



# Penfield Youth Lacrosse Behavior Guidelines/Basic Principles

The PYL Program Philosophy operates on a belief that our players should learn the complete game while retaining the flexibility to consider all positions while in their developmental stage. There is no specialization of positions and our prime mission is to teach sound fundamentals. The requirements of a completed pass before shooting on goal, two-handed checks, footwork in lieu of defensive-length sticks all serve to reinforce this goal.

## I. Prevention/Expectations

Communication of the Mission Statement and Philosophy to the players and their parents is accomplished using three (3) venues: preseason parents meeting; in-season parent memos; and coaching affirmations.

- Preseason parents meeting

PYL holds an annual parent meeting. Hand outs and other documents that specifically illustrate PYL philosophy and Mission Statement are shared. Each coach is introduced and a question and answer period is afforded.

- In-season parent memos/emails

Throughout the course of the program, memos/emails are distributed to help coordinate logistical needs and to address any issues regarding Philosophy and Mission Statement that may arise. This is a critical form of communication and ALL parents are encouraged to provide an email address.

- Coaching affirmations

Setting expectations and requiring coaches to attend orientation meetings in the PYL philosophy of Positive Coaching will contribute significantly in preventing problems; however, it will not solve every problem.

PYL staff shall promote the concept of what it means to be a "winner" by reinforcing behaviors that promote:

- Making maximum effort.
- Strive to learn and improve.
- Refuse to let mistakes (or fear of making mistakes) stop them.



## **Inappropriate Behavior (con't)**

### **II. Monitoring**

Monitoring of all participants and spectators at game site and during practice shall be maintained by each team manager and/or coach who shall at his/her discretion summon the appropriate authorities by dialing "911".

### **III. Response**

#### **Players**

1. NFHS rule 4.1.2 requires the official to address both the coaches and players prior to each game concerning expectations of good sportsmanship.
2. NFHS Rule 5.9 describes penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct, which includes arguing, threatening, taunting, use of obscene language, calling undue attention to oneself. Penalties are 1-3 minutes and are unreleasable.
3. Striking or acting with the intent to inflict harm shall be expelled from the game. If a second incident involving the same individual occurs during the balance of the season, he/she shall be expelled from the program.

#### **Coach**

Coaching personnel serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors and may be subject to his/her full and immediate dismissal. PYL has a process for dealing with problem coaches, depending on the severity of the problem (there may be some cases so abusive that immediate suspension of the coach is justified).

Every complaint shall be investigated. A process for the evaluation of complaints and removal of abusive coaches has been established as follows:

1. Complaints from parents or athletes lodged against any member of the PYL staff shall be addressed to the President of the PYL organization. The President shall immediately discuss with the coach to get his or her perspective in order to determine their relationship to parent and/or child expectation.
2. If the complaints are well founded, the coach will be instructed what he/she needs to do to improve so that future problems will not occur. After this discussion, the parents shall be informed that their concerns were looked into and steps were taken.



### **Inappropriate Behavior (con't)**

#### **Coach (con't)**

3. If the complaints come from unrealistic or inappropriate expectations, the President shall try to help the parents and athletes adjust their expectations to reasonable levels. Every effort shall be made to help the coach improve to the point that the coach, parents and athletes are satisfied with the outcome. The President shall maintain communication with all parties until resolution is achieved.

#### **Parent/Spectator**

As established by the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation, Inc. (NYSSF) in 2000, all parents will be required to sign as "read and understood" the NYSSF Sport Parent Code of Conduct which asserts that:

- The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship.
- There are six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

In the event that parents fail to abide by the NYSSF Code of Conduct, they will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following in order of severity:

1. Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization.
2. Written warning issued by the President of the PYL organization.
3. Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by all organizations involved.
4. Game forfeit through the official or coach.
5. Parental season suspension.



## PYL Basic Principles

1. Penfield Youth Lacrosse (PYL) is a not-for-profit corporation whose principle aims and objectives are to encourage, promote, and foster the growth of lacrosse for the youth of Penfield and the Rochester area.
2. PYL will provide a quality lacrosse program including skill development and competition for youth groups of various ages.
3. PYL will solicit moral and financial help from citizens and businesses to fund its programs.
4. PYL will attempt to maintain an equitable distribution of playing time for all participants\*.
5. Lacrosse is a sport requiring a fair amount of technical skill. At the youth level, body contact/checking is not allowed by rule. **Lacrosse at any level however remains a "contact" sport.** Players will encounter incidental body contact and there is the possibility of getting hit by the lacrosse ball.
6. To help achieve basic skill levels and to maintain safety among participants, PYL coaches are committed to providing as many structured practice opportunities as possible. In return, PYL will require a basic, ongoing commitment from participants and their parents. This means a commitment to the following:
  - a. Attend PYL practices on a regular, ongoing basis;
  - b. Participants must practice stick skills on their own;
  - c. Proper and timely treatment and return of PYL equipment;
  - d. PYL participants **MUST** pay attention to the coaches and field of play while at practice or games;
  - e. \*Participants **MUST** maintain a minimum level of "interested participation" while on the field of play. This is particularly important at the younger ages. If your child cannot maintain this minimum level, PYL coaches will ask your child to sit. Under this scenario your child may see less playing time than another child.

There may be some events/tournaments after the official end of the PYL season which include PYL players and coaches but are NOT sponsored by PYL. The above guidelines may or may not apply in these cases.