parent, fan, volunteer, and game official with the same level of respect that I wish to receive.

_____ (Print Name)

_____ (Signature)

_____ (Status)
(List all that apply: Player, Coach, Parent, Official, Conference Volunteer, Conference Officer)

_____ Date