



# Lenora Park Athletic Association, Inc.

P.O Box 390471 • Snellville, GA 30039 • PH: 678-951-9145

## PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Lenora Park Athletic Association, Inc. (LPAA) is a community-based sports league. We believe in the power of athletics to nurture not only physical abilities but also develop superior life skills through building character, teamwork, and leadership. Our mission is to promote, encourage, and operate inclusive, high-quality athletic programs for the children and youth of the Lenora Park area and the Shiloh Cluster schools within Gwinnett County, Georgia by creating a positive and instructive environment where young athletes can thrive and grow.

To better achieve that mission, we provide the following Codes of Conduct for all LPAA players, parents, and coaches. These Codes of Conduct are a covenant between LPAA players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These Codes express our core values and goals. The LPAA Code of Conduct must be honored and followed. The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following four principles:

(1) **Demonstrate a Positive Attitude** – Approach every practice, game, and interaction with respect, encouragement, and optimism.

(2) **Set a Good Example** – Model sportsmanship, discipline, responsibility, and integrity both on and off the field.

(3) **Maintain Good Relationships** – Treat teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators with fairness, dignity, and respect.

(4) **Be Present, Punctual, and Willing to Serve** – Show commitment by arriving on time, being prepared, and stepping up to volunteer when needed.

Player and Coach consequences will be determined by the Head Coach, Sports Director, and/or Board of Directors for violations of the player Code of Conduct.



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## 1. DEMONSTRATING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude to everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches, or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of LPAA.

## 2. SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Each person associated with LPAA **is always accountable for his/her own behavior, on or off the field/court of play**. Parents, coaches, and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples. **LPAA will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community**. Such conduct includes, but not limited to: **Vulgarity** by coaches, players, or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches, or players; verbal abuse, threats, or physical violence toward anyone before, during, or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches, and parents. We require thorough self-restraint by all participants - both players and adults. **Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.**

## 3. MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

**Officials** - The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human, and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform the appropriate league or tournament officials about blatant officiating problems. In accordance with Gwinnett Football League (GFL) Rules & Regulations, verbal abuse toward a referee/umpire or other sports official can result in penalties and ejections for the player, coach, or parent. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control their players and parents/supporters.

**Opponents** - Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches, and fans always. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of Sports and everyday life, is completely undermined. Occasionally, we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score.

**Our Own Family (Team)** - In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in which members put their own needs second, behind the greater



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good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coach's authority. As in most cases, parental examples are all-important.

## **4. BEING PRESENT, PUNCTUAL, AND WILLING TO SERVE**

Players, parents, coaches, and officials are expected to demonstrate commitment by showing up on time, being prepared, and participating fully in all LPAA activities. Punctuality and consistent attendance show respect for teammates, coaches, and the program. In addition, volunteering is a vital part of our community. LPAA relies on the time, effort, and support of families and participants to provide the best possible experience for our athletes. By giving time to assist with events, game-day needs, and program operations, members not only strengthen the league but also model service, teamwork, and responsibility for the next generation. Everyone associated with LPAA is accountable for honoring their commitments by being present, punctual, and willing to serve.



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## PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

**It is a privilege to play sports for LPAA. As an LPAA athlete, I will:**

1. Play the game for the game's sake, and not just to please my parents or coach.
2. Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
3. Respect the game and its laws, learn these laws and try to follow them, and play the game fairly.
4. Work for the good of my team and always give my best effort.
5. Show respect for the authority of the referee, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.
6. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. I understand that sports are a game, and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
7. Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated.
8. Help my parents and fans understand the laws of the game so they can watch and enjoy the game better. I will be sure they understand that dissent is not appropriate or permitted in our Family, nor at league or tournament games.
9. Maintain composure and refrain from reacting, even when I feel I have been treated unfairly.
10. Not use or possess alcohol, or illegal, or performance-enhancing drugs.

***Player consequences will be determined by the Head Coach, Sports Director, Executive Director, and/or Board of Directors for violations of the player Code of Conduct.***



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## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### 1. REPORTING IMPROPER CONDUCT

Lenora Park Athletic Association, Inc. provides a forum on its website to allow coaches, players, parents, spectators, and officials to report to the Sports Director and Executive Board any issues they observe before, during, or after practices and games. The link to report Code of Conduct violations and Offensive Actions can be found under “Contact Us” on the LPAA website.

#### a. Reporting by Coaches

- i. It is the responsibility of every coach to address improper conduct observed by the coach or brought to the coach’s attention in a timely and respectful manner.
- ii. In the event any coach feels that the Sports Director and Executive Board should be involved in addressing any improper conduct, the coach is encouraged to contact the Sports Director and Executive Board through the LPAA website.
- iii. Coaches must report any Offensive Actions to the Sports Director and Executive Board, including, without limitation:
  1. Any report or allegation of inappropriate physical contact, violence, or threatened violence against any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or Lenora Park Athletic Association, Inc.
  2. Any observed or reported use of drugs or alcohol by any player, coach, official, parent, or spectator during any LPAA event.
  3. Any situation where a player, coach, parent, or spectator is ejected from a game or removed from the premises.
- iv. Coaches are encouraged to keep the Sports Director and Executive Board informed of any improper conduct and the steps taken by the coach to address the misconduct, even if the coach is not required to report the misconduct to the Sports Director and Executive Board.
- v. Coaches shall promptly respond to any request by the Sports Director and Executive Board for information relating to any incident or violation of the Code of Conduct.

#### b. Reporting by Parents and Spectators

- i. Parents and spectators are encouraged to report any improper conduct to the coach and/or the Disciplinary Committee.
- ii. If a parent or spectator reports misconduct to the coach and feels that the misconduct is not appropriately addressed, the parent or spectator is encouraged to contact the Board of Directors through the LPAA website.



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## **2. PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING IMPROPER CONDUCT**

### **a. Coaches and Officials**

- i. Coaches and officials shall promptly address any misconduct that is observed or brought to the attention of the coach or official during an LPAA event.
- ii. Coaches and officials have absolute authority, in their sole discretion, to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any player, parent, or spectator from any game or match if the player, parent, or spectator violates the Code of Conduct or engages in any Offensive Action.
- iii. Officials have the absolute authority to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any coach from any game or match if the coach violates the Code of Conduct or engages in any Offensive Action.

### **b. LPAA Board of Directors**

- i. The LPAA Board of Directors will conduct a timely and reasonable investigation into any misconduct reported to the Board of Directors. The scope of any investigation will be determined by the Sports Director and Executive Board (Disciplinary Committee) in its sole discretion, provided, however, that the Committee will provide any person accused of misconduct with a reasonable opportunity to be heard.
- ii. After a reasonable investigation, the Disciplinary Committee will determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of this Code of Conduct and any Offensive Action.
  - 1) Penalties will be based on the nature and severity of the violation.
  - 2) The Disciplinary Committee will strive to treat all similar offenses in a similar manner, while considering the individual facts and circumstances of each violation.
  - 3) The Disciplinary Committee will not discriminate in any manner in determining whether to impose a penalty or in determining which penalty to impose.
- iii. The Disciplinary Committee will keep reasonable and appropriate records of each reported violation and shall document each penalty and the reasons for imposing the penalty.

## **3. PENALTIES**

The Disciplinary Committee shall determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of the Code of Conduct and any Offensive Actions. Penalties may include any one or more of the following:

- a. Verbal Warning
- b. Written Warning
- c. Suspension:



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- i. One game suspension (can practice)
- ii. Multiple game suspension (can practice)
- iii. Indefinite suspension

d. Expulsion from LPAA

## **4. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- a. If a coach or parent is expelled from the program, any child associated with that person is also expelled from the program.
- b. If a player is suspended from the LENORA PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, they cannot participate in any LPAA competition for the duration of their suspension.
- c. If a player is expelled from the LENORA PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, they cannot participate in LPAA. If they are currently on a team, they will be removed from that team.
- d. Behavior of players may also subject them to discipline under the LENORA PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION code of conduct.
- e. There are NO REFUNDS as a result of any person being removed from the program.



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## 24 HOUR RULE

The 24hr rule is a rule that is in place to help keep peace between the coach and parents. The rules are simple. Parents are encouraged to wait 24 hours after the competition before discussing any concerns with the coach.

Reasons for the rule:

1. To allow the parents to calm down after the issue has developed.
2. Allow the coach to calm down after the competition.
3. Give parents and coaches time to think about the problem.
4. To prevent any unnecessary acts or scenes in front of players and other parents
5. Calmer heads will prevail!
6. To stop any embarrassing moments in front of the Player(s) or child(ren).
7. The hope that time to think about the issues will help to solve the problem in a positive manner and the right resolution. Sometimes in the heat of the moment parents and coaches say things that they really do not mean. Improper management can negatively affect the player or team. The parent & coach relationship is important, but the overall decisions should be based on what is best for the team and players. The rule is in place to help protect the players and team.



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I \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ (Player) do confirm that I have read and understand the Code of Conduct for LENORA PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and with my signature both promise and swear to abide by the rules and requirements of LPAA.

Player Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_