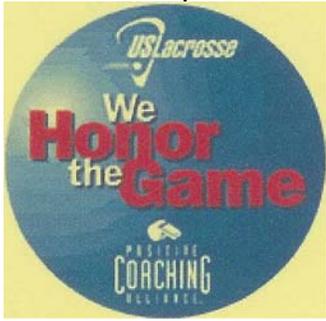


## MDOC/WDOC Purple Card



*In collaboration with the Youth Council*



**Hills/Elwood Youth Lacrosse**

### **Honoring the Game:**

The sport of lacrosse has recently seen a rise in the number of incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior occurring at both men's and women's youth lacrosse games. Unfortunately, this pattern of abuse mirrors the type of unacceptable behavior that other Youth sports have experienced when parents mistakenly project that the athletic accomplishments of their adolescent children will be connected to their adult potential to compete for college scholarships and other achievement related accolades and honors. In response to these challenges and as a strategy of the US Lacrosse Campaign for Excellence, the US Lacrosse Youth Council and the men's and women's division officials councils have taken pro-active steps to help insure a positive culture for the sport at the youth lacrosse level.

### **The MDOC/WDOC Purple Card:**

The Purple Card is designed to be a preventative tool, not a punitive device. It is a warning given to an individual coach, athlete, fan, or group of fans. Most often, the Purple Card program, if administered in a non-threatening fashion, will correct the unacceptable, unsportsmanlike behavior that threatens to ruin the game. However, it is possible that the first instance of an unacceptable unsportsmanlike act could be the catalyst for game termination without issuing a Purple Card. The MDOC/WDOC Purple Card is also designed to help clarify the NFHS Boys' High School Rules and the Official Rules for Girls' & Women's Lacrosse.

For example, in the boys' game there are only two references in the NFHS rules (Rule 2, Section 3, Para 2 & 3 and Rule 2, Section 6, Article 2) to controlling teams and spectators. There are no references in these rules that cover the termination of a contest for reasons of unsportsmanlike behavior(s). In the girls' game, the references are located in the Official Rules for Girl's & Women's Lacrosse, Rule 18E and Rule 19B-2, which state that "team followers' misconduct may result in a penalty assessed to the coach." These carding procedures culminate in the suspension of the coach or team follower and ultimately could result in a forfeit. This may pose a challenge to novice officials who are not yet confident in their knowledge of the rules or sufficiently experienced to command a difficult situation without a clear set of guidelines and procedures to follow. Interpreting these rules may be difficult for the novice official; experience on the field is critical for understanding the potential impact of abusive behavior on the game.

The Purple Card is a resource for men's and women's officials working youth games. When used in conjunction with NFHS Rules and the Official Rules for Girl's & Women's Lacrosse, the Purple Card procedures serve as an effective deterrent to abusive behaviors and create a set of constraints that should: 1. Eradicate the "unsportsmanlike behavior" that is creeping into sport, 2. Strengthen sportsmanship, 3. Contribute to the retention of US Lacrosse officials and 4. Honor the game.

## **HONOR THE GAME OF LACROSSE!**

Respect the **ROOTS** of Positive Play

**Rules:** We refuse to bend the rules to win

**Opponents:** A worthy opponent is a gift that brings out our best

**Officials:** Show respect even when we disagree

**Teammates:** Never do anything to embarrass our team

**Self:** We live up to our own standards even when others don't

Your current behavior is contrary to the high level of sportsmanship expected of fans and participants at all events sponsored by US Lacrosse.

**"Honor the Game."**

**Please rethink your actions.**

**THIS EVENT MAY BE TERMINATED IF YOUR CONDUCT DOES NOT IMPROVE.**



### **Hills/Elwood- Lacrosse Program**

Parents:

We need the attached form signed and returned by April 1:

Please read all of the attached documents - Remember Hills Lacrosse is designed to teach the sport in actual environment. That simply means real game situations. There are NO championships!! The children are here to learn the sport of lacrosse, sportsmanship and respect. Respect for themselves, their teammates, their coaches and the referees.

Referees, do their best. Some referees may stop the game to instruct the children, some may not. If a parent/coach/fan's verbal assault results in a purple card from the referee we will ask the parent to leave. We request that you retire to an area away from the field perhaps by the annex parking lot. If you do not, the referee has the right to halt the game and hand us a forfeit which would result in a suspension from the next game. We will enforce the rules.

Your actions could cost the children the right to play. Please do not take that away from them! There is a possibility if poor behavior continues your child could face the consequence of being suspended from Hills Lacrosse or from the Nassau/Suffolk County Youth Lacrosse League for the remainder of the season or indefinitely - without recourse or refund.

The attached rules should be considered your first warning. Please do not force the referee to issue a purple card -please do not force me to be the person that must suspend you and/or your child from the league.

Coaches have already signed a Nassau/Suffolk Youth League Code of Conduct and have been made aware of the rules.

Thank you for you assistance - Let's all have a happy, healthy Lacrosse Season!

Sincerely,

Eric Geringswald  
Hills/Elwood Lacrosse

## 2010 Code of Conduct

The key rule of Hills Lacrosse is RESPECT. Respect for Players, Coaches, Team Moms, Officials, opposing Teams, property and buildings are essential. If this is adhered to all other rules will fall into place.

All Hills Staff including coaches and team moms are volunteers - here to assist with teaching children the fundamentals of Lacrosse. Understand that they are giving up their time from jobs and family to help your child learn a sport they love. They are not here to baby-sit. Please be on time for practices, and games. Your child will not be allowed to leave the field without an adult.

Practice and Game Fields - Home or Away - are to be left in good condition. Do not leave garbage behind. All players and coaches have a responsibility to come fully equipped & prepared for every practice/game.

Teamwork - children, coaches and parents working together toward a common goal, win or lose; united. If there are personality conflicts off the field, leave them there. While on the lacrosse field the team will learn to function as one lacrosse team. There is no "I" in T-E-A-M. Together Everyone Achieves More."

Sportsmanship and teaching the concepts of fair play are essential to the game, and must be taught and developed both at home and on the field during practices and games.

The emphasis on winning should never be placed above the value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, or the skills of the game.

Derogatory comments are unacceptable. Use positive reinforcement with players and adults alike. It should be remembered that criticism, once made, can never be retracted.

The safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance.

Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their players. They are to strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people, as well as with adults.

All adults including parents/spectators must never maliciously criticize badger, harass, or threaten an official, coach or player.

Equipment if borrowed from the league: is your responsibility. It is to be returned at end of season and maintained in good condition. Failure to return equipment will result in our purchase of said equipment.

### Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Unsportsmanlike Conduct is defined as a player, coach, parent or spectator who at any time while on field or at any Hills Lacrosse game, practice or function conducts themselves in an abusive, offensive, or illegal manner this includes but is not exclusive to:

- a) Fighting;
- b) Property damage - whether is it property of the league, Town of Huntington, HHHSD, property of other Towns Fields or another player's personal property during games, practices or league events.
- c) Entering into an argument with an official or umpire as to a decision that has been made;
- d) Using threatening, profane, or obscene language or gestures at any time during a game/practice;
- e) Baiting, taunting, or any other act which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others under any circumstances.

Understand that the safety and welfare of all players is our top priority. Failure to comply with the above rules could result in player/coach/parent ejection or suspension from games and/or league, game forfeiture, fines to the league, etc. All of us must be responsible for our behavior whether parents, players, coaches, or staff. Yo/Jr actions could cost the children the right to play. If suspension results for any reason there are no refunds of registration fees. The commissioner will make the final determination.

**There is a process for handling controversy or problems.  
Check with your director as to the proper procedure.**

**DON'T REACT – RESPOND. Keep Things In Proper Perspective.**