



SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

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Overview

The Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club is fundamentally committed to upholding its brand and reputation through the conduct of every member. We require all players, coaches, managers, and parents to act with the utmost class, pride, and respectful conduct at all times. This commitment extends to all environments, whether you are on the floor executing play, or off the floor representing the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club in the community.

Our standards specifically demand a commitment to safe and fair play to protect the integrity of the game and the well-being of all participants. This policy reinforces the clear expectation that any unbecoming actions, which includes conduct violating our commitment to safe and fair play, will have consequences. These guidelines are set forth to manage all disciplinary matters in a fair, consistent, and transparent manner.

Leadership Responsibilities

- **Coaches** serve as leaders and role models. Head Coaches are ultimately responsible for ensuring the appropriate actions of their players, parents, and fellow coaches, and they must address concerns regarding discipline and emotional control. All coaches are expected to consistently follow the Fair Play principles.
- **Managers** are expected to handle off-floor issues, specifically those relating to inappropriate conduct or the abuse of officials.

The Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club reserves the right to apply additional sanctions or suspensions beyond those explicitly outlined in this document

Coaches

Our coaches are vital in shaping the culture of our lacrosse program. This section recognizes the crucial link between coaching leadership and team conduct: **Coaches are ultimately accountable for their team's behavior.** By accepting their role, coaches commit to being proactive educators and enforcing agents of our safety and sportsmanship standards. It is an expected and required part of a coach's duties to have ongoing, clear discussions with their players regarding safe and fair play. The following policy details the circumstances under which a coach may face suspension for failing to uphold this fundamental commitment to leadership, oversight, and education.

- i. After 1 suspension to any U7 team and after 2 suspensions to any U9 team, the Coaching Director along with the Division Coordinator will meet with the Head Coach and/or Coaching Staff.
- ii. After 4 suspensions to any U13/U15/U17 team, the Coaching Director and Division Coordinator will meet with the Head Coach to review the suspensions. The causes of the suspensions will be discussed, as will the



steps taken in the action plan to mitigate future suspensions. At this time the Discipline Committee may elect to suspend the Head Coach or any Assistant Coach for 1 game.

- iii. The Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club **WILL NOT** tolerate any coaches being ejected from a game or suspended by the Calgary District Lacrosse Association for abuse of an Official. In this circumstance, the coach will attend a meeting with the Discipline Committee, and may be subject to additional suspensions, may be required to write a letter of apology, and may be removed from the team. It is **IMPERATIVE** that the coaching staff set the example for your team and parents.

Players

Being a player for the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club is a privilege that comes with clear expectations for behavior both on and off the field. Every player is individually accountable for their actions and conduct and for maintaining the integrity of the team. We expect all players to execute the game within the rules and to play with class and respectful conduct at all times.

Our organization demands a commitment to safe and fair play, which includes respecting opponents, officials, coaches, and teammates. Ignoring these standards impacts not only the individual but the entire program. The following policy details the specific consequences, including grounds and procedures for suspension, and is set out to ensure that players who are continually suspended are dealt with in a fair and transparent manner.

- i. If any player receives 2 suspensions through the course of the lacrosse season, including playoffs, that player and the player's parents will be called to a meeting to discuss the behaviour with the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club Discipline Committee.
- ii. Any player who receives a single three (3) game suspension, or a cumulative total of three (3) or more games in suspension (for any reason, including CDLA, ALA, LC, or Team-level suspensions), will be immediately referred for an Escalated Disciplinary Review. The player and their parents/guardians will be required to meet with the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club Discipline Committee to discuss the conduct. This meeting is mandatory and focused on reinforcing our values of Respect and Integrity, identifying factors contributing to the behavior, and committing to a corrective action plan to support the player's growth and future success within the club.
- iii. If a player, who has had a meeting with the Disciplinary Committee pursuant to Paragraph 1 above, receives a further suspension through the course of the lacrosse season, including playoffs, that player and the player's parents will be called to a second meeting. That player will be



suspended for an additional game, and the committee has the discretion to add up to another 3 games to this suspension.

- iv. If any one player who has received a team-level suspension for failing to follow the team's rules, receives a second team-level suspension, the coaching staff has the right to an additional two game team-level suspension for this player. This must be communicated to the Axemen President and VP of Operations.
- v. The Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club **WILL NOT** tolerate players being suspended by the Calgary District Lacrosse Association for abuse of an Official, or conduct off the floor that could bring the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club into disrepute. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal and physical altercations with opposing teams, fans and Officials. In this circumstance, the player and the player's parents will be called to a meeting with the Discipline Committee, and the player will be subject to such suspensions as deemed appropriate.

Parents

Parents and guardians are essential members of the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club community, and their conduct is just as important as that of the players and coaches in upholding our brand. We expect parents to set the highest example by demonstrating class, pride, and respectful conduct at all times.

Your role is to support the team, respect the decisions of officials and coaches, and actively foster an environment of safe and fair play. Whether you are in the stands, traveling with the team, or representing the club in the community, you are accountable for conduct that aligns with our values. This policy reinforces that unbecoming actions by parents will also be subject to disciplinary review, and the following section details the expectations and the consequences for failing to meet them.

The Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club **WILL NOT** tolerate any suspension issued by the [Calgary District Lacrosse Association](#) (CDLA) resulting from abuse to an Official by a parent, family member, guardian, or any spectator affiliated with a player on the team.

- i. In this circumstance, the parent will attend a meeting with the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club Discipline Committee, and may be subject to additional suspensions, may be required to write a letter of apology, and may be barred from attending practices or games.
- ii. It is advised that parents do not question, dispute or argue calls that are made by an official. It is not a parent's responsibility to question calls made by an official. We do not support any parent who approaches and or engages an official during or after a game.



- iii. The Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club will not tolerate actions unbecoming by any parent.
- iv. The Axemen expect all our parents to follow the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club Issue Resolution Policy when voicing concerns. In situations where parents refuse to follow the appropriate procedures, that parent will be called to a meeting with the Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club Discipline Committee, and will be subject to such suspensions as deemed appropriate.

