

Bethel Park Youth Lacrosse Association

Policies & Code of Conduct with Standard Waiver

1) Team Composition

Player registration is via online registration only. Player participation will be provided on a "first come - first serve" basis as provided via online registration. Historically, year-to-year registration fluctuations can result in awkward numbers of players to field more than one team per age group. Team size and composition shall be based upon a number of factors, including registration numbers, coaching staff availability, field availability, and other related factors. In any particular season, the Board may determine that registration for a specific age group may not be available or may limit the number of teams in a specific age group.

Teams will consist of players eligible for age level based on Western Pennsylvania Youth Lacrosse Association (WPYLA) regulations. At no time is a player allowed to play in an age group other than designated. Exceptions to the team composition policy can be made from season to season as voted on by the Board with input provided by the Coaches in determining how to best proceed for any given age group or team.

2. Player Call-up Policy

From time to time, teams may have difficulty fielding enough players to play a complete game. If, (1.) an age group has more than one team per age group, and (2.) it is apparent that the team may not have enough players to play a game, at the coaches' discretion, Bethel Park Youth Lacrosse Association ("BPYLA" or "Association") will allow a player from a lower or equal-level team to play on the other team within the player's age-group. At no time should a player on an "A-Team" be allowed to play down a level for a "B-Team" and at no time should a player be allowed to move up a level if it is to the detriment of the age group the player belongs in.

3. Discipline Policy

All BPYLA members are expected to abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the Bethel Park Student Code of Conduct, even if the player does not attend Bethel Park schools. Discipline problems that arise during the year shall be addressed by the coaches and referred to the Board for action if necessary.

4. Expense Policy

The purpose of this policy is to reimburse individuals for legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of and for the purpose of the BPYLA, while at the same time maintaining fiscal responsibility and accountability of BPYLA funds. Reimbursable expenses are defined as expenses that are pre-approved expenses an individual incurs on behalf of BPYLA. The Treasurer or other authorized Board member is authorized to reimburse an individual for reimbursable and appropriately approved expenses. Board members are authorized to make payment from personal funds for reimbursable expenses up to \$250. Other persons needing to make expenditure of own funds for reimbursable expenses up to \$250 must make a request preferably through e-mail to the President or the Treasurer to verify approval of expenditure. Reimbursement for reimbursable expenses exceeding \$250 requires preapproval by the Board. If reimbursement is to a member of the Board that person may not vote on such approval. In the event that urgent payment exceeding \$250 for an otherwise reimbursable expense is needed and getting pre-approval is not possible, any person making such payment assumes full responsibility for that payment. The person may subsequently request approval for reimbursement from the Board. A person requesting reimbursement shall submit all detailed receipts and written explanation for expenses prior to any reimbursement. The preferred and quickest way to submit reimbursement is by scanning and attaching the documents and sending to the Treasurer. All requests should be submitted within 14 days of expenditure.

5. Other Staff

Coaches

Volunteer Coaches will oversee all games and practices in accordance with BPYLA Policies and overall spirit of BPYLA Objectives. All Coaches will be approved by the Board. Preference will be afforded to those with previous lacrosse experience whether as a coach or player. All Coaches will have Pennsylvania Criminal background checks and Pennsylvania Child Abuse History reports. In addition, all Head Coaches will also have to have passed appropriate US Lacrosse Level Certifications and have forward them to the President on or before January 1, of the fiscal year. If a Head Coach or an Assistant Coach is not approved by the Board they can request a meeting with the Board to discuss the reasons for the non-approval.

A.) All coaches will make every effort to ensure the safety and well-being of every participant at all times. B.) All coaches will be expected to be present and punctual for all scheduled practices, scrimmages, games and other Lacrosse activities. C.) All coaches will be held accountable for the conduct of himself assistant coaches and players. D.) All coaches will be expected to impart Lacrosse knowledge, training and skill development to players via recognized and accepted sporting methods of instruction, E.) All coaches will be expected to encourage positive reinforcement and feedback as often as possible during the course of instruction and interactions. F.) Head Coaches will be expected to attend all Executive Board meetings if so directed in addition to attending any pertinent affiliated league meetings in order to be properly informed in the understanding of league matters, dealings, requirements, etc. G.) Head Coaches will take immediate positive actions surrounding any occurrence involving hazing, shunning or other unsportsmanlike gestures involving teammates. H.) Head Coaches will make best efforts to ensure virtual equal playing time for all participants. I.) Head Coaches will be responsible prior to commencement of their respective game to ensure that an Emergency Medical person is on site and located at the table area. Contests should not commence without said personnel properly recognized and seated. The Head Coach will ensure that communication is available prior to commencement of game. Additionally, the Head Coach is to maintain contact player information, specifically to contact player guardian or parent in event of emergency. Head Coach will ensure that competent timekeepers, scorekeepers or other appropriate table personnel are located at the table area prior to commencement of game. J.) All coaches are encouraged to attend established Lacrosse seminars and clinics designed for the purpose of imparting positive coaching techniques and training, Lacrosse knowledge, transferable skill development techniques, and general coaching improvement, etc.

All Coaches are expected to comply with all duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Bylaws. Violation of the Bylaws may result in a warning suspension or dismissal from BPYLA.

Business Manager

There will be one (1) Business Manager for each team. The Business Manager shall assist the Coaches with player attendance & management and communication to their respective team. Other duties may be assigned by the Head Coach of the respective team and/or by the Board. The Head Coach will recruit and select the Business Manager of their respective team. Parents of players that have issues, concerns with the Coaches should approach the Business Manager. The Business Manager then must bring all issues or concerns to the Board's attention within 48 hours of the complaint from the parent.

Bethel Park Youth Lacrosse Association

Player, Parent and Coach Code of Conduct

Youth Sports should be fun for players, parents and coaches.

Bethel Park Youth Lacrosse Association (BPYLA) believes that all of our children should be allowed to develop a love for each sport they participate in while also learning the value of sportsmanship. With this in mind, BPYLA firmly believes that all parents and coaches play an important role in our program, and that young athletes learn valuable lessons by watching the behaviors and attitudes of the adults who supervise their activities. We take very seriously our responsibility to help our players learn and demonstrate fundamentals, as well as proper knowledge and respect of the game. We are committed to helping parents in building character in our players.

BPYLA also recognizes that sports are competitive by nature. Therefore, BPYLA pledges to create a positive learning experience where our children learn the importance of teamwork and good sportsmanship, while at the same time learn to play and respect the game.

The BPYLA Code of Conduct is in place to help support our players, coaches and parents.

Please make sure you read and adhere to the following BPYLA Code of Conduct at all times.

PARENT AND COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child, and other children, participating in youth sports by following this Parent and Coach Code of Conduct. I also understand that this is a Zero Tolerance policy.

1. I will have my child arrive on time for all games and practices and let the coach know in advance if my child will be absent, arriving late or leaving early.
2. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
3. I will not engage in any type of physical or verbal abuse of any player, coach, spectator or official at any time.
4. I will never question or dispute a referee call with words or actions.
5. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child, and other children, ahead of my personal desire to win, and keep in mind that the game is for our children - not for adults.
6. I will support coaches and officials working with my child in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
7. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
8. I will insist that my child treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect, regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
9. Any concerns about how BPYLA is run, how coaches are coaching or how referees are officiating should be referred to the Business Manager first, and if not satisfied, then to BPYLA.
10. I will contact BPYLA and report any type of physical or verbal abuse or non-fair play that I eyewitness.
11. I understand, that in order for my child to be eligible for play, I must complete all required forms and applications, and pay the required membership and sport fees as per BPYLA direction.

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

I understand that I am representing BPYLA and pledge to follow this Player Code of Conduct. I understand that playing for BPYLA is a privilege which may be lost if I choose not to follow this code. Finally, I also understand that this is a Zero Tolerance policy.

1. I will encourage my teammates at all times and put my team first ahead of my personal needs.
2. I will treat our fields and equipment and the fields and equipment of our hosts with respect. I will be considerate of those around me including watching my language.
3. I will never question or dispute a referee call with words or actions.
4. I will be on the field, dressed and prepared at the start of all games and practices.
5. I will be aware that I am representing BPYLA and that my actions are a direct reflection on BPYLA.
6. I will Respect the Game.

7. BPYLA reserves the right to discipline a player for any off field incidents, even if the incidents do not relate to BPYLA.

The Bethel Park Youth Lacrosse Association Code of Conduct is strict and serious in our sport. All people associated with the game are always expected to act with sportsmanship, dignity and respect for others. This includes players, parents, coaches and referees.

Poor sportsmanship includes:

- Arguing with coaches, officials, teammates, opponents or spectators
- Using threatening or profane language
- Baiting or taunting coaches, officials, teammates, opponents or spectators
- Unsafe play
- Uncontrolled behavior in the bench area

Poor sportsmanship will carry, at a minimum, the following consequences for the player, parent or coach:

- First Offense = Verbal warning
- Second Offense = Dismissal from the game
- Third Offense = Dismissal from the next game
- Fourth Offense = Dismissal from the team, camp or league

We, player and parent(s), have discussed the BPYLA Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it. We understand that there is no refund or recourse for dismissal from our program as a consequence of breaking this Code of Conduct.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS BPYLA CODE OF CONDUCT AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. I AM AWARE THAT ANY FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THIS CODE OF CONDUCT WILL SUBJECT THE PARENT AND/OR MY CHILD TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION FROM BPYLA. THIS DISCIPLINARY ACTION MAY INCLUDE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: EXTRA RUNNING, FORFEITED PLAYING TIME; SUSPENSION AND/OR EXPULSION FROM BPYLA, AS WELL AS ALL BPYLA SPONSORED ACTIVITIES WITHOUT REFUND OF ANY MONIES PAID. I AGREE THAT ALL DECISIONS IN THESE MATTERS MADE BY BPYLA ARE FINAL AND BINDING.

In addition, I understand that failure to accept this Code of Conduct will make my child ineligible to participate in any BPYLA sponsored activity for the calendar year.

Bethel Park Youth Lacrosse Association (BPYLA) - Standard Waiver

I/we for myself, my heirs, personal representative and assigns do hereby now and forever release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue BPYLA, its directors, officers, employees and agents from liability from any and all claims, including negligence resulting in personal injury, accidents or illness (including death) and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in any activities sponsored by BPYLA.

The sport of Lacrosse carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary; however, the risks range from 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, sprains and embarrassment 2) major injuries such as joint or back injuries, head injuries and psychological trauma 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death.

I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in the sport of Lacrosse. I hereby assert that my child's participation is voluntary and that I/we knowingly assume all such risks.

I agree to indemnify and hold BPYLA from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages, liabilities, including attorney's fees brought as a result of my child's participation and involvement with BPYLA and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred by them.

The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risk agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall notwithstanding, continue in full force and effect.

I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understanding its terms, and understand that I am giving up substantial rights including the right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and intend my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Bethel Park Youth Lacrosse Association (BPYLA) Membership Agreement

In consideration of my membership in BPYLA, and my participation in BPYLA sanctioned events, I agree to the following:

1. **READINESS TO COMPETE:** I will only participate in those BPYLA events and competitions for which I believe I am physically and psychologically prepared to compete.
2. **MEDICAL ATTENTION:** I hereby give my consent to BPYLA and the host organization of my BPYLA sanctioned event to provide, through a medical staff of its choice, customary medical/athletic training attention, transportation and emergency medical services as warranted in the course of my participation in BPYLA and sanctioned events.