

Date: 1/1/08

To: WMYLC Coordinators and Coaches

From: Glen Goodman, WMYLC Commissioner

Coordinators and Coaches,

Each year, as the sport of lacrosse grows in the Western Maryland area, there are new players, parents, coaches, and officials participating in our conference. Please support this evolutionary process for it is best for the future of our conference.

If one of your games is short of officials or if no officials are present, please work together with the opposing coach to make sure the game occurs. You as coaches should officiate the game. Please do so in a fair and sportsmanlike manner. Your team will not have to pay for officials that are not present.

Here are a few things that coaches and players MUST do this season to support the new system:

1. It is a **requirement** that coaches instruct their players in the rules of the game and what play is illegal and what constitutes fouls.
2. It is a **requirement** that coaches remove players from participation in games preemptively if the player is playing in an unsafe manner, regardless of the impact of that player on the outcome of the game.
3. Safety on the field is **FIRST** the responsibility of the player and coaches. **PLAYERS MUST PLAY BY THE RULES. WHEN THEY DO, THEY WILL NOT COMMIT FOULS. IF FOULS ARE NOT COMMITTED, THE GAMES WILL BE SAFE.** Officials can only call penalties AFTER they occur. **Prevention of fouls rests with the players and coaches.**
4. As in previous years, there will be many new officials on the field this year. Many will be high school age. It is a **requirement** that coaches must work with officials in a positive and supportive manner. The officials, particularly new officials, need to have the support and assistance of the coaches (as a team) to improve.
5. It is a **requirement** that coaches utilize the game report form as the primary mechanism to document the performance of officials.
6. It is a **requirement** that coaches exhibit exemplary **SPORTSMANSHIP** at all times as role models for all to see.
7. If the officials are not performing well, work with them in a polite and supportive manner. Officiating is very difficult. It is important that new officials develop and improve. New officials must be supported so that they do not quit.
8. Coaches must communicate to parents and spectators that EXCELLENT sportsmanship is expected at all times. Set the expectations at very high levels regarding spectator and parental behavior.

If there are questions or problems at games, feel free to call me on my cell phone at 301-401-1780 to resolve problems

Thanks,

Glen Goodman

