

212 LACROSSE

Sideline Conduct & Coaching Authority Policy

Parent Sideline Policy: Coaching, Game Management & Permitted Assistance

Applies to all 212 Lacrosse teams, practices, games, tournaments, and events

1. Purpose

This policy defines who directs 212 Lacrosse teams during games and practices and establishes the clear, non-negotiable boundary between the coaching staff and spectators. Its purpose is to protect the quality of instruction our athletes receive, ensure a consistent and professional environment, and eliminate confusion on game day. It is a condition of participation in the program. By enrolling an athlete with 212 Lacrosse, every parent, guardian, and family member agrees to the terms below in full.

2. Coaching Authority Rests Solely With the Staff

All coaching and all game-management authority belongs exclusively to the coaches designated by 212 Lacrosse. Only members of the official coaching staff, credentialed and assigned by the program, may direct athletes in any capacity. This authority is not shared, delegated, or transferred to parents, guardians, or spectators under any circumstance, regardless of a person's playing experience, prior coaching background, certifications, or personal relationship to any athlete.

For the avoidance of doubt, the following are the sole responsibility of the coaching staff and are closed to all parents and spectators:

- Game management and in-game decision-making of every kind.
- Strategy, scheme, game plan, and any tactical or positional instruction.
- Personnel decisions, including who plays, who sits, and playing time.
- Substitution decisions — which athlete enters or exits, and when.
- Line and unit assignments, matchups, and positional roles.
- Play-calling, set plays, and situational decisions.
- Instruction, coaching, correction, or feedback directed at any athlete during play.
- Communication with game officials, referees, table personnel, or opposing coaches.
- Timeout usage, roster and lineup submissions, and any decision affecting the outcome or conduct of the game.

No parent or spectator may perform, influence, override, contest, or participate in any of the above. This includes shouting instructions, signaling athletes, coaching from the stands or sideline, or attempting to advise, lobby, or pressure the coaching staff before, during, or after play.

3. No Parent Coaching at Team Training

This policy applies with equal force to all team training. Practices, skills sessions, clinics, tryouts, film, walk-throughs, workouts, and any other training activity are run exclusively by the 212 Lacrosse coaching staff. Parents and spectators may not coach, instruct, correct, demonstrate, or run drills at

team training, may not direct or interrupt any session, and may not deliver private or side instruction to athletes on or near the training area during a session. This holds true whether or not a parent is asked to help with logistics, and regardless of any coaching experience, license, or expertise the parent may have. During team training, parents remain in the designated spectator area and off the field unless a coach specifically requests limited assistance under Section 4. Whatever development a parent chooses to pursue with their own child on their own time is separate from and never conducted during, alongside, or in competition with a 212 Lacrosse training session.

4. Permitted Parent Assistance — By Staff Request Only

In limited, specific circumstances — for example extreme heat or other conditions affecting athlete safety — a coach may ask a parent to provide narrowly defined logistical help. Such assistance is permitted only when, and only for as long as, a coach expressly requests it. There are exactly two forms of assistance a parent may ever be asked to provide:

Permitted with staff approval	Never permitted
Distributing water and helping athletes stay hydrated and cool, as directed by staff.	Any coaching, instruction, correction, or feedback to an athlete.
Physically shuttling a substitution the staff has already decided on — i.e., relaying that a named athlete goes in or comes out, as instructed.	Deciding who substitutes, who plays, or how long anyone plays.
Assisting with equipment or safety logistics when specifically asked.	Strategy, scheme, play-calling, matchups, or any game-management decision.

The following conditions govern all permitted assistance and are absolute:

- **Invitation is required every time.** A parent may assist only after a coach specifically asks. There is no standing permission and no assumed role. Helping once does not authorize helping again.
- **The scope never expands.** Being asked to carry water or relay a decided substitution grants no coaching role, no voice in decisions, and no authority of any kind. A parent executing a task the staff has already decided is not coaching and does not become a coach.
- **Staff decides, parent relays.** When a parent helps with substitutions, the coaching staff has already made the decision. The parent may only carry out that specific instruction and may not choose, alter, delay, or add to it.
- **Permission ends when the task ends.** Assistance is temporary and revocable at any moment, for any reason, with no explanation owed. When the coach says the help is finished, the parent returns immediately to the spectator area.

5. The Spectator Area

Except during a specific, staff-requested task under Section 4, all parents, guardians, and spectators remain in the designated spectator area for the entire event. The team bench, team sideline, huddles,

and any area reserved for athletes and staff are closed to spectators at all times. Parents do not enter the bench area, stand behind or beside the bench, or position themselves to instruct or signal athletes. When a permitted task is complete, the parent returns to the spectator area without delay.

6. Officials, Opponents, and Conduct

All communication with game officials, the scorer's table, tournament administration, opposing coaches, and opposing players is handled exclusively by 212 Lacrosse coaching staff. Parents and spectators do not address officials regarding calls, rules, or game administration, and do not engage opposing coaches or players in any team matter. Spectators are expected to support all athletes positively and to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the program's standards at all times.

7. No Exceptions Based on Background or Relationship

This policy applies identically to every parent and spectator. A person's experience as a player, former or current coaching role elsewhere, coaching license or certification, professional expertise, volunteer status, financial contribution, or family relationship to an athlete creates no exception to any part of this policy and confers no coaching authority within 212 Lacrosse. Disagreement with a coaching decision is not grounds to participate in it. Concerns are addressed only through Section 8, never on the field or sideline and never during play, and never during team training.

8. Enforcement

The coaching staff and program directors have full authority to enforce this policy on the spot and to determine what constitutes a violation. Depending on the circumstances, enforcement may include a verbal reminder, a directive to return to the spectator area, removal from the venue for the remainder of the event, and — for repeated or serious violations — suspension or removal of the family from the program without refund. Compliance with a staff directive is immediate and not open to debate at the time it is given. Enforcement decisions rest solely with 212 Lacrosse.

9. Questions and Concerns

212 Lacrosse welcomes respectful communication through the proper channel. Any questions about coaching decisions, playing time, or this policy should be raised privately with the coaching staff or program director away from the field and outside of game and practice time. This ensures every concern is heard in a productive setting and that game day remains focused on the athletes.