

## **Forks Lacrosse Guidelines**

FTAA provides equal opportunity for both girls and boys to play with an organized girl's league as well as an organized boy's league. FTAA Lacrosse teams are governed by the rules of the Lehigh Valley Youth Lacrosse League (LVYLL) <http://www.lvyll.com> and the Lehigh Valley Youth Girls Lacrosse League (LVYGLL) <http://www.lvgyll.com/>.

The LVYLL and LVYGLL refer to the US Lacrosse Youth Rules and Best Practices Guidebook [for boys](#) and [for girls](#).

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

A copy of Article 16 of the FTAA By-laws shall be signed by each parent/guardian on or before the date the players receive their uniforms. It is imperative that the players/parents/guardians and coaches adhere to the code of conduct. A zero- tolerance rule will be in effect before, during and after practices and games.

### **EQUIPMENT/UNIFORM POLICY**

All players must be Forks Township residents unless specific approval is provided by the Forks Township Recreation Board.

- The approval process is to sign up during regular registration and fill out the "Out Of Town Resident" section and bring to the following Recreation Board Meeting where the Board will hear the circumstances as to why the play should be considered to participate in Forks Township. Eligibility for participation will be made during the Recreation Board meeting.
- If there is an outstanding uniform from a previous season, the child may not register for another sport until either the uniform is returned or the replacement value is paid.
- All Players must wear a Forks Township Issued Lacrosse Helmet for the season. This includes all practices as well.
- Mouthpieces must be colored (no clear or white are going to be allowed by the league this year) this is for the referee's to be able to clearly see the player is wearing a mouth guard.

### **FORMING A TEAM**

All players must be Forks Township residents unless specific approval is given by the Forks Township Recreation Board.

- The approval process is to sign up during regular registration and fill out the "Out Of Town Residents" section and bring it to the following Recreation Board Meeting where the Board will hear the circumstances as to why the player should be allowed to play in Forks Twp. If approved, they will be notified at that meeting and placed into the pool of players.
- Currently, there is only one team at each level so once the team is determined by age group, then the coach will notify the players by phone to give details of the upcoming season. If you do not hear from a coach, you can contact the commissioner.

### **AGE BRACKETS**

The divisions, and ages associated with them, that Forks Lacrosse participates in are listed below. It is possible that a player who is age qualified to play in a younger division could be asked to play in an older division. This would be based on the player's skill, physical size/ability, maturity, and team need. Should this opportunity arise, coaches will discuss it with that player and his/her parents.

Boys **U13** ☞All players must be 12 years old or younger on the August 31st prior to the upcoming spring season. Ex: Player who is 12 years old on Aug 31st, 2011 will play U13 for the 2012 spring season.

**U11**

All players must be 10 years old or younger on the August 31st prior to the upcoming spring season. Ex: Player who is 10 years old on Aug 31st, 2011 will play U11 for the 2012 spring season.

**U9**

All players must be 6 - 8 years old by August 31st prior to the upcoming spring season. Ex: Player who is 8 years old on Aug 31st, 2011 will play U9 for the 2012 spring season.

**Girls: 3/4** All players must be in 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Girls: 1/2** All players must be in 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

**COACHING QUALIFICATIONS**

Each coach must submit to a background check. Currently, there is not a league- mandated qualification for coaching for lacrosse; but someone considering coaching lacrosse must be approved by the commissioner.

**PLAYING TIME**

Currently, the league does not have a minimum playing time but it is taking this under consideration. In light of that, Forks Township will require that each player plays for a minimum of 3 minutes per half of each game. See practice and game attendance section for further details.

**PLAYING UP**

Currently, the league does not have restrictions on a player "playing up" at the next level. Therefore, Forks Township will allow a player to "play up" but only upon the approval of the lacrosse commissioner.

**PRACTICE AND GAME ATTENDANCE**

In lacrosse, it is critical to attend all scheduled practices and games. A child must learn the plays and work together with the team to learn lacrosse successfully. If a child must miss a game or practice, a coach must be notified prior to the absence. A coach may alter playing time if a child is missing practices.

**GAME SCHEDULES/LOCATIONS/DIRECTIONS**

Most scheduled games are in the Lehigh Valley. There may be a couple of games that would require extra travel time.

**ALL STARS**

Lacrosse is currently discussing its all-star availability. Keep checking the lacrosse website for details.

**PLAYOFFS**

Lacrosse is currently working on how playoffs will be determined. The league will have final say in how this will work.

**PARENT BEHAVIOR DURING PRACTICES AND GAMES**

Parents are asked to refrain from coaching or voicing concern to referees from the sidelines at any time. This causes confusion for both coaches and players and distracts the players from their position and could result in injury to a child.

Referees do have the authority to discipline a team for a spectator's conduct by issuing a penalty and can also request that a spectator be removed from the field. Police will be called if necessary.

### **Gender Classifications as set forth by US Lacrosse**

'In regard to gender classifications, the Executive Committee of the US Lacrosse Board voted to adopt the following position on Gender Classification in January of 2006:

A) Lacrosse as a sport encompasses two separate and distinct games, the women's game and the men's game.

B) US Lacrosse respects and supports the integrity of both the women's game and the men's game and the fact that both tradition and the rules of play for the women's game are intended to limit participation in the women's game to females and tradition and the rules of play for the men's game are intended to limit participation to males.

C) It is the position of US Lacrosse that consistent with applicable laws, participation in the game of women's lacrosse should be limited to females and participation in the game of men's lacrosse should be limited to males. US Lacrosse therefore supports separate teams for males and females, and encourages and supports development of separate programs for both genders at youth, scholastic, non-scholastic, collegiate and post collegiate levels.'

<http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0072/9915/boys-youth-guidebook.pdf>

The issue of gender classifications in men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse is largely determined on a state-by-state basis and the **Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)** bylaws have language regarding mixed gender participation. It's important to note that when a FTAA youth athlete graduates to the scholastic level in the state of PA, they will be governed by the PIAA. Please refer to [PIAA Bylaws Section 4 Mixed Gender Participation](#).

The FTAA Lacrosse guidelines strongly encourage all parents and athletes to follow the US Lacrosse Guidelines and encourages all parents and athletes to be aware of any rules at the scholastic level should they decide to continue to play beyond their experience with FTAA.