# USING THE PEN TOOL FOR CUTOUTS

## Creating a Cutout:

• Open a stand-alone photo in Photoshop
• Bring up the *Path* tab (Window > Paths)
• Click on the ▾≡ icon in the top right of the Paths tab and select *New Path* and name it accordingly
• Select the *Pen Tool* icon ✏ from the tool bar (Window > Tools)
• Zoom in on your photo and anchor the Pen Tool on the edge of what you want to cut out, creating a new path
• Start clicking around your subject – the more frequent your clicks, the closer and cleaner the cut will be
• Click all around the outside edge of your subject and finalize the path with a click in the original anchor point - the pen tool will have a small circle to its bottom right indicating the final click the close the path
• The path will turn to a solid line once closed – return to the *Path* tab, click on the icon in the top right and select *Make Selection* and press *OK* when *New Selection* is highlighted in pop-up window – this will create marching ants around your subject
• Open a new, *transparent* document in Photoshop
• Use the *Move Tool* ▶⊕ to drag the selected image onto the *transparent* document
• If you have other areas that need cutting out follow the same process:
    • In *Path* tab, select *New Path* from top right icon
    • Select the *Pen Tool* – anchor, form and finalize your path
    • Choose *Make Selection* from the top right icon and press *delete* to rid of the selected area
    • When repeating the above three bullets, make sure that when you select *Make Selection* the *New Selection* bullet is highlighted so the correct area will be deleted

## Other key points:

• When selecting stand-alone photos to cut out, take into consideration hair styles, grass, angle of lacrosse sticks, and other challenging cutout scenarios
• Once done with the cutout, you may want to add a blur or feather effect to soften the edges
• Save as a Photoshop document (.PSD) or a TIFF (.TIF/ .TIFF) – when the TIFF options box appears select *Save Transparency* and OK through other prompts