

## BLUE CARD ADMINISTRATION

Thank you for taking on this vital role. We realize that this job may impact your ability to see your child play today, and that you be required to deal with a difficult individual. Please remember that this task is about preserving the culture of sport, and providing a safe environment in which these athletes can perform. We hope you have had the opportunity to go on-line at the US Lacrosse home page, and read the Sportsmanship Card procedures and US Lacrosse/Positive Coaching Alliance training materials. If not, this short job description will provide you with the essential instructions and intervention strategies in the event that you need to use them.

### The Sideline Administrator Job Description

Your role today is to help maintain a positive and sportsmanlike environment at the sports venue—especially on the opposite sidelines or in the stands. The game officials will handle the table, bench area, and any on-the-field sportsmanship issues.

1. Your Blue Card Team consists of a.) yourself, b.) the Sideline Administrator (SA) from the opposing team, c.) the game officials, d.) any official site administrators, and e.) everyone who is “honoring the game.” The community supports this program.
2. Before the official's coin toss, introduce yourself to the SA from the other team and discuss how you will coordinate your responsibilities with him or her. Discuss the boundaries of good behavior.
  - ✓ Your responsibility is to monitor the behavior of your parents, spectators, and fans.

## INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

**Step 1: The Verbal Suggestion**—Approach the offending party in a nonthreatening manner. Make casual eye contact and adopt a friendly tone to your voice. If the misbehaving party is irate, deflect their emotions away from the target of their displeasure by recognizing their anger—this will often get them talking to you rather than screaming at the official, coach or fan. You can then remind them that the culture of your program is based upon respecting the participants, even if we disagree with their actions. “*You may be right about that being a bad call, but perhaps it is more important today, that we Honor the Game by showing respect for the officials...even if they are wrong*” Stronger wording can be constructed by mixing and matching elements of the four step strategy outlined below:

Deflect the behavior:                      Followed softly with:      Then define the consequence:      Name the desired outcome

*You seem to disagree with..... however..... This game will end..... Please rethink your actions...  
I appreciate your anger with..... but..... We can't conduct ourselves..... Work with us to create.....  
I understand your reaction to.....providing you realize..... The athletes will suffer..... Please refrain from.....  
I hear what you say about..... nevertheless..... That behavior is inappropriate.....Honor the game by.....*

If you have to come back to admonish this person a second time, you are probably going to have to card this individual (and you may need to do so on the first occurrence of the behavior, if the misconduct warrants this) If your attempt to diffuse the situation doesn't work, you must proceed directly to Step 2.

**Step 2: Issue the Card**—You may become involved in an aggravated situation where the card must be issued with or without a prior verbal warning. Merely hand the individual the card. Nothing needs to be said. Do not attempt to stop the guilty party(s) or wait for a verbal response. Simply walk away. Do not place yourself in harms way, or allow yourself to become the target of additional verbal abuse. *Bad form is inexcusable as well.* For the Blue Card program to succeed, your individual behavior must be beyond reproach. It should take the individual(s) a few seconds to read the card, and by then you should have departed the area and proceeded toward the scorer's table.

**Step 3: Alert the Game Officials**—Go immediately to bench area and inform them that a Blue Card has been issued. Have the timer/scorer alert the officials at the next available opportunity. Identify the offending party. The officials will give you further instructions, and alert both coaches to the situation. Hopefully the coaches can find a way to intervene with their own parents, spectators or fans, before the situation further deteriorates.

**Step 4: Return to Your Own Sideline**—If you need help, get back-up from your supportive parents. The community will endorse your actions. If the game is canceled, you may be called upon to assist in filling out a game termination report.

***Again, thank you for helping us maintain the culture of Lacrosse by “Honoring the Game”***

### BLUE CARD ADMINISTRATION

- ✓ If you are unsure about the acceptability of a behavior ask your team members. Try to agree upon the intent of the action. Work as a team.
  - ✓ If you are the only SA at the contest, you are responsible for the parents, spectators and fans from *both* teams.
3. Introduce yourself to the officials immediately after the coin toss. They will help you however they can.
    - ✓ They will explain the mechanics of administering the Blue Card, and explain the procedures.
    - ✓ If you issue a Blue Card to a spectator or fan, you must report immediately to the game officials.
    - ✓ Only field officials may terminate a game using the Blue Card procedures.
  4. During the game, pay attention to any behaviors that are detrimental to the spirit of the game.
    - ✓ If the offensive behaviors are not too severe, you may feel comfortable issuing a warning.
    - ✓ Some behaviors will not merit a warning.
  5. Fan and spectator behaviors that are "detrimental to the game" include (but are not limited to):
    - ✓ Entering the playing area to argue, berate, or threaten game participants.
    - ✓ Throwing objects onto the field or in the stands.
    - ✓ The repeated verbal abuse of officials.
    - ✓ Verbal threats of bodily harm, injury, or death.
    - ✓ The use of any obscene or highly abusive language or gestures.
    - ✓ Fighting—in any form and among any of the game participants, spectators or fans.
    - ✓ Other unsportsmanlike acts that are not covered above.

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## SPORTSMANSHIP CARD PROGRAM



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