

NTLOA Officials Code of Ethics

As a North Texas Lacrosse Officials Association (NTLOA) official, I recognize that I serve as a guardian of the game's integrity, fairness, and safety. I understand that my conduct—on and off the field—reflects on the sport, the officiating community, and the values we pass on to student-athletes. I therefore commit to the following principles:

1. Integrity and Fairness

- I will enforce the rules of the game impartially, without bias toward any team, player, coach, or fan.
- I will uphold the letter and spirit of the rules, making every effort to ensure fair play.
- I will not allow personal relationships or external pressures to influence my judgment.

2. Player Safety and Welfare

- I will prioritize the physical and emotional safety of all participants, particularly youth and developing players.
- I will remain vigilant for signs of dangerous play, illegal actions, or unsportsmanlike behavior and intervene appropriately.
- I will report any safety concerns or violations in accordance with league or association policy.

3. Professional Conduct

- I will arrive on time, properly equipped, and professionally attired for all assignments.
- I will treat coaches, players, fellow officials, and spectators with dignity and respect—even in the face of disagreement or provocation.
- I will avoid conflicts of interest and will recuse myself when my impartiality could reasonably be questioned.

4. Continuous Improvement

- I will strive to improve my knowledge of the rules, mechanics, and best practices through regular study, clinics, and feedback.
- I will welcome constructive criticism and mentor newer officials to help grow the game.
- I will stay current with rule changes, safety protocols, and officiating techniques.

5. Youth Development and Role Modeling

- I recognize that youth sports are educational and developmental in nature. My role is to facilitate a positive experience for players.
- I will model composure, fairness, and respect, knowing that young athletes, coaches, and fans are learning from my behavior.
- I will support the mission of NTLOA to teach life lessons through sport.

6. Accountability

- I will accept responsibility for my decisions and behavior, both on and off the field.
- I will report unethical conduct by fellow officials through the appropriate channels.
- I understand that violations of this Code of Ethics may result in sanctions by my assigning body or association.

7. Social Media

- Social media includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort via digital applications or on the Internet, including any social network, blog, podcast, journal or diary, personal web site, web bulletin board or a chat room, as well as any other form of electronic communication.
- Social media posts and comments must not potentially embarrass NTLOA or damage the reputation, or tarnish the image of our members, programs, players, coaches or any of the parents or booster organizations.
- NTLOA members should refrain from making online comments on any topic related to their officiating assignments or NTLOA duties. Areas and topics to be concerned with include:
 - Specific game or match assignments, locations or dates.
 - The scores or outcome of any game, including penalties or fouls assessed.
 - Situations or events that occurred in a game or match. Examples would be calls made, interactions with fans, coaches or players.
 - Do not discuss the officiating performance of other members, partners or officials in any association, sport or level. While discussions with other sports officials may be privately held outside of the event, the topic of a sports official's performance must be specifically kept out of social media.
- Members shall not create NTLOA specific social media profiles, or represent themselves as official NTLOA websites, pages or blogs, without the written consent of the President of the NTLOA. The President and / or a designee shall be made aware of any website using the word NTLOA in reference to the North Texas Lacrosse Officials Association.

Conclusion

By adhering to this Code of Ethics, I honor the game of lacrosse as well as NTLOA, I serve the student-athletes and coaches who rely on fair officiating, and contribute to a culture of integrity, safety, and respect.

Acknowledgement

By accepting assignments, I agree to uphold this Code of Ethics and represent myself, my officiating crew, NTLOA, and the game of lacrosse with integrity, respect, and professionalism.

NTLOA Officials Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct establishes the standards of professionalism, demeanor, and accountability expected of all NTLOA lacrosse officials. This Code of Conduct is intended to promote respect for the game, safety for participants, and integrity in officiating.

1. Pre-Game Responsibilities

- **Be Prepared:** Know and understand the current rules and mechanics for the appropriate age level.
- **Arrive Early:** Be on-site no later than 30 minutes before game time, unless otherwise assigned.
- **Be Professional:** Dress in proper officiating uniform as designated by the Referee and bring all necessary equipment (flags, whistle, timer, cards, etc.).
- **Review the Field:** Conduct a safety check of the playing area before each game.
- **Communicate Clearly:** Participate in a thorough pre-game meeting with your crew to discuss responsibilities and unusual scenarios.

2. On-Field Behavior

- **Maintain Neutrality:** Officiate with impartiality. Refrain from coaching, cheering, or showing preference.
- **Control the Game:** Apply the rules fairly and consistently to ensure safety and sportsmanship.
- **Stay Focused:** Remain attentive and engaged for the entire game, regardless of score or level of play.
- **Use Appropriate Signals and Voice:** Communicate decisions clearly, calmly, and confidently.
- **Model Composure:** Do not react emotionally to players, coaches, or fans. Remain professional at all times.

3. Interaction with Coaches, Players, and Fans

- **Be Respectful:** Treat all individuals with courtesy and professionalism, even under pressure.
- **Set Boundaries:** Do not engage in arguments or prolonged discussions. Use the appropriate rules-based language and move on.
- **Handle Conflict Appropriately:** Enforce penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct when necessary but never retaliate or escalate a situation.

4. Post-Game Conduct

- **Leave Together:** When possible, exit the field as a crew and avoid public discussion of game decisions.
- **Review Performance:** Participate in a brief post-game evaluation to discuss mechanics, calls, and ways to improve.
- **Report Incidents:** Promptly file any required reports on ejections, injuries, or unusual occurrences.

5. Off-Field Expectations

- **Maintain and update availability:** Proactively update your scheduling software calendar to reflect your availability for assignments. Assignors have a difficult job ensuring game coverage throughout the season. Showing as available only to then reject game assignments makes their jobs much harder, thus maintaining accurate availability and accepting assignments helps NTLOA service our customer programs.
- **Honor Assignments:** Accept only those games you are prepared to officiate and fulfill all commitments reliably.
- **Avoid Conflicts of Interest:** Do not accept assignments involving schools or teams with which you have personal ties or affiliations.
- **Maintain Professionalism Online:** Do not post comments, photos, or videos that criticize or question players, teams, officials, or assigning bodies on social media or public forums, regardless of location or jurisdiction.

6. Accountability

- **Accept Responsibility:** Own your mistakes and continuously strive for improvement.
- **Welcome Feedback:** Receive evaluations, input from assignors, and peer observations with an open mind.
- **Report Misconduct:** If you witness unethical or unsafe behavior by fellow officials, report it through the appropriate channels.

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