

Fort Bend Panthers Lacrosse Policies & Procedures

The Fort Bend Panthers Lacrosse (FBLAX) Policies & Procedures are in addition to, and meant to compliment, the applicable rules/rule waivers for each league in which the FBLAX participates. In the case of a conflict between the FBLAX Policies & Procedures and the applicable rules/rule waivers, the rules/rule waivers shall govern.

All participants in FBLAX, no matter what capacity, are deemed to be aware of these policies and procedures.

Opportunity Statement

The FBLAX teaches life lessons and the drive for success through the teaching of lacrosse, in an effort to ensure its players reach the highest possible level of play.

The moral of FBLAX is PRIDE, which stands for:

- P – Preparation
- R – Respect for parents, teachers, others and lacrosse
- I – Integrity
- D – Determination
- E – Effort.

FBLAX Board

The FBLAX Board operates in accordance with the current by-laws, including any adopted amendments.

Executive Committee Members

The FBLAX Executive Committee Members are non-voting members of the Board that assist the Board, the Management Company and the Community Advisory Committee in the operation of FBLAX and decision making of FBLAX.

Community Advisory Committee

The Community Advisory Committee (“CAC”) is made up of ten individuals from Sienna Plantation, preferably these individuals are made up of parents, and/or guardians of players, from each grade division. Starting the 2018 Fall Season, two of the CAC members will take Board positions, serving with three Management Company Board members, for one season. The remaining CAC members will serve on CAC for an additional Season and will rotate into the Board for the following lacrosse season. CAC members turned Board members are to serve for one lacrosse season. The Board will replace the two CAC members every season on a rolling basis.

Parents

The FBLAX parent is to:

- Be positive and supportive of their Player at home, during practice and at games;
- Consult with available tools (such as: fbpantherslax.org, Team Coordinators) for information on practices, games, events;
- Assist their Player to care for his/her equipment, uniform, etc...;
- Consult with Team Coordinators for answers to general questions;
- Communicate all complaints to the Team Coordinator, via email, without exception;
 - Reply-To-All emails listing a complaint are not acceptable and will result in the potential termination of the parent and player;
- Volunteer to help with games, practices, etc...;
- Participate in FBLAX fundraisers;
- Wait to approach Coaches, Management Company, CAC, Executive Committee Members, volunteers and/or Team Coordinators regarding games until 24-hours have passed from the end of the game; and
- Abide by the FBLAX Code of Conduct.

Player

The FBLAX player is to:

- Obtain and maintain a valid US Lacrosse number (www.uslacrosse.org);
- Act with PRIDE and be respectful both on/off the field;
- Endeavor to complete school work and lacrosse homework;
- Participate in all practices and games, arriving on-time and with the proper attire and equipment;

- Practices: On-time is 15 minutes early
- Games: On-time may be 30-minutes to 1-hour early, depending upon the division and Coaches discretion; and
- Abide by FBLAX Code of Conduct.

The FBLAX middle-school and high-school lacrosse player is to:

- Maintain an overall 2.5 GPA, with a minimum of a 2.0 or above average in all classes for each grading period;
- At the Coach's request, submit a copy of his/her transcripts (unofficial is sufficient) for the grading period ending the December prior to the start of the January lacrosse season for each season the Player wishes to play with FBLAX;
 - Players not willing to submit a copy of his/her transcripts will not be permitted to play with FBLAX;
 - Players not meeting the required GPA may be placed on probation, being permitted to practice but not able to play in games until improvement and/or be dismissed from FBLAX;
 - FBLAX will maintain such transcripts in confidentiality; and
- Refrain from the illegal use and possession of drugs and/or alcohol.

The FBLAX high-school lacrosse player is to:

- Be eligible to play for the FBLAX as per the Texas High School Lacrosse League rules.

Coaches

The FBLAX Coach is:

- Encouraged to be US Lacrosse Level 1 and Level 2 certified;
- Encouraged to maintain his/her certifications, once obtained, through attaining the appropriate continuing education;
- Required to develop weekly practice plans, in coordination, with the Assistant Coaches;
 - Such practice plans are to be aligned with the Sienna Panthers philosophy of "Assignment, Alignment and Attitude"
- To participate in FBLAX coaches training;
- To communicate, via email, on a weekly basis, at a minimum, to the parents of all players, providing feedback on games and practices';
- To allow for, and assist in, the development of Assistant Coaches and Coaches Assistants; and
- Not permitted to assemble his/her teams, or a subset of such team, to participate in non-FBLAX approved tournaments, camps, showcases, video-taping, etc... whether this is, or is not, for any extra fee.

Management Company

The FBLAX Management Company is responsible for:

- Negotiating all FBLAX contracts, including but not limited to: management and operations, field rental, storage rental, coaches training, player clinics/camps, etc...
- Creating FBLAX season budgets and season calendar of events;
- Creating and managing FBLAX committees;
- Ensuring all registration papers and payments are received for each FBLAX player;
- Securing volunteers to serve as Team Coordinators for each team;
- Hosting a mandatory pre-season parent meeting to explain the policies and procedures, Code of Conduct, introduce Coaches, Team Coordinators, explain complaint procedure, etc. (Note: FBLAX Board Member must be present at such meeting and all meetings);
- Creating Team Coordinator binder materials for each team;
 - Team Coordinator binders shall include:
 - FBLAX Policies & Procedures;
 - Team Roster;
 - Instructions on:
 - volunteer scheduling,
 - weekly communications,
 - communications with Coaches,
 - uploading scores,
 - obtaining HS gym credit (if applicable),
 - creating the team “Game Day” Binder;
 - annual fund raiser; and
 - Plan for team Coach’s gifts and/or parties;
- Communicating FBLAX information to Team Coordinators in a timely fashion in order for the Team Coordinator to communicate to Parents, Players, Coaches, etc...;
- Ensuring the Team Coordinators fulfill his/her duties as Team Coordinators, filling in where necessary and/or answering any questions;
- Maintaining the official FBLAX schedule, including but not limited to: practices, make-up practices and game schedule;
- Providing pinnies and/or uniforms for Team Coordinators to distribute;
- Coordinating the payment of officials; and
- Paying bills and filing taxes.

Team Coordinator

Each team is to have a Team Coordinator that is secured and appointed by the FBLAX Management Company. The Team Coordinator has no prior experience requirements.

The Team Coordinator is responsible for:

- Creating the Team “Game Day” Binder;
- Scheduling volunteers;
- Communicating, weekly, via FBLAX league athletic platform, with parents, Coaches, Players;
- Uploading the scores in the appropriate league website;
- Coordinating team Coach’s gift and/or party;
- Coordinating annual fund raiser;
- Coordinating pinnie and/or uniform distribution; and
- Directing any complaints to the FBLAX Management Company and/or Player Agent Committee.

The Team Coordinator for the Kinder-2nd grade boys division is also responsible for coordinating the pizza, prizes and All-Star players for the All-Star game.

The Team Coordinator for the 7/8th grade boys division is also responsible for obtaining the names of the new team captains (3 to 4 per team) and arranging for a Captain’s Dinner with the alumni captain prior to the end of February each season.

The Team Coordinator for the high school grade boys/girls division is also responsible for arranging for the senior/high school banquet at the end of the spring season.

Player Agent Committee

The Player Agent Committee will be comprised on 3 Board, Executive Committee members and/or CAC members. The Player Agent Committee, in conjunction with the applicable rules/rule waiver and these policies and procedures, is to investigate any and all complaints regarding FBLAX.

Suggested actions to be taken will be discussed with the FBLAX President prior to implementation. Suggestions may include changes in policy and/or procedure, verbal warnings, written warnings, written notifications, suspensions and/or terminations.

Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee will be comprised of 2 Co-Chairs and 4 to 5 Committee members. The Marketing Committee is responsible for: (a) developing and maintaining a marketing contact database; (b) developing a plan for FBLAX, including but not limited to print media, social media, community outreach (including but not limited to signage, publications to community newsletter, school demos, etc.) and state/national outreach (including but not limited to national tournaments, publications, ranking organizations, etc.); (c) implementing said plan each season; and (d) making adjustments to said plan for the following season.

Suggested actions to be taken will be discussed with the FBLAX Management Company prior to implementation.

Dress Code

The following dress code policies apply to FBLAX:

- Players are to attend practices and games in all required safety gear (helmet, chest pads, arm pads, gloves, mouth piece, cup, shin guard (where appropriate), throat guard (where appropriate), eye wear (where appropriate));
- Players are required to attend practices and games in required practice pinnie and/or shooting shirt or uniform, respectively;
 - Failure to wear either a practice pinnie or uniform may result in the inability to participate in practice;
 - As per applicable league rules, failure to wear a uniform will result in the players inability to participate in a game;
- Male players are required to have his lacrosse head strung with white and/or purple string only, hard mesh;
 - Failure to have a lacrosse head strung with white and/or purple string only may result in the inability to participate in practices and/or games;
- Female players are encouraged to have her lacrosse head strung with white string only;
- Players are only permitted to use purple and/or white tape on his/her stick;
- Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Coaches Assistants are required to wear practice pinnie and/or shooting shirt and “game-day” shirt to all practices or games, respectively;
- Players are required to have clean helmets, stick heads, cleats, uniforms for each game;
- Players are required to wear uniform jersey to school on Fridays during the lacrosse season; and
- Helmets are to be free of any stickers and/or decals other than those provided by FBLAX and any travel or select organization, provided that the travel organization sticker is not more prominent than FBLAX stickers and/or logo.

Practice

The following policies apply to FBLAX practices:

- FBLAX Board is to establish official practice schedule and practice location;
- Only FBLAX Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Coaches Assistants are to conduct a practice;
- Other than Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Coaches Assistants, no parent, sibling and/or other person is permitted on the field during practice for any reason;
- Other than Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Coaches Assistants, no parent, sibling and/or other person is permitted to instruct a player during practice;
- Players and Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Coaches Assistants must wear required practice pinnie and/or shooting shirt to practice;
- Players arriving to the field without the required practice pinnie and/or shooting shirt may be asked to leave the field and not participate in practice;

- Players are to address Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Coaches with respect on the practice field, using “sir” or “mam” in response to questions and where appropriate;
- Practice is mandatory; and
- Practice is not a “play-date” nor “social-hour” but are structured to teach the game of lacrosse through discipline, personal responsibility and team work.

The following procedures apply to FBLAX practices:

- When a player is unable to attend practice, the player is to communicate this prior to the scheduled practice, via email, to the Team Coordinator, copying the Coach;
 - Missing practice may result in reduced playing time; and
- If a player arrives to practice without the proper safety gear and/or attire, the Coach may request the player remedy the situation. If the player cannot remedy the situation, the Coach may require the player observe practice, rather than participate in such practice.

Games

The following policies apply to FBLAX games:

- FBLAX Board is to establish official game schedule and game location, within the following guidelines:
 - teams are to play only 1 playoff eligible game per day
 - teams in the 8th grade and under division are not to play games on Monday through Thursday evenings
 - teams in the high school divisions are permitted to play games on weeknights, with the following restrictions:
 - Games must be completed by 10pm
 - Not more than 1 weeknight game per week
 - Not more than 5 weeknight games may be played at away fields
 - teams are to play an even amount of home and away games, erring on the side of more home games if an even balance cannot be established
 - teams are to play only 1 game per weekend, with limited exceptions for play-off eligible teams and make-up scheduling
- Players and Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Coaches Assistants must wear required uniform or game-day shirt to all games
 - As per applicable rules/rule waivers, players arriving to the field without the required uniform are not permitted to play
 - Coaches and Assistant Coaches arriving to the field without the required game-day shirt may be asked to forgo representing FBLAX at such game
- Player participation in games is mandatory
- Officials are mandatory at all FBLAX games regardless as to whether the game is:
 - home and/or away; and
 - a conference qualifying game.

The following procedures apply to FBLAX games:

- When a player is unable to attend a game, the player is to communicate this prior to the scheduled game, via email, to the Team Coordinator, copying the Coach
 - Missing a game may result in reduced playing time
- If a player arrives to game without the proper safety gear and/or attire, the Coach must request the player remedy the situation. If the player cannot remedy the situation, the player is not permitted to play in such game.

Registration & Payment

- Players must complete all registration forms (online and written) and pay registration payment, in full, in order to participate.
- Refunds are not available under any circumstances.
- Scholarships and partial payment plans are not available.

Donations

- Donations made to FBLAX do not entitle the donor to direct the application of such funds without a prior written agreement between the donor and the Board.

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