

# Loudonville High School Athletic Department

## Philosophy

Any successful athletic department has coaches/staff members, athletes and community members that work in unison with one another for the good of the school district. Athletics are an integral part of the educational process, which offer a positive and meaningful experience that, when effective, will enhance the growth and development of the young men and women who participate. Our athletic program will provide a variety of experiences to enhance the development of positive student habits and attitudes that will prepare them for adult life.

Participation on an athletic team in our school district is a privilege and not a right. High standards of conduct will be expected of our students on and off of the playing courts and fields. Our student-athletes should be expected to follow the rules of the athletic code from the time they join their first athletic team until the day that they receive their diploma. Members of our various athletic programs should be proud of the traditions that have been established over many years, by many people who have committed themselves to excellence.

At a small school like ours, coaches must be able work with one another and share athletes and facilities. Specifically, summer schedules will not be set for any sport until the coaches for a given group of athletes meet and resolve any problems or questions that may be brought up. Once all coaches have met, the athletic director will approve all schedules, so that they are most beneficial for all student-athletes involved. Coaches must also work collaboratively with the Loudonville-Perrysville Athletic Booster Club and professional personnel members of our district. Most importantly, coaches should provide mentorship and guidance for the young men and women in our athletic programs. The coaches should have the proper certification and training necessary to instruct small and large groups of individuals in the various settings that may be presented to them throughout a calendar year. This training should never end and our coaches, both head and assistants alike, should strive to reach a level of mastery in their specific sports. Similar to the code of conduct for our student-athletes, our coaches will also have a set of guidelines and expectations provided for them to follow. These expectations will hold true, not only in the arena of competition but also in the community and outside of the view of the public.

Athletics can and do play a positive role in the community, but the temptation to glorify them and those who play them well must be avoided. It is also far too common to see athletes and coaches with lesser skill vilified and ridiculed. The real value of high school sports is best measured by how they positively contribute to student-athletes' personal growth, performance in the classroom and graduation rates - rather than the number of yards gained, goals scored, strikeouts recorded or college scholarships received.

Community members should act positively towards competitors, coaches and officials. Failure to do so will not be tolerated in our athletic venues. Positive community support can only help our athletic programs, while negative thoughts and behaviors can only hurt them. It is the goal of our athletic department to be positive and relevant members of the community, while serving as role models for future generations. Our athletic department appreciates the kindness from the stakeholders of the Loudonville Perrysville Village Exempted School District. Their generosity and support is what makes our athletic programs some of the best in the area, region and state of Ohio.

Go Birds!