

Storm Elite Lacrosse Policies



NEW POLICY IN RED

Mission: The STORM Elite teams will be comprised of excellent high school level and college-bound lacrosse players who are prepared to invest the time and commitment required to play lacrosse at the college level. STORM will provide the STORM Elite teams with top-level training, skill building, and exposure at some of the most popular recruiting tournaments on the East Coast. The knowledge and skills gained from STORM's highly qualified coaching staff will give the Elite players the tools needed to compete and eventually excel at the college level. In addition to developing stronger lacrosse skills, STORM is also committed to an overall positive experience for the individual player and her particular team.

Seasonal Evaluations: At the end of Season, the STORM coaching staff will be providing written feedback to individual players regarding their lacrosse ability and personal performance.

Player Policy

Conduct Warning System: A written conduct warning is given to a player for the following reasons: absences are not told to the coaching staff in accordance to the attendance policies (see below), unapproved tournament absence, composure of the player and/or family is broken (see composure policy below), poor attitude and/or comments to coaching staff and/or other STORM members, and if players become involved with other travel lacrosse organizations (see Conflict of Interest Clause). The player and family will receive an email describing the conduct offense. Each player is given 3 warnings. After the third warning, the player's roster position and future consideration for STORM Elite placements will be in jeopardy.

Attendance: All players are expected to go to their team page (or the page for their graduation year) and click the attendance link to record each of their planned absences for the season. The attendance link **should be completed prior to accepting your roster position or tryouts**. Every planned absence requires a new form to be filled out. If an unexpected or unplanned absence occurs during the season, it is the player's responsibility to go to the attendance link and record the absence. The player will not be allowed to participate in the following practice or event if the attendance link is not completed for an absence.

Practices: When players try out for the STORM Elite teams they are demonstrating their desire to play and participate in all practices. Once a player is selected for a roster spot, it is the player's duty to attend all practices and to arrive on time. **All absences should be recorded prior to accepting roster/tryouts using the attendance link system**. If a player has an unplanned absence during the season, the player must complete the attendance link and be prepared for the possibility of losing playing time. Excessive absences will result in the loss of roster position. **Your STORM coaches spend a lot of time**

sending post practice recaps, we expect that you take that very seriously and read/understand. Any questions, use the time before the next practice to contact your coach to get clarification.

Tournaments: Once a player is selected for a roster spot, it is the player's duty to attend all tournaments and to arrive on time to each game. The amount of playing time that each player receives is determined by the coaching staff. Although individual player development is essential in the STORM Elite program, the coaching staff has the right to put the most prepared and competitive players on the field during contests. If a team has more than one goalie, playing time for a goalie is also not guaranteed and it is up to the coaching staff and the Goalie Director to determine playing time. Like any field player, coach/player communication will be paramount. Finally, **all tournament absences should be recorded prior to accepting roster spot/tryouts using the attendance link system.** If a player has an unplanned tournament absence during the season, the player must complete the attendance link and be prepared for the possibility of losing playing time at the next contest or tournament. Excessive absences will result in the loss of roster position.

Excused absences include:

- Weddings
- Funerals
- Family Reunions
- Severe illness/injury
- Family emergencies
- HS Team contests (Including regular season games, state tournament, regional, etc)
- Pre-approved college visit (college camp/clinic for recruitment purposes)

Unexcused absences include:

- School work- It is expected the players understand time management
- Minor illness (cold)- It is expected that the players view practice but do not participate
- Concerts/recreational activities
- Mission/Humanitarian Trips
- Family Vacations

Responsibilities: Players should be fully equipped and prepared to play at every STORM practice and tournament. Practice reversible should be worn at every practice and all components of the uniform should be present at every tournament. Players should always have: mouth guard, goggles, stick, cleats/turfs, and running sneakers at every practice and tournament. It is highly recommended that players bring backup equipment as well.

Player Performance: Similar to most competitive and successful travel organizations, the player's roster spot is determined by the player's level of performance. If a player fails to meet the standards of performance and/or commitment level as described above in the player policy, she may be transferred to an RVA team of the same graduation year.

Goalie Information: All goalkeepers will receive training for the first 35-45 mins of practice from a specified curriculum. There will be a floating goalkeeper coach at all practices and tournaments to give

goalies individualized attention. As stated in the tournament portion of the player policy, it essential to understand that of a team has more than one goalie, playing time for a goalie is also not guaranteed and it is up to the coaching staff and the Goalie Coach to determine playing time.

Conflict of Interest Clause: When players try out for a STORM Elite roster spot they are demonstrating their desire to be loyal to the STORM program and to their teammates for the entirety of the year around program. **Once a player is granted a roster spot, she is expected to refrain from trying out, playing with, or soliciting other players to participate in other travel lacrosse organizations.** The STORM staff spends an extraordinary amount of time coaching, assisting the players in skills, and guiding the players in recruiting process. It is expected that STORM player considers the dedication that STORM Elite staff has shown her and abides by this clause. If it is discovered that STORM player breaks this clause, she will be asked to leave the STORM program without a refund.

Parent Policy

Practices/Games: It is the **player's** responsibility to complete the attendance link for their seasonal absences. It is also the **player's** responsibility to discuss with the coach why she is late for any STORM practice, clinic, game or event. Please allow the player to perform the communication, as the STORM brand is trying to prepare the players for life and assist them in developing communication skills necessary for the collegiate level.

Tournaments: The amount of playing time that each player receives is determined by the coaching staff. Although individual player development is essential in the STORM Elite program, the coaching staff has the right to put the most prepared and competitive players on the field during contests. It is the **player's** responsibility to complete the attendance link for their seasonal absences. It is also the **player's** responsibility to communicate why she is late to a tournament or game. Please allow the player to perform the communication, as the STORM brand is trying to prepare the players for life and assist them in developing communication skills necessary for the collegiate level. Parents and players are asked to NOT approach college coaches at recruiting tournaments for concerns of NCAA violations.

Responsibilities: No member of the STORM staff should be approached after games or practices regarding any issue (playing time, game tactics, etc). The STORM rule is for a parent or guardian to wait 24 hours to present the issue and to allow the coaching staff 24-48 hours to respond to the concern. This prevents emotional conversations and allows all parties to logically prepare their side. If a parent fails to abide by this policy, the player and family will receive a written warning from STORM Administration and depending on the severity of the composure offense, the STORM organization has the right to remove the offender from the program without written warning.

Coaches Policy

Practices/Games: Coaches should be fully focused on the Elite team for the entire practice/game and should be teaching current game strategies. Coaches should be positive and empower their players at all times. Coaches should be open and honest about the player's ability, but mindful of criticism. The goal is

for STORM coaches to prepare the players to play at a college level, but also to allow the players to enjoy the sport.

Tournaments: Coaches should be fully focused on the Elite team for the entire game in every tournament. All coaches should prepare to give constructive feedback during substitutions, halftime and after the games. Coaches should be positive and empower their players at all times. The amount of playing time that each player receives is determined by the coaching staff. Although individual player development is essential in the STORM Elite program, the coaching staff has the right to put the most prepared and competitive players on the field during contests. Coaches should be open and honest about the player's ability, but mindful of criticism. The goal is for STORM coaches to prepare the players to play at a college level, but also to help each player enjoy the sport.

Responsibilities: Coaches should arrive to practice on time with a prepared practice plan. Coaches should also be prepared to respond to any parent feedback within a 48 hour time frame. STORM coaches should be providing post practice feedback in an email form, so that the players can review the skills covered in practice.

Program Composure Policy

All STORM players, parents, coaches, staff members and family members represent the STORM program. It is expected that all members of the organization treat other STORM members, referees, opponents, and opposing coaches with respect. Positive language should be used at all times. **Parents should refrain from discussing any player's ability (including their own child) publicly at tournaments and practices.** If any parent or player fails to abide by this policy, written warning will be given by STORM administration. If any coach or member of the STORM staff fails to abide by this policy, he or she will be removed from the situation or even suspended from the STORM organization. Depending on the severity of the composure offense, the STORM organization has the right to remove the offender from the program without written warning.

Social Media Policy

The STORM community plays a huge role in the the development of lacrosse in the greater-Richmond area. Therefore, it is the expectation of the organization that all players, families, and coaches understand the responsibility of representing STORM on and off the field. Any sort of negative social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, SnapChat etc.) regarding other club programs, high school programs, or STORM itself is not acceptable. If negative social media is identified, the individual will be addressed and playing time and/or the roster spot of the player associated with the social media incident may be jeopardized.

Use of STORM Logo

Individual use/reproduction of STORM logo without prior written consent of New World Sports President, Sue Murphy, is not permitted.

Payment Policy

Failure to make the payment deadlines will result in a 25.00 fee every 7 days. After 14 days, the player will be suspended from all practices and STORM events. After 30 days, the player will be dismissed from the STORM program and her roster spot will be open for tryout.

Refunds: Refunds are only granted under rare circumstances, which include: extreme illness, moving to another state or far location, extreme career ending injury, or emotional issues that hinder the ability to participate in STORM. The STORM organization caps its refunds at 50% of what was paid by the client (with listed circumstances). Any personal issues with the coaching staff, program policies, or playing time do not warrant a refund. STORM hopes that these issues can be worked out and solved, so that the player gets the ultimate travel lacrosse experience.

Recruiting Policy

Expectations of STORM: Being a part of the STORM organization provides players with a foundation of support in regards to the college recruiting process. Due the number of players in the organization, and the high demand for recruiting help, it is essential that players and families understand what role STORM plays in assisting the recruiting process.

- Summer - Sue Murphy will conduct one in person recruiting meeting with the entire grad-year-team. Each player is expected to bring a parent or guardian to the meeting. The meeting will include explanation of recruiting questionnaires, sample athletic resumes, sample emails to college coaches, and basic recruiting information. Fall - we will host per grad year opportunities to join Sue Murphy on a team call in order to direct (per grad year) and answer questions.
- STORM rosters are sent to all DI, DII, and DIII programs by Sue Murphy. This puts all of the STORM player's names into college databases.
- STORM team schedules and invites are sent to college coaches prior to tournaments by Sue Murphy.
- STORM uses a active/live Google Form to collect players top list of schools, so the the STORM administration has a database where every player has college interest.
- Sue Murphy walks the sidelines at STORM games/tournaments and passes out hard copies of team rosters to college coaches. Sue uses the list of schools given by players (as mentioned in the bullet above) and conducts conversations with college coaches with the attention of drawing coaches to certain players based on those lists and/or player level.
- After a tournament, Sue will send emails/contact to specific families if a college coach has expressed interest in a player. From that point, said player will need to follow up with email,

visit, contact or consider camp/clinic. If a STORM coach/Sue is contacted regarding interest in a player, then Sue will contact the player/family.

- Please note that just because a coach attends a game it does not mean he/she has interest in a STORM player - it will take multi evaluations and a player/family showing interest to move the process along with particular college coach continued interest.
- If a player is attending a camp or clinic, she should notify Sue Murphy, who will send an email to the coaching staff on the player's behalf. Please do not expect Head Coaches to perform this task. Sue should be primary resource for sending pre-clinic/camp emails.

The STORM recruiting support DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Staff members doing game film, writing sample emails, or creating resumes for players.
- Asking STORM Staff and administration to send sporadic emails (without attending a camp or clinic) to represent STORM players.
- Expecting STORM staff and administration to email college coaches prior to tournaments on the behalf of specific players (player should do this herself).
- Conducting Individual meetings and consultations with players and families about the college process (college list evaluations, going through transcripts, etc).
- Expecting STORM Staff and administration to call college coaches (who have not expressed interest in players) and ask recruiting based questions.

Extended Guidance: Some players and families will feel the need for additional support beyond what the recruiting fees entail (areas listed above under DO NOT INCLUDE):

- If families or players want to explore a more hands on recruiting approach beyond what STORM Lacrosse provides, please consider New World Sports Recruiting where player profile pages, films and targeted recruiting is contracted with Sue directly.
<http://recruiting.newworldsports.biz>
- On the STORM Lacrosse recruiting page, players can sign up for 30 minute or 1 hour meetings for recruiting support with Sue (for an extra charge). This might include reviewing college lists (realistic vs. add some new colleges for us to explore), seeking answers to 'is this college interested in me or not', which camp/clinic should we do/spend money (depends if that college coach is truly interested or not), closing scholarship offer (include Merit \$, Financial Aid and Athletic \$) or a variety of other questions that become so frustrating/bottleneck. Having a direct avenue to Sue with a set date & time phone call will allow easier access for families to get answers (some answers that are very difficult to get in this recruiting process)
<http://www.stormlacrosse.biz/committed-storm-college-players-1.html>
- If you want/need video created - we can service that as an ala carte item here
<http://recruiting.newworldsports.biz>

Expectations of Players/Parents: Although STORM will provide Elite players and families with educational resources, it is the primary role of the player and the player's family to take ownership of the recruiting process. Players and families must:

New World Sports * P.O. Box 35110, Richmond VA 23235
<http://www.stormlacrosse.biz>

- Create their own athletic resumes, highlight videos, and websites
- Create their own college lists
- Complete their own student-athlete questionnaires
- Compose their own email to the college coaches.
- Locate, register, and attend college camps or clinics on their own
- Send college coaches introductory emails, film, and schedules on their own

It is our PHILOSOPHY & MISSION to provide a safe and excellent platform for girls lacrosse development. We expect all parties involved - player, parents, coaches, administrators - to be great ambassadors of the sport of lacrosse and the STORM Organization. Thank you in advance for allowing us to share our passion of lax with your daughter!

- Sue Murphy, STORM President - sue@newworldsports.biz

STORM Director of Operations - Missy Wells - missy@newworldsports.biz