



**FUNDY LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND FAIR PLAY
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

Fundy Lacrosse Association MISSION STATEMENT

To provide children with opportunities to develop life & Lacrosse skills through team development and fair play.

CORE VALUE STATEMENT

Fundy Lacrosse Association is an inclusive community club based program that provides every child with a fun, safe, positive playing environment; promoting the development of self-esteem, trust, respect, honesty, teamwork & sportsmanship through equal participation and accountability to all participants.

This will be accomplished by Promoting a culture of SAFETY and RESPECT, by establishing a standard of acceptable behaviour and attitude between the Executive, Parents (spectators), Coaches, Players and Officials, before, during and after the game, this will produce a positive environment throughout the Fundy Lacrosse Association (FLA).

INDEX

Why do I play lacrosse? 4

Fundy Lacrosse Association (FLA) Commitment to Team Development and Fair Play..... 5

 Playing Time..... 5

 Discipline 5

 Player Responsibility 5

Ensuring a Consistent Understanding of the Team Development and Fair Play Policy..... 6

General Code of Conduct 6

 Players..... 6

 Parents, Coaches, Administrators..... 7

Fair Play Program 8

Fair Play Committee.....8

Basic principles of Fair Play..... 8

Positives of Fair Play 9

Common concerns about Fair Play..... 9

Fair Play Codes of Conduct 10

 Players..... 10

 Parents/
Guardians.....
....11

 Coaches.....
.....12

 Fundy lacrosse Association (FLA) Executive
.....13

 Officials.....
.....14

Fair Play
Interventions.....
.....15

Fair Play Reconciliation Process.....16

Typical steps in a progressive discipline
system.....17

Fair Play Oath – PLAYERS.....18

Fundy Lacrosse Association (FLA) Commitment to Team Development and Fair Play

Team Development in FLA is about ensuring young players develop into good teammates and role models, and coaches enable this development through positive feedback and support of all players on a team.

Fair Play in FLA is about equal participation and is defined as follows:

When it is my turn to go out, I will be given the opportunity to go out and participate.

Playing Time

It is mandatory that each player on the team, including goaltenders, be given equal opportunity to floor time. Coaches should expect that there will be some losses, and maybe some close ones that are the result of mistakes made by a player that the coach would much rather not have had on the floor at the time, but whose turn it was to play. It is more important that the player experience the thrill of having been in on the play, and given it his/her best shot and lost, than to have been removed from the rotation because the coach thought he/she wasn't good enough or up to the challenge. An opportunity to play in pressure situations will give both the player and the coach the opportunity to work together for improvement, while building self-confidence and self-esteem in the player.

These policies do not bear instant results. However, they will in the long term, and will ultimately benefit and develop both individual players and their team.

Some of the important benefits of following this coaching style:

- The players will learn that they are responsible to the team and are more likely to give their best effort.
- There will be most assuredly faster improvement in every player and thus the team.
- All players and parents will feel that every player is an equal member of the team enhancing team spirit and morale.

Discipline

In order to establish player responsibility, any player(s) who violate team rules may have to forfeit one or more turns during a game. Team rules, established by the head coach, will be consistent with this Team Development and Fair Play policy, and will be applied consistently to all players on a team. FLA also realizes that children have other important activities which play a major role in their lives. All volunteers must keep this in mind when it comes to the children's participation in lacrosse. Coaches should recognize that if a player has a conflicting activity that is important to him/her, and gives sufficient notice for an absence, that he/she should not be disciplined. However, parents must realize, and communicate to their player, that making an honest effort to attend all team functions is essential in developing a team to its highest potential.

Player Responsibility

Players are responsible to try their best, and follow the coaches' and referees' directions. Any player making a minimal effort in a practice or a game, or deliberately not following coaching or referee direction, may have to forfeit a turn during practice and/or games while the coaches discuss the player's responsibility to the team with him/her. Note: this is not meant as a justification for sitting out weaker players in an attempt to win games, but as a coaching tool for the purpose of developing players into good teammates.

Ensuring a Consistent Understanding of the Team Development and Fair Play Policy

This program philosophy is the framework for putting the children playing lacrosse first. The aim of the FLA is to promote the philosophy contained within the FLA Mission Statement.

This policy is not about bringing a stop watch to games to determine if some players got more floor time than others during any one game. All FLA coaches will do their best to ensure their actions support the FLA CORE VALUE STATEMENT. However, during any one game some shifts will be shorter than others, some players will have to wait to go on the floor due to a penalty to their team, etc. These situations will happen, and parents must give coaches the benefit of the doubt that they will treat all players equally in these situations.

Parents should endeavor to understand the opportunities and limitations that are provided through a community club based program. Please also understand that team officials and administrators are volunteers. The programs offered by FLA are inclusive, not exclusive, and provide equal participation for all children.

To ensure everyone in FLA becomes familiar with and knowledgeable about the Team Development and Fair Play Policy:

- Coaches and team officials who will be on the bench must attend the general pre-season coaches meeting. The FLA Team Development and Fair Play Policy will be presented and explained.
- Parents and other volunteers will receive this Policy document by email.

This Policy is intended to address lacrosse issues within the Fundy Lacrosse Association. Therefore, issues arising from a perceived violation of the Team Development and Fair Play Policy and Procedure Manual, will be dealt with by the Fair Play committee through the Fair Play Intervention process and progressive discipline as described on page 16.

General Code of Conduct

Players

1. All players, with the assistance of their parents and coaches, will become familiar with the Team Development and Fair Play Policy.
2. Each player, in conjunction with their team mates and coaches, will establish personal and team goals for improvement.
3. All players will respect team mates, coaches, game officials, opponents, parents and facilities and conduct themselves as young, responsible individuals.
4. Players, in discussion with parents, should recognize the importance of their contribution to the team, and make every effort to attend all team activities.
5. Players should commit to giving their best effort at all times.
6. Failure to have the required equipment will prevent the player from participating.
7. All players will be dressed in their equipment prior to participating in practices and games at a time determined by the coaching staff. Ex. 15 minutes prior.
8. Players will contact their coaches if they are unable to attend games/practices and advise them with as much advance notice as possible. Failure to comply and the consequences will be outlined in the team rules.
9. Players will be assigned positions and line mates by the coaches.

Parents

1. Parents will make themselves completely familiar with the Team Development and Fair Play Policy as provided by the FLA.
2. Parents will discuss this Policy with their children in an effort to gain mutual understanding.
3. Parents will conduct themselves in a respectful manner at all times and at all locations. They will not ridicule, demean, challenge or abuse any player, parent, team official, game official or opponent. The FLA has adopted a zero tolerance attitude towards a breach of any of the aforementioned.
4. Parents will understand and support team rules.
5. Parents and players are responsible for providing all the necessary equipment required in a well maintained condition (i.e. Helmet screws tight, mouth guards present and used, sticks are regulation and in playing condition, etc.).

Coaches

1. Coaches and any other team official on the bench will attend a mandatory coach's meeting where the Team Development and Fair Play policy will be presented and explained. Failure to do so will disqualify any coach or team official from coaching.
2. Coaches will organize a meeting with players, as soon as possible, after team selection to deal with the following:
 - Establish team rules that include progressive forms of discipline. It is important to establish uniform consequences for failing to comply with team rules in order to reinforce player responsibility, accountability and teamwork.
3. Coaches are to ensure that they have attained the required coaching certifications.
4. Coaches will respect children, parents, opponents, officials, and program administrators. Coaches will never ridicule, embarrass, demean or abuse any player, parent, spectator, official or opponent.
5. Coaches conduct will be in accordance with the core values of FLA.
6. Coaches will prepare skill appropriate practices that are fun and challenging.
7. Coaches will determine player positions. Coaches will ensure all players experience equal participation, except for disciplinary purposes, as per the FLA Team Development and Fair Play Policy.
8. Coaches will encourage children to rise to their highest potential through positive reinforcement, attention to individual needs and constructive feedback.
9. Coaches will ensure the safety of the children at the arena/community centre, on the floor and in the dressing rooms by ensuring adult supervision before, during and after all games. No child should ever be left unsupervised.
10. Coaches will respectfully address issues & concerns presented to them within 72 hours of receipt.
11. The head coach, in conjunction with the Coach & Player Development Director, will ensure that all coaches have the necessary certifications (or will be obtaining necessary certifications) as required by CLA.

Administrators

1. The FLA will administer a lacrosse program reflective of the needs of the community it serves.
2. FLA will communicate the Team Development and Fair Play Policy to participants through annual coaches meetings, membership emails, and by posting on the FLA web site.
3. FLA will provide coaches with the training and resources to become effective in program development.
4. FLA will maintain accurate financial records and provide information for accountability.
5. FLA believes in Team Development and Fair Play, and that all players deserve equal opportunity. The association will strive to ensure the association's core values have been adhered to and take measures to ensure players receive the opportunity to excel to their highest potential as lacrosse players and responsible young people.

Fair Play Program

There will be a mandatory meeting for all coaches at the beginning of each season. No coach will be permitted behind the bench until they have attended this meeting.

To promote the safety and well-being of all children participating in the FLA, ALL coaches, and team representatives will be required to obtain a "Police Records Check. This check will expire at the end of three(3) seasons. Additionally it is the responsibility of persons noted to notify FLA of any changes in their status during the present Lacrosse season.

Fair Play Committee

This committee is separate from the FLA executive but will be appointed by the FLA executive. The committee will be made up of three individuals and appointments will be a term of 1 year. An executive member from the FLA will sit with the committee of three and will not have voting power. This FLA member will only be responsible to ensure that the Fair Play Policy as well of any policies of Lacrosse New Brunswick (LNB) and Lacrosse Canada that apply are followed.

The committee is responsible for implementing the Fair Play program, including educating members about the program, and dealing with any issues/concerns that are reported to the committee relating to breeches in Fair Play concepts/codes/pledges.

The committee would investigate these complaints by speaking with the individuals involved in an effort to correct the complaint expressed through use of the progressive discipline guidelines.

The Fair Play Committee would report only the types of issues they have dealt with and the corrective action taken to the Executive during their regular meetings thus maintaining confidentiality for all parties involved (I.E. no names of individuals who made complaints or were found to be in breach of the Fair Play code would be brought to the executive or any other member.

Additionally, only when a suspension was necessary because of failure to respond to the progressive corrective discipline would the President of FLA need to know the individual's name.

A Fair Play Program Can:

Make all individuals aware that playing in the Fundy Lacrosse Association is a PRIVILEGE, not a right.

Outline a clear set of expectations and guidelines that everyone can follow.

Promote and develop a positive set of values to coaches, player's parents and officials.

Develop a guide by which the Association executive body runs its programs, in addition to existing rules, regulations and objectives

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PLAY

- 1.** Respect the rules
- 2.** Respect the players and Parents
- 3.** Respect the Coaches, Officials and their decisions
- 4.** Have everyone participate
- 5.** Maintain your self-control at all times.

POSITIVES OF FAIR PLAY

Increased SAFETY and RESPECT on and off the ice by participants.

Increased positive team unity.

More appropriate spectator behaviour.

Decrease the win-at-all-cost attitude.

Increase of on-floor positive behaviour.

Participants take more responsibility for their actions.

Increase in sportsmanship.

More parents become promoters of positive attitudes.

Fair floor time for all players (As per FLA policy).

New participants are drawn to the game of Lacrosse by the positive aspects of Fair Play.

Refocusing of the intent of minor Lacrosse as a positive recreational program for many young players and other participants.

COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT FAIR PLAY

1. **Some parents may say their association doesn't need a Fair Play program.**

Fair Play says we wouldn't need programs such as Fair Play if more participants respected the rules, the opponents, the officials, having everyone participate, and everyone maintaining self-control at games. However, the basic principles of Fair Play are lacking in minor sports to some degree. As a result, many associations are confronted with spectators abusing their officials, their coaches, their players, and other volunteers. The 'win-at-all-cost' attitude is still evident when players only play a couple of shifts a game. Fair Play is necessary in any association to curb such negative incidents.

2. **Some parents may say that Fair Play will interfere with their child's sports career.**

Fair Play, if anything, will enhance anyone's sport career. Fair Play does not change the rules of the game. Fair Play encourages every player to be as competitive as possible, and to win as many games as possible, but within the rules. Fair Play teaches the player those aspects that will enhance sport ability and team play.

3. **Some parents may say they don't agree with Fair Play.**

The first question to ask of such parents is which one of the five Fair Play principles do they not agree with? If parents don't agree with the Fair Play principles, they do not agree with SAFETY and RESPECT in the game. Such parent's participation and purpose in becoming involved in minor sports should be re-examined.

4. **Some parents may say they don't agree with equal or fair playing time for all players, especially at competitive levels of minor sports.**

Fair Play says that everyone who joins a minor sports association pays certain registration fee. If everyone pays the same amount, everyone should play the same amount. If a competitive team coach selects his/her team, all players should receive the same and fair amount of ice time during the season. In games, due to various situations such as penalties, injuries, illness and other factors, equal ice time for all players is very difficult to maintain on a game-to game basis. Fair playing time based on everyone participating does accommodate the many factors that occur during games. Fair playing time is based on everyone participating, regardless of abilities, or level and is governed by LNB's Fair Play Policy.

Fair Play Codes of Conduct

PLAYERS

All FLA players are ambassadors for the Association, their respective communities and their teams. All players must understand that minor Lacrosse is a recreational activity. The FLA encourages all players to be as competitive as possible, but play within the rules of the game. All FLA players must maintain SAFETY and RESPECT during all Lacrosse activities. All players are reminded that all governing minor Lacrosse bodies maintain that playing minor Lacrosse is a privilege, not a right.

All players will agree to abide by the following FAIR PLAY Code:

I will play Lacrosse because I want to, not just because others or my coaches want me to.

I will control my temper – “fighting” and “mouthing off” spoil Lacrosse for everybody.

I will do my best to be a true team player.

I will remember that winning isn’t everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.

I will respect my teammates and my opponents.

I will acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of my team and of my opponents.

I will respect the safety of other players by playing within the rules of the game.

I will respect my coaches and officials at all times and remember that they are providing me with an opportunity to learn and play the game of Lacrosse.

Fun, learning skills and winning is the philosophy of this team, and in this order.

I will not use offensive, abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

I understand that school is more important than lacrosse.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians are role models for all players on the floor. Parents and other spectators must understand that minor Lacrosse is a recreational activity NOT an NLL farm club. The players are on the floor because you, as a parent/guardian, have given them the opportunity to participate in a minor Lacrosse program and your son/daughter enjoys playing the game. The best interest of the child pertaining to safety and well-being must be of foremost importance. Every parent wants his or her son/daughter to do well on the floor but realize mistakes will be made. Do not judge any young player by heightened standards. DON'T JUDGE OR IMPOSE ADULT EXPECTATIONS ONTO PLAYERS in minor Lacrosse! No player loses a game or makes a mistake on purpose. BE POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE TO ALL PLAYERS.

All parents/guardians agree to abide by the following FAIR PLAY Code:

I will be positive and supportive to ALL players, coaches and officials from both the home team as well as visiting teams.

I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

I will support the whole team, not just my child.

I will leave the coaching to the coaching staff; I will communicate any concerns to the Head Coach or Team Representative.

I will inform all spectators attending the game with me about the FAIR Play Program.

Fun, learning skills and winning is the philosophy of this team, and in this order.

I will not use offensive abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

I understand that the safety and well-being of my child is of up most importance and therefore, I will follow all guidelines put forth by the Association and Coaches.

I understand that school takes precedence over Lacrosse.

COACHES

All FLA coaching volunteers are role models for the players of their respective teams. Coaching staff members are also ambassadors for the FLA and their teams. The FLA encourages all staff to be as competitive as possible, but play within the rules of the game. The primary focus of any team staff is to ensure all their players have FUN and all players play.

Always maintain emotional and physical self-control when in the presence of your players.

There is absolutely no need for foul language anywhere near your players.

Give every player fair and equal treatment during practices, games and any other activities you are in charge of.

Your main goal is not to win titles, but to ensure your players have fun and maintain their love for the game of Lacrosse.

Always encourage, foster, and maintain SAFETY and RESPECT

Don't be the cause for any player to stop playing Lacrosse.

Control your player's tempers and actions on the floor. As coach you are accountable for your player's actions in the rink!

Communicate with a player's parents if you are having problems with the player.

Coaches agree to abide by the following FAIR PLAY code:

We will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that players have other interests and obligations.

We will ensure that all players get equal instruction, support and playing time.

We will not ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or for performing poorly. We will remember that players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.

We will teach our players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials, players and spectators and their opponents.

We will act as positive role models, providing positive reinforcement and recommendations to players to improve their skill level.

We fully understand the needs of our players come first, and not the needs of other coaches or parents.

We will emphasize respect, teamwork, and attempt to build a love for the game in our players.

We will respect other coaches within our system and work with them to ensure maximum benefit to players.

We understand that FUN, learning skills and winning is the philosophy of this team, and in this order.

We will not use offensive, abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

We agree that any incident that is in direct violation of this Fair Play policy must be reported to the Fair Play Committee.

We understand that school takes precedence over Lacrosse.

FUNDY LACROSSE ASSOCIATION (FLA) EXECUTIVE

The FLA executive agrees to abide by the following Fair Play Code:

We will treat all individuals with respect and dignity.

We will abide by the Associations constitution, rules, by laws and guidelines and will only make decisions that are in the best interest of the players and the association.

We will abide by all rules and regulations set down by Lacrosse New Brunswick and Lacrosse Canada.

We will strive to ensure that all volunteers of the Association abide by the Associations constitution, rules, by laws, and guidelines.

We will work with parents, volunteers, coaches and officials to ensure every child is aware of the Fair Play program.

We will strive to ensure all our volunteers are supported in their very important roles within the Association.

By acting as role models and through working with coaches, officials, volunteers and parents we aim to teach kids that Safety, Respect and Fun are more important than winning.

We will not use offensive, abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

We understand that school takes precedence over Lacrosse.

OFFICIALS

The FLA officials agree to abide by the following Fair Play Code:

We will do the best job possible for each game no matter what the category of Lacrosse.

We will always show respect for our fellow officials, players, coaches and fans.

We will represent ourselves and the rules of the game as fairly and as accurately as possible at all times.

We will always be unquestionably impartial, keeping a professional and appropriate distance from teams.

We will uphold the philosophy and right of all Lacrosse participants to “Fair Play” and penalize accordingly all violent acts.

We will treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.

We will direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the individual.

We will display high personal standards and project a favourable image of our sport and officiating.

We will refrain from public criticism of participants and fellow officials, even when I am a spectator.

We will treat all other Lacrosse participants with due respect and encourage all officials to maintain a high standard of self-discipline.

We will accept the fact that we will make mistakes, but we will not get frustrated or let this learning process affect my performance or my professionalism.

By acting as role models and through working with coaches, other officials, volunteers and parents/guardians we aim to teach kids that Safety, Respect and Fun are more important than winning.

We will not use offensive, abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

Fair Play Interventions

INTERVENTIONS are components introduced into a sports program to enhance SAFETY and RESPECT, and the principles of Fair Play: Respect the rules. Respect the opponents/players and parents. Respect the Coaches, Officials and their decisions. Have everyone participate. Maintain your self-control at all times. The purpose of interventions is to ensure that any breach of the Fair Play Policy of the Association by any member of the FLA (parent/guardian, coach, executive member, official, volunteer) are handled quickly and in a consistent manner regardless of the individual/individuals involved. Some issues that will require an intervention are:

Inappropriate spectator behaviour

Inappropriate player behaviour on and off the playing floor

Supporting a coach dealing with players and/or parents

Inappropriate coach behaviour towards players on and off the playing floor

Fair Play participant behaviour at other rinks during games

A coach constantly shortening his/her bench during games

Team manager requests for support in handling difficult parents

Abuse of officials by Fair Play participants (spectators, coaches, players etc.)

If a situation arises, where a member of the FLA or a spectator/visitor breaches the Fair Play Policy of the Association, progressive discipline will be instituted. Progressive discipline is a process for dealing with behavior that does not meet expected and communicated standards of the FLA. The primary purpose for progressive discipline is to assist the individual to understand that a problem or opportunity for improvement exists.

The process of progressive discipline features increasingly formal efforts to provide feedback to the individual so he or she can correct the problem/behavior. The goal of progressive discipline is to improve the individual's performance/behavior. The process of progressive discipline is not intended as a punishment for an individual, but to assist the individual to overcome behavior problems and satisfy FLA expectations of maintaining the 5 basic principles of Fair Play. Progressive discipline is most successful when it assists an individual to become an effectively performing member of the organization. Failing that, progressive discipline enables the organization to fairly, and with substantial documentation, suspend or terminate the membership of individuals who are unwilling to abide by the Fair Play Policy of the Association.

Fair Play Reconciliation Process

The FLA Fair Play Policy is intended to provide consistency in regulating the actions of all participants who are registered or associated with our lacrosse program. When issues arise this process is intended to deal with the situation swiftly so that frustrations and further escalation of issues does not take place.

Step 1: Division Co-ordinator

Any player, parent or coach, who believes the Fair Play Policy is being breached, may obtain a Policy Incident Form from the Division Co-ordinator or from the back of this booklet.

They will complete the appropriate boxes, describing the incident and submit the form to the Division Co-ordinator within 72 hours from the time of the incident.

The Division Co-ordinator will meet with the parties named in the form to discuss the relevant issue; at a time agreeable to all parties within 72 hours of the form being submitted to the Division Co-ordinator.

This Policy Manual will be the standard for resolving all Fair Play issues.

If the issue is resolved, the Division Co-ordinator will complete all applicable boxes, and upon completion forward the form to the Fair Play Committee for record keeping purposes.

If the issue is not resolved go to Step2.

Step 2: Fair Play Hearing Committee

The Division Co-ordinator will immediately notify the Fair Play Committee, or in their absence the Association President, and forward them the Fair Play Incident Form.

A Fair Play Hearing Committee will be convened within 48 hours.

The Hearing Committee will direct the parties involved to appear before them. This process is intended to ensure the participants understand the Fundy Lacrosse Association Fair Play Policy, and their responsibility in continuing to contribute to the success of Fair Play for the benefit of the children playing lacrosse in our community.

Depending on an individual's actions, the Fair Play Hearing Committee can impose sanctions ranging from cautions or warnings to suspension for any player, coach, parent or spectator. The decision to impose a sanction and the date it takes effect will be final.

The only exception is when a suspension is imposed and the affected person decides to challenge the decision. See Step 3.

Step 3: Appeal Board

Any player, coach, parent or spectator who is suspended by the Fair Play Hearing Committee can appeal the decision. The suspended person has 48 hours from the time they receive notice of the suspension to notify the Fundy Lacrosse Association Appeal Board of their intention to appeal the suspension decision. The Appeal Board will be comprised of the President and 2 Executive members of the Fundy Lacrosse Association. Upon notification, the Appeal Board must convene to hear the appeal within 72 hours. Failure to appear before the Appeal Board will result in the suspension taking immediate effect on the date imposed by the Fair Play Hearing Committee.

The decision of the Appeal Board will be final.

Typical steps in a progressive discipline system may include:

Step 1

Speak to the individual about their behavior; it's effects on other participants. Review and reinforce the Fair Play Pledge/Principles with the individual (may include the parents/guardians depending on the age of the individual involved). The resolutions may take the form of a verbal apology by a parent/youth to a coach/other participant, a coach explains his/her actions, or guidelines are restated to a player or parent.

Step 2

Verbally reprimand the individual(s) involved clearly identifying how their behaviour /actions breeched Association standards. The resolutions may take the form of a verbal apology by a parent/youth to a coach/other participant, a coach explains his/her actions, or guidelines are restated to a player or parent.

Step 3

Provide a written warning to the individual and or their parents depending on the age of the youth involved. This warning will clearly state that the individual will be suspended from the Association if they continue to exhibit unacceptable behaviour and/or conduct. The resolutions may take the form of a written apology by a parent/youth to a coach/other participant, a coach explains his/her actions in writing, and guidelines are restated to a player or parent.

Step 4

Suspension from participating in Lacrosse for an escalating number of days (coaches/players/officials) or from entering the Arena (parents/spectators). Start with one day/game/activity and escalate to five if necessary.

Step 5

Terminate the membership of the individual in the FLA for the remainder of the season, i.e. a player will not be permitted to play for the Association. Parents/spectators/coaches will not be permitted into Lacrosse venues/arenas for the remainder of the season.

Some behaviour/conduct may be more serious (e.g. intentionally injuring a player/coach/spectator/official, drinking/drug use while representing the FLA).

In these cases the executive of the FLA may proceed directly to suspension/termination of the individual(s) involved.

Coaches are to report any incident to the Fair Play Committee for documentation. A record of each incident will be kept on file for the duration of the Lacrosse season. The following oaths are to be distributed and signed at the beginning of a new Lacrosse season.

Fair Play Oath – PLAYERS

All FLA players are ambassadors for the Association, their respective communities and their teams. All players must understand that minor Lacrosse is a recreational activity. The FLA encourages all players to be as competitive as possible, but play within the rules of the game. All FLA players must maintain SAFETY and RESPECT during all Lacrosse activities. All players are reminded that all governing minor Lacrosse bodies maintain that playing minor Lacrosse is a privilege, not a right.

All players will agree to abide by the following FAIR PLAY Code:

I will play Lacrosse because I want to, not just because others or my coaches want me to.

I will control my temper – “fighting” and “mouthing off” spoil Lacrosse for everybody.

I will do my best to be a true team player.

I will remember that winning isn’t everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.

I will respect my teammates and my opponents.

I will acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of my team and of my opponents.

I will respect the safety of other players by playing within the rules of the game.

I will respect my coaches and officials at all times and remember that they are providing me with an opportunity to learn and play the game of Lacrosse.

Fun, learning skills and winning is the philosophy of this team, and in this order.

I will not use offensive, abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

I understand that school is more important than Lacrosse.

Signature of Player_____

Date: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian_____

Date: _____

FLA Representative_____

Date: _____

Fair Play Oath – PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians are role models for all players on the floor. Parents and other spectators must understand that minor Lacrosse is a recreational activity NOT an NLL farm club. The players are on the Floor because you, as a parent/guardian, have given them the opportunity to participate in a minor Lacrosse program and your son/daughter enjoys playing the game. The best interest of the child pertaining to safety and well-being must be of foremost importance. Every parent wants his or her son/daughter to do well on the floor but realize mistakes will be made. Do not judge any young player by heightened standards. DON'T JUDGE OR IMPOSE ADULT EXPECTATIONS ONTO PLAYERS in minor Lacrosse! No player loses a game or makes a mistake on purpose. BE POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE TO ALL PLAYERS.

All parents/guardians agree to abide by the following FAIR PLAY Code:

I will be positive and supportive to ALL players, coaches and officials from both the home team as well as visiting teams.

I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

I will support the whole team, not just my child.

I will leave the coaching to the coaching staff; I will communicate any concerns to the Head Coach or Team Representative.

I will inform all spectators attending the game with me about the FAIR Play Program.

Fun, learning skills and winning is the philosophy of this team, and in this order.

I will not use offensive abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

I understand that the safety and well-being of my child is of up most importance and therefore, I will follow all guidelines put forth by the Association and Coaches.

I understand that school takes precedence over Lacrosse.

Name of Child involved in FLA: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

FLA Representative: _____

Date: _____

Fair Play Oath – COACHES

All FLA coaching volunteers are role models for the players of their respective teams. Coaching staff members are also ambassadors for the FLA and their teams. The FLA encourages all staff to be as competitive as possible, but play within the rules of the game. The primary focus of any team staff is to ensure all their players have FUN and all players play.

Always maintain emotional and physical self-control when in the presence of your players. Use of foul language is prohibited

Give every player fair and equal treatment during practices, games and any other activities you are in charge of. Your main goal is not to win titles, but to ensure your players have fun and maintain their love for the game of Lacrosse.

Always encourage, foster, and maintain SAFETY and RESPECT.

Control your player’s tempers and actions on the floor. You are accountable for your player’s actions in the rink!

Communicate with a player's parents if you are having problem.

Coaches agree to abide by the following FAIR PLAY code:

We will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that players have other interests and obligations.

We will ensure that all players get equal instruction and playing time.

We will not ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or for performing poorly.

We will remember that players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.

We will teach our players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials, players and spectators and their opponents.

We will act as positive role models, providing positive reinforcement and recommendations to players to improve their skill level.

We fully understand the needs of our players come first, and not the needs of other coaches or parents.

We will emphasize respect, teamwork, and attempt to build a love for the game in our players.

We will respect other coaches within our system and work with them to ensure maximum benefit to players.

We understand that FUN, learning skills and winning is the philosophy of this team, and in this order.

We will not use offensive, abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

We agree that any incident that is in direct violation of this Fair Play policy must be reported to the Fair Play Committee.

We understand that school takes precedence over Lacrosse.

Signature of Coach:_____

Date:_____

FLA Representative:_____

Date:_____

Fair Play Oath – FUNDY LACROSSE ASSOCIATION (FLA) EXECUTIVE

The FLA executive agrees to abide by the following Fair Play Code:

We will treat all individuals with respect and dignity.

We will abide by the Associations constitution, rules, by laws and guidelines and will only make decisions that are in the best interest of the players and the association.

We will abide by all rules and regulations set down by Lacrosse New Brunswick and Lacrosse Canada.

We will strive to ensure that all volunteers of the Association abide by the Associations constitution, rules, by laws, and guidelines.

We will work with parents, volunteers, coaches and officials to ensure every child is aware of the Fair Play program.

We will strive to ensure all our volunteers are supported in their very important roles within the Association.

By acting as role models and through working with coaches, officials, volunteers and parents we aim to teach kids that Safety, Respect and Fun are more important than winning.

We will not use offensive, abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

We understand that school takes precedence over Lacrosse.

Signature of Executive:_____

Date:_____

FLA President/Vice President:_____

Date:_____

Fair Play Oath – OFFICIALS

The FLA officials agree to abide by the following Fair Play Code:

We will do the best job possible for each game no matter what the category of Larosse.

We will always show respect for our fellow officials, players, coaches and fans.

We will represent ourselves and the rules of the game as fairly and as accurately as possible at all times.

We will always be unquestionably impartial, keeping a professional and appropriate distance from teams.

We will uphold the philosophy and right of all Lacrosse participants to “Fair Play” and penalize accordingly all violet acts.

We will treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.

We will direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the individual.

We will display high personal standards and project a favourable image of our sport and officiating.

We will refrain from public criticism of participants and fellow officials, even when I am a spectator.

We will treat all other Lacrosse participants with due respect and encourage all officials to maintain a high standard of self-discipline.

We will accept the fact that we will make mistakes, but we will not get frustrated or let this learning process affect my performance or my professionalism.

By acting as role models and through working with coaches, other officials, volunteers and parents/guardians we aim to teach kids that Safety, Respect and Fun are more important than winning.

We will not use offensive, abusive, racist or sexist language or behaviour towards anyone at anytime.

Signature of Official:_____

Date:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____

Date:_____

(Required for Officials under the age of 18)

FLA Representative:_____

Date:_____