



# Oakville Minor Lacrosse Association Code of Conduct

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All youth participating in the lacrosse programs of the Oakville Minor Lacrosse Association (OMLA) enjoy the following rights and are entitled to the protection of these rights.

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** You have the right to participate in a program in which sportsmanship, honesty and integrity are the cornerstones.

**RESPECT:** You have the right to the respect of your coaches, coaching staff, your teammates, the coaches, coaching staff and players of the opposing team, the referees and spectators and each of them has the right to expect the same of you.

**PARTICIPATION:** You have the right to participate fully in the activities of your team, but not necessarily equally.

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT:** You have the right to learn about your sport and develop your skills to the maximum of your potential.

**FREEDOM FROM ABUSE:** You have the right to say no to physical contact or interaction with any member of the coaching staff or any other person in a position of authority or influence.

**FREE SPEECH:** You have the right to speak freely without fear of recrimination.

**FAIR TREATMENT:** You have the right to be treated fairly and with impartiality.

**FUN:** You have the right to have fun.

OMLA upholds a zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol for any Association events or activities regardless of location for its members and any individuals attending or participating.

OMLA accepts responsibility for the behavior of its members and will take the necessary disciplinary actions against any individual (Parents/Guardians, players, coaches, coaching staff and spectators) who fail to comply with the codes; this may result in disciplinary measures, including suspension and/or expulsion.

## PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. I am responsible for my conduct at all times, I will always be a positive representative of the OMLA and the Town of Oakville;
  2. I will always play by the rules of lacrosse, and in the spirit of the game;
  3. I will, regardless of the outcome of the game, congratulate my team-mates, coach, coaching staff as well as the players and coach, coaching staff of the opposing team in a genuine and positive manner;
  4. I will respect the referee's decision, I will let the coach or team captain address the referees and then shall do so only in a civil tone and manner;
  5. I will control my temper, behavior and language – fighting or “mouthing-off” can spoil the activity for everyone;
  6. I will work at achieving my personal best and to not get discouraged if it's not the best. I will work hard to improve my skills at practice and in games. I will make every reasonable effort to attend all scheduled practices and games, arrive on time and I will contact the team manager or coach if I am unable to attend for any reason;
  7. I will respect the rights and consider the safety of other players; I will not set out to intentionally maim or injure another player, in actions, words, conduct or inaction and I shall not encourage, support or approve of such behavior by others;
  8. I will do my best to be a team player;
  9. I will remember that winning isn't everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are as important;
  10. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.
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## PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT:

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1. I will remember that my youth and all players participate for their fun and enjoyment, not mine;
2. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of my youth and all players ahead of any personal desire to win;
3. I will teach my youth and encourage all players that doing one's best is as important as winning so that my youth and all players will never feel defeated by the outcome of the game;
4. I will remember that youth learn by example. I will applaud good plays and performances by all players involved in the game;
5. I will not speak negatively about players, coaches and coaching staff, referees, other parents/guardians or spectators; \*
6. I will respect the referee's decisions and I will encourage all players to do the same;
7. I will remember that the locker room is where the team prepares for a game and not a place for me to hang out or give instruction;
8. As a parent/guardian, I will practice and encourage open communication with the coaches and coaching staff. I will bring concerns forward and adhere to a 24 hr cool down period as required to address an issue or contentious point. I will respect the coach's decision and not interfere with or undermine the coaches or coaching staff;
9. As a parent/guardian, I will inform the coach of any ailment that may affect the safety of my youth or the safety of others and I will not permit my youth to compete without complete and safe equipment;
10. As a parent/guardian, I will make every reasonable effort to have my youth attend all scheduled practices and games, arrive on time and I will contact the team manager or coach if my youth is unable to attend for any reason.

\* Derogatory comments aimed at any player, coach, or referee from a spectator shall be addressed with the following:

- First offence – documented meeting with discipline committee;
  - Second offence – enrolment and completion of the 'Speak Out' / "Respect In Sport" course;
  - Third offence – banned for the balance of the season;
  - Fourth offence – life time ban from OMLA.
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## COACHES AND COACHING STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. I will lead by example and I will work to create a desire for our players to do their best while playing the fastest game on two feet – LACROSSE;
  2. I will remember that players need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example at all times through my actions and words;
  3. I will teach my players to play fairly and to respect rules, officials, team-mates, opponents, parents/guardians and spectators;
  4. I will ensure my players get fair instruction, support and playing time;
  5. I will not ridicule or yell at my players for making mistakes or for performing poorly;
  6. I will remember that players play lacrosse to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves;
  7. I will obtain proper training and will continue to upgrade my coaching skills;
  8. I will be reasonable when scheduling extra practices and team events, remembering that players have other interests and obligations;
  9. I will cooperate with officials, on and off the floor/field, for the benefit of the game and players;
  10. There is a need for regular, open communication with parents/guardians, coaching staff, players and Association officials. As a coach, I will be approachable at any time regarding anything to do with players or the team 24 hours after a game.
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## ASSOCIATION (OMLA) CODE OF CONDUCT:

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1. We will do our best to see that all players are given the same opportunity to participate, regardless of gender, ability, ethnic background or race;
2. We will make sure that all prudent and reasonable, appropriate and necessary measures are taken on an ongoing basis to protect the safety of all players, coaches and volunteers wherever OMLA activities take place;
3. Make sure that age, skill level and maturity level of the players are considered in program development, rule enforcement and scheduling;
4. Remember that play is done for its own sake and make sure that winning is kept in proper perspective;
5. We will make sure that appropriate and thorough screening of all those who provide service on behalf of OMLA, both before, but especially after they are involved, seeking to have coaches, coaching staff, officials and other volunteers who are capable of promoting fair play as well as the development of good technical skills;
6. We will distribute, publicize, promote, implement and enforce the Codes of Conduct within the OMLA.

## HARRASSMENT AND ABUSE:

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The OMLA strictly adheres to the Harassment, Race and Discrimination Policy [http://ontariolacrosse.com/content/pdf/ola\\_documents/content\\_86.pdf](http://ontariolacrosse.com/content/pdf/ola_documents/content_86.pdf) outlined by the Ontario Lacrosse Association

The OMLA's goal is to eliminate all forms of harassment and abuse, including physical and sexual abuse. OMLA's first priority is to protect its players and at the same time, coaches, parents and officials who can also be the targets of harassment and abuse.

The OMLA believes that you should have the ability to discuss any concerns that might be classified as harassment or abuse. The OMLA also believes that false allegations can be devastating to a person's career and personal life.

If you believe there is a need to discuss any incidents that, in your opinion, are issues of harassment or abuse please contact one of many OMLA Officials available to receive your concern. These OMLA Officials are Convenors, VP Rep, VP Houseleague, OMLA President or Members of the Executive Committee.

Any incidents of harassment and/or abuse will be handled directly by representatives of the OMLA or OMLA Board of Directors.