**Henry Clay High School Lacrosse Program**

**CODE of CONDUCT**

Congratulations and welcome to the Henry Clay High School boy’s lacrosse family. We are excited for you to join a program that exemplifies a great tradition of excellence. The success of Henry Clay lacrosse is a direct result of the combination of effort, teamwork, actions, commitment and sportsmanship.

**Message to the Parents** This material is presented to you because your son has chosen to be part of Henry Clay High School’s lacrosse program. As a parent/guardian of a Henry Clay Blue Devil, you also have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, which are outlined in this Code of Conduct. Your signature on the Code of Conduct, along with the signature of your Blue Devil, indicates that you understand and accept those responsibilities and obligations, and agree to cooperate with the Henry Clay Lacrosse program in enforcing the Code of Conduct. Compliance with the Code of Conduct is mandatory and essential to the success of the athletic program. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may lead to discipline and possible expulsion from the team.

Good sportsmanship is encouraged and expected from our fans and spectators at all times during Henry Clay High School lacrosse events. Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship may result in removal from the event and/or future events.

**Message to the Henry Clay Lacrosse Blue Devil**

Henry Clay High School has a long history and tradition of lacrosse excellence. It took years of dedication, commitment, and hard work by a countless number of people. As a Henry Clay Lacrosse Blue Devil you must continue to strive to uphold this high standard of excellence.

Once you have become a member of the Henry Clay lacrosse family, you have made a choice to uphold certain standards expected of Blue Devils in this community. Your participation in Henry Clay lacrosse is a privilege and should be treated as such. Any time you wear the Blue and Gold, you are representing yourself, your family, your school, and all those that have worn these colors before you. Students, staff, parents, and the community will closely observe your conduct.

The conduct outlined in this handbook are designed and intended as a guide to successful participation. Failure to follow the rules is addressed in this handbook. As a Blue Devil, you will be expected to understand and abide by these rules. It is your responsibility to follow them to

their fullest.

**Sportsmanship**

As a Blue Devil and as parents, you can help us establish an outstanding reputation for good sportsmanship. We must all work hard in conducting ourselves in a commendable manner. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct can result in sanctions against the offending athlete, parent, and/or school. Always observe the following guidelines for good sportsmanship:

1. The good name of Henry Clay High School lacrosse is more important than any contest won by unfair play.
2. Be supportive of all athletes, coaches, and officials before, during, and after all contests.
3. Accept decisions of officials without dispute. They are seldom responsible for your success or failure, so do not blame them for your circumstances.
4. Recognize and show appreciation for the fine play of your opponent.
5. Be proud of our Blue Devil reputation and work hard to protect it.
6. Cheer for Blue Devils, not against the opponent.
7. Don't allow others negative sportsmanship to become an excuse to do the same.

**Parent/Coach Relations**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide greater benefit to our Blue Devils. As parents, when your son becomes involved in Henry Clay lacrosse, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your Blue Devil. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete's program.

1. Expectations the coach has for your son/daughter and the team.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning,team/individual camps.
4. Medical procedures, should your student-athlete become injured during participation.
5. Team rules, guidelines, and requirements for earning awards.

**Communication Coaches Expect from Student-Athletes:**

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
2. Special concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
3. Injury or circumstances that may endanger the athlete when participating.
4. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your Blue Devil wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

**Parent/Coach Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:**

1. The treatment of your Blue Devil, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your Blue Devil to improve.
3. Concerns about your Blue Devil's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your Blue Devil is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your student-athlete's coach. Other things, such as the following, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

**Parent/Coach Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:**

1. Playing time.

2. Team strategy.

3. Play calling.

4. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern. If you have a concern, you may want to discuss the issue with your Blue Devil first. You may find through this communication an answer, resolution, or understanding of the situation before contacting others.

**If parents have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:**

1. Call, email or text the coach to set up an appointment.
2. Please give yourself time to understand your concern before approaching a coach. Attempting to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice is not an ideal time. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

**What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?**

1. If the concern is not satisfactorily resolved after meeting with the coach, the athlete and/or parent(s) should discuss the situation with the President of the Board informally in an attempt to resolve the situation.
2. If the athlete and/or parent(s) wish to make a formal complaint to the President of the Board about the coach, it should be put in writing, with a copy provided to the coach.
3. The President of the Board will investigate the complaint, and discuss the concern with the coach and the Head Varsity Coach. The investigation may include observation of practice sessions by the President of the Board, if necessary. The President of the Board will document the results of the investigation and subsequent action(s) to be taken to resolve the complaint in writing.

**NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

Henry Clay High School Lacrosse does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, religion, height, weight, or marital status in its programs and activities.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

All players will maintain a 2.5 GPA and have no failing grades on the grade report to try out or remain on the team.

**Consequences**

An athlete who fails to meet the weekly standards will not participate in the following week's athletic contest(s) (Mon-Sun). He will be subject to all team rules and regulations unless otherwise directed by the coach.

**SPECIFIC ATHLETIC CODE STANDARDS & CONSEQUENCES**

The following rules are not an exhaustive list of conduct that subjects an athlete to discipline. At all times, Blue Devils are expected to follow the Henry Clay High School lacrosse Code of Conduct and to behave in a manner consistent with the special privilege of being a Blue Devil. The consequences described below outline the range of possible discipline that may be imposed for the listed violations during the season. The first violation of any of the following codes will be considered the first offense when determining the consequence. When a second violation of any of the following codes occurs, then the second offense consequence will be imposed. Upon a third offense of any of the following codes, then the third offense consequence will be applied.

**ALCOHOL, DRUGS & TOBACCO ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

The unlawful possession, use, consumption, distribution, purchase, sale or manufacture of, or any other improper or unlawful involvement of any kind or description with illegal drugs, controlled substances, alcohol or alcoholic beverages, anabolic or androgenic steroids, tobacco, tobacco products, E-Cigarettes, Vapor Pens, or "look-alike" drugs, drug paraphernalia, or substances or products that mask or tamper with any of these, is strictly prohibited. Also prohibited is the distribution, abuse or misuse of over the counter medications or prescription drugs, or other chemicals or substances.

**Consequences**

Blue Devils bear additional responsibilities as examples and role models within the school and the community. Whenever conduct may constitute a crime, a referral to law enforcement is also possible, and may be required by law.

**Possession or Use of Prohibited Substances as Defined Above:**

First Offense: One game suspension

Second Offense: Two game suspension

Third Offense: Three game suspension and possible expulsion from team.

**Sale or Distribution of Prohibited Substances as Defined Above:**

First Offense: Expulsion from team.

**What constitutes a Substance Use Violation:**

The following is a list of verifiable substance use violations by student athletes:

1. Any coach personally observes a substance use violation.
2. Any administrator or staff personally observes a substance use violation.
3. A police report to the school outlining a substance use violation.
4. A personal confession by a student athlete of substance use abuse.
5. A violation reported by a parent or guardian of a student athlete.
6. A positive urinalysis or positive Breathalyzer.
7. A refusal to take either urine screening test or lab urine test or Breathalyzer.

\*\*\* No substance abuse violations will be based on hearsay evidence alone.

**Hazing**

HAZING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Because hazing is unsafe, and can discourage participation as well as negatively affect a Blue Devil’s enjoyment in athletic participation, all forms of hazing are strictly prohibited.

**Consequences**

Blue Devils bear additional responsibilities as examples and role models within the school and the community. Whenever conduct may constitute a crime, a referral to law enforcement is also possible, and may be required by law.

First Offense: One game suspension

Second Offense: Two game suspension

Third Offense: Three game suspension and possible expulsion from team.

**Gross Misconduct**

Gross misconduct is defined as cheating, fighting, or unfavorable notoriety, violation of a civil or criminal law, or any socially unacceptable behavior that brings discredit to the Blue Devils, parents, school or team. This includes any behavior on social media. Henry Clay lacrosse players are expected to act respectfully on the field and off the field. This includes what you say behind the screen of your phone or computer. What you post online reflects directly on our program and so, we must avoid dishonorable content that could be considered deleterious to the program. Dishonorable content could include racial, ethnic, sexual, religious, and physical disability discrimination as well as pictures incriminating to the individual (photos with alcohol, drugs, or crime in action).

**Consequences**

Consequence will be dependent upon the severity of the offense. Range of consequences include suspension, from one game up to one year of the scheduled dates of the season during which the violation occurred; possible removal of the privilege of being a team captain; possible suspension from the team for the remainder of the season or seasons; possible suspension from athletic participation for up to one calendar year.

**HENRY CLAY HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE – CODE OF CONDUCT**

**COACHES' RULES**

1. It is expected that daily attendance in practice sessions is a requirement of team membership. Coaches will establish, and publish, any team rules and expectations, which can be an addition to this Code.
2. Coaches who invoke their right to suspend/penalize a team member for a violation of a team rule, which is not considered a violation of The Code of Conduct, will notify the President of the Board of the situation before a consequence is invoked. The purpose of notification is to record the infraction in the event it is affected by a previous infraction or may have an effect on a future infraction.
3. Membership on a team does not dictate any level of participation in contests. Only the coach of each team maintains the discretion of assigning “playing time.”

**FCPS Henry Clay High School**

**Parent Code of Conduct**

The Athletic Department at Henry Clay High School seeks to create an environment of growth and competition that is positive in nature and promotes a culture of mutual respect between coaches, athletes, parents, and officials. Parents play a vital role in this equation and should commit to the following guidelines in an effort to promote sportsmanship.

-I will insist my athlete treat other players, coaches, officials, and fans with respect.

-I will talk to the coach, about my concerns, at the appropriate time and place, never before, during, or immediately after a contest. The proper chain of command for concerns should be- coach, athletic director, high school administrator, district athletic director.

-I will do my best to remember my ticket to a school athletic event provides me the privilege of observing the contest, not berating officials, coaches, or players.

-I will show appreciation for outstanding play by either team.

-I will reinforce the HCHS drug and alcohol free policy and refrain from use of alcohol and drugs before or during contests.

-I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.

-I will insist my athlete play in a safe and healthy environment.

-I will require that my athlete’s coach be training in the responsibilities of being a coach and follow the HCHS Coach’s Code of Conduct.

-I will support coaches and officials working with my athlete, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

-I will remember that student-athletes participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.

-I will refrain from contacting my athlete’s coach when I am emotional or upset about an issue.

-I will refrain from coaching my athlete or other players during games or practices.

-I will be a role model of positive sportsmanship to my athlete and other spectators.

**Parents or guests in violation of the code of conduct may be dismissed, suspended, or expelled from future athletic contests at Henry Clay High School.**