

Loudonville High School  
*“Home of the Redbirds”*



Student Athlete Handbook (7-12)

Revised June 2021

**LOUDONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL (7-12)**

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## Purpose

The goal of the Loudonville High School Athletic Department is to provide every student-athlete the opportunity to grow morally, mentally, emotionally and physically. We recognize that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right, which provides many benefits. Participation in athletics at Loudonville High School (7-12) requires athletes to demonstrate the highest level of scholarship, leadership, character and citizenship. With emphasis on character traits, ethics and integrity in athletics, we feel our athletes will become leaders and positively influence our school and community.

This *Student Athlete Handbook* has been developed to compile pertinent information about the Loudonville High School Athletic Department and the expectations that exist for our student athletes. It should be used as a guideline and information source by parents and students for athletic rules and policies of Loudonville High School (7-12).

This handbook contains general rules and policies used by the athletic department and individual coaches to determine rules for their specific sports.

## Objectives

1. To provide opportunities for all students to gain knowledge and skills through approved sports.
2. To provide qualified and dedicated directors, coaches and supervisors who will carry out the board's philosophy and objectives, placing the educational, physical and psychological interests of the student above all other interests.
3. An extra curricular activity will exist only so long as it can be justified by sound educational reasoning and sufficient student participation.
4. To develop good health habits and learn the value of exercise.
5. To develop work habits, values and attitudes that lead to success in school and in later life.
6. To develop a genuine sense of self-reliance while learning to handle adversity or challenges in an appropriate manner.
7. In varsity competition the head coach will field those student-athletes who, in his/her judgment, will most effectively contribute to the success of the team.
  - The optimum number of student-athletes on a varsity team shall be determined by the head coach.

## **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES (Grades 7-12)**

### **SECTION I - LIMITS ON TEAM ROSTER SIZE**

If large numbers of students try out for a team, the head coach retains the right to limit the number of athletes kept on the roster.

- A. **Varsity:** Team shall not be limited to a specific number of players during any given season. Number of athletes shall be set year to year by discretion of head coach, staff and evaluation process.
  - a) Seniors who do not make the Varsity team may be cut or placed on JV status.

- B. **Junior Varsity:** Team shall be representative of players who are one step away from making Varsity team. Number of players on this squad shall reflect this goal:
  - a) JV team shall carry no less than 12 athletes\* following a multi-session tryout period.
- C. **Freshmen:** Any freshman who does not make the Varsity or Junior Varsity squads will immediately become part of the Freshman team roster if:
  - a) Student meets all eligibility requirements.
  - b) There will be a minimum of seven full-time\*\* players on squad roster.
- D. **Grades 7 and 8 Volleyball and Basketball**
  - a) Teams shall carry no less than 12 athletes\*

*\*In order to cut athletes from a team, there must be three or more participants above the minimum roster number.*

## SECTION II - LIMITS ON ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (7-12)

- A. Tryouts will be held for all students who want to be on the team. Students are subject to being cut from the team.
- B. The head coach and coaching staff will make a decision on whether or not a student will continue to be a part of the team after a period of at least five try out days.
- C. Factors which may lead to being cut, but are not all inclusive, are as follows:
  - a) Knowledge and performance of Advanced Fundamental Skills
    - 1. The head coach and staff will determine what skills are necessary to be proficient and fundamentally sound at each level of play.
    - 11. Factors which will be evaluated during the mandatory tryout period include: physical conditioning, knowledge of game, fundamental skills assessment, competition assessment, and a coach ability/ attitude evaluation.
  - b) Age and Eligibility Requirements
    - 1. All students must meet the OHSAA guidelines on age and eligibility of an athlete.
  - c) Attitude and Respect for Coaches, Fellow Athletes, and property
    - 1. Athletes will be expected to behave in a respectful manner to the coaching staff and other participating athletes. Disrespect of the coach, other athletes, and/or school property will be deemed as unacceptable behavior and shall be grounds for dismissal from the team.
  - d) Coach ability
    - 1. Athletes are expected to follow the team rules set by the coach and to follow directions in practice and games. Constructive criticisms may be offered by the coach to improve an individual or teams' performance of the sport.
  - e) Equipment Availability
    - 1. If an athlete's safety may be jeopardized by the lack of proper school-issued sports equipment, athletes may be cut to avoid injury.

## SECTION III - COACHES MEETING AFTER TRYOUT PERIOD

- A. Students chosen for inclusion on the Varsity, Junior Varsity, or Freshman roster shall be posted the evening of, or no later than the next morning, following tryouts.
- B. If a person is cut, coaches will set up a meeting to go over information or strategies for improvement and development of skills for the following year.

## **GOLF, SWIM, AND INDOOR TRACK TRANSPORTATION**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedure for the transportation of members of the high school golf, swim or indoor track team members to practices.

While it is the usual practice of this Board of Education to hold practices for its interscholastic athletic teams on property owned by the school district and easily accessible by the participants, the above mentioned teams present unusual circumstances because practices and events are held at locations other than properties owned or maintained by the Loudonville-Perrysville School District and therefore transportation is required to that location.

The Board, having carefully considered the number of students on these teams, the number of trips involved for practices, and the cost of transportation by school bus, has concluded that it is in the best interest of the school district for parents to arrange or provide transportation of team members to practices. However, this transportation must be carried out only in strict compliance with the provisions of this policy.

The School District will provide transportation to the event matches.

The Superintendent is directed to annually notify in writing the parents/guardians of each member of the high school team of the following:

1. That the District will not provide transportation of students to practices.
2. That school district insurance will not apply to students while being transported to and from practices.
3. That as a condition of participation as a member of the team, each parent/guardian shall sign a document acknowledging the substance of this policy and waive all claims of liability for bodily injury, death, or loss of or damage to personal property against the school district, its agents, and employees which may arise out of this transportation.
4. Transportation waivers will be distributed to parents and student athletes prior to the start of the season and signed and returned to the Head Coach prior to the start of practices.

## **8225 - SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES**

The Loudonville-Perrysville Board of Education believes that students, families, faculty, and staff should have at least (1) one day per week that is normally free of school-planned or sponsored activities to encourage rest and family-oriented activities. To further this goal, school activities shall generally not occur on Sunday.

Activities, practices and competitions on Sunday shall be held in only the rarest of circumstances. Coaches, advisers and event sponsors must contact the appropriate building administrator and obtain permission prior to scheduling any event on Sunday.

Although it is the Board's desire to restrict activities on Sunday, the Loudonville-Perrysville Exempted Village School District cannot guarantee that practices, activities, competitions, and other events will never be held on Sunday. There will be occasions outside of the school district's control when outside entities schedule or reschedule events on Sunday; or the schools determine that the scheduling of an event on Sunday is beneficial to the students and community.

Students shall not be required to attend practices, activities, competitions, and other events on Sunday, and sanctions shall not be imposed upon students who are absent. It is, however, the responsibility of the student or parent/guardian to provide prior notice to the coach, adviser or event sponsor of the student's intended absence.

It is also the intent of the Board of Education to limit scheduled activities on Wednesday evenings after 7:00 p.m. to allow for a mid-week break. However, there will be occasions when events are scheduled or rescheduled and practices extended later into the evening due to limited availability of facilities, weather conditions, schedule conflicts, or other circumstances beyond the control of the School District.

## **I. CHAIN OF COMMAND CONCERNING CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

When a situation arises that a parent or athlete has a concern regarding the physical, mental and/or emotional health of the student athlete or his or her role on the team, it is the responsibility of the athlete to approach the Head Coach first to discuss the matter. If the issue cannot be resolved between the head coach and the athlete, then the head coach, athlete and parents or guardian may meet to resolve the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved with the head coach, it is at this time the Athletic Director and/or High School Principal may become involved. At this point if the Athletic Director, principal, coaches and parents cannot come to an agreement or resolution then the advice of the school superintendent may be sought by all parties involved. The chain of command is as follows;

- A. Line of Authority:
  - 1. Head Coach
  - 2. Athletic Director
  - 3. High School Principal
  - 4. Superintendent
  - 5. Board of Education

Concerns will not be heard by the Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent or members of the Board without following the proper chain of command procedures.

Parents and athletes are advised to wait 24 hours after a competitive event before approaching the Head Coach with concerns.

Approaching a coach, staff member or the administration in a hostile or obscene manner during and/or after an event may result in the parent, athlete or family member to be banned from all Loudonville-Perrysville athletic events for a period of time determined by the school administration.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY**

The rules and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Loudonville-Perrysville Board of Education govern the academic eligibility of the student/athlete at Loudonville High/Junior High School. Academic eligibility is based on the previous nine week grading period and will be monitored by the Athletic Director.

### **A. Grades 7-8 Guidelines**

- 1. Incoming 7th grade students' grade point average will be first established at the end of the first grading period.
- 2. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade must currently be enrolled in school the preceding grading period and received passing grades in 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled. (OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-4). The Loudonville-Perrysville Board of Education also requires that a student must carry a 1.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of each grading period.

### **B. Grades 9-12 Guidelines**

1. Must achieve a 1.0 grade point average at the end of each grading period and meet the requirements of the Ohio High School Athletic Association for scholarship eligibility
2. Incoming 9th grade students' grade point average will be first established at the end of the first grading period.
3. A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade must have passed seventy five percent (75%) of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled and have a cumulative grade point average of 1.0 at the conclusion of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year.
4. A high school student must have passed a minimum of five one (1) credit courses or the equivalent in the immediately preceding grading period. The five (5) courses may be a combination of high school and college courses.

Failure to comply with the grading period eligibility requirements results in extracurricular interscholastic ineligibility for the succeeding grading period.

## **HOME SCHOOLING**

If a student is home schooled and wishes to participate in sports on behalf of the Loudonville-Perrysville Schools, he or she must adhere to the following guidelines set forth by the OHSAA:

- Home-educated (excused from compulsory schooling) students shall be eligible to participate in the sports program at the school located in the parents' residential district provided they meet all other eligibility standards (this trumps exception six).
- Home educated - outside the residential district- MAY be allowed to participate if their residential district school does not have the sport.

Students in non-public schools (either chartered or non-chartered)

- Shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in sports in the residential school district if the non-public school does not sponsor that sport(s)
- This does not refer to public chartered or community schools. Students in those schools are not permitted to participate for another school.

Home-Educated Students - Excused from Compulsory Education

- May be eligible if attempting to participate in the school located in the parents' residential district, i.e., where entitled to attend tuition free. The recent amendment to the budget bill now permits this participation without the obligation of taking any course work at the member school. Students must still be ruled eligible in all other aspects including scholarship.
- May enter a member school from home education at the beginning of a school year provided the member school certifies that the student met all standards in the home school
- May not withdraw to home education and then reenroll during the school year without earning eligibility by completing one grading period meeting the academic standard found in bylaw4-4
- May not be home educated if enrolled in one of the online digital schools

**ATHLETIC FORMS AND INFORMATION PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION (see next page)**

**For a complete overview of the OHSAA 12-13 regulations visit [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)**

Age:	A student -will be eligible to play in all athletic competition until the age of 20. They -will become ineligible on the day of their 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday. They -will be unable to participate in any athletic contests.
Conduct:	The student must be in compliance with the L-P Board of Education Code of Conduct and school athletic training rules.
Physicals:	An official OHSAA Student Participation Parental Approval, and Physical Examination Form properly signed by a physician, the participant, and by a parent/guardian, must be on file in the office (Athletic Director/Principal) before any candidate for a team may participate in a practice session .
Emergency Medical Authorization Form:	Before an athlete may participate in a practice session, the parent/guardian shall complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Form. This completed form is kept by the school officials and is available to all coaching personnel. The form is used in the event of an injury and when a doctor and/or hospital attention is required, and the parent is unavailable.
Insurance:	All athletes are required to be insured against accident and injury. If an athlete is insured under a family insurance policy, the insurance wavier form is to be completed by the parent/guardian. Should the athlete not be covered by a family policy, school accident insurance may be purchased through the school.
Equipment and Uniforms:	Equipment and uniforms that are the property of the school, once issued to an athlete, becomes the sole responsibility of that athlete. If equipment and/or uniforms are lost, or damaged, replacement must be made at the athlete's expense. All equipment and/or uniforms -will be returned at the end of each sports season. Students -will be billed for replacement costs of uniforms not returned. No uniforms -will be granted in other sports until uniforms from previous sports have been turned in or bills paid.
Rules and Regulations:	<p>All students shall receive a cop y of the Code of Conduct requirements that are adopted by the board of education. All students must follow the following guidelines:</p> <p>The head coach in each sport shall provide participants and the athletic director with rules and regulations, which apply to that particular sport.</p> <p>Ohio High School Athletic Association rules/constitution requirements shall be followed by coaches and student athletes.</p> <p>Athletes participating in a sport in season, should not participate in organized practice of another sport.</p>

Athletes should not quit a sport during the season and expect to be permitted (high school principal is in charge of all athletic programs) to be eligible for participation in another sport, during that same sport season. (sport seasons: Fall, Winter, Spring).

Travel:

Students who ride a school bus on any non-routine trip, e.g. field trips, will be required to return to the trips' origination point unless the student has a permission slip signed by parent/guardian and the principal. Buses will not leave assigned routes to deliver students to the residence. Permission slips signed by the school administration will generally indicate/permit approval for the driver to allow the student to depart the bus at the student's residence. It is requested that parents not request that students be allowed to depart the bus at any location, which in the judgment of school personnel, might present a potential danger to the departing student. School officials will not be favorable to requests to permit students to depart/ exit the bus in the middle of a village, at night, or at a point on an open highway, not located next to the student's home. Our purpose in communicating this policy is to assure the safety and well-being of all boys and girls who ride school buses to events such as ball games, field trips, etc.

Injuries, illness or Student Absence from School:

All injuries should be recorded by head coaches for insurance purposes. All injured athletes who are at school should attend practice. Participation will be dependent on severity of the injury and a doctor's recommendation. **Athletes are expected to be at school by 11:00 a.m. and have legitimate excuses for any A.M. absences in order to play or practice after school that day. If an illness occurs and a student misses afternoon classes he/ she may not practice.**

Media Policy and Tips

"WHAT YOU SEE HERE & WHAT YOU HEAR HERE, STAYS HERE WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE"

1. You are representing yourself, your family, your team and your school.
2. By talking to the media you can give your side of the story, your positive opinions and your message.
3. Anything you say WILL be publicized. There is no such thing as an "off-the-record comment."
4. Be respectful of your opponents both before and after the game; give proper credit to your teammates.
5. At times you may be asked about a topic that is "Team Business" (injuries, discipline issues, game plan, etc.). You can say that it is team business, let's talk about something else.

Social Networking

"WHAT YOU SEE HERE & WHAT YOU HEAR HERE, STAYS HERE WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE"

Social networking can be used as a positive means of communicating with others and providing mass information to others at one time. However it must be constantly evaluated as to who is utilizing it and what information is being processed through it.

Negative blogging, tweeting, photos and other statements can quickly bring attention to the Loudonville Athletic Program, Loudonville High School and the community we represent. Each member of an athletic program must be disciplined in their use of the various social networks.

Do not bring negative attention to yourself or the team you play for, do not provide bulletin board material for the opposing team and ALWAYS think before you click. Once information hits the internet it will be there forever.

Athlete's Social Conduct:

Negative conduct in school by any athlete is frowned upon by the athletic staff. Any student athlete who is suspended from school will not participate in practice or games during said suspension. A suspension that spans a Friday and a Monday will include denial of participation over the weekend.

Denial of Participation,  
Due Process

Denial of participation can occur if any athlete violates school training rules or rules established by the head coach in a sport. The head coach and/or athletic director can deny participation in a sport. Said denial may be of limited term or for the duration of the season.

In order that students are made aware that participation can be denied in the event of rules violations, each student will receive a copy of form 5-041 of the board policy. Each student and his/her parent/guardian must sign the form before practice begins. No student will be denied participation until they have received written notice of intention to remove said student from a team..

#### **5610.05 - PROHIBITION FROM EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent, principals, assistant principals, Dean of Students, Athletic Director, and other authorized personnel employed by the District to supervise or coach a student activity program, to prohibit a student from participating in any particular or all extra-curricular activities of the District for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code for a period not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the offense or violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code took place.

In addition, student athletes are further subject to the Athletic Code of Conduct and may be prohibited from participating in all or part of any interscholastic sport for violations therein.

Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing, or appeal rights.

This policy shall be posted in a central location in each school building and will be available to students upon request

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **I. OBJECTIVES:**

Students who participate in programs will be expected to respect the standards herein stated in this code, as well as the standards which are described in the general code of conduct statement that is included in the student handbook.

### **II. COOPERATION AND ATTITUDE**

Students will be expected to:

- a. Conduct themselves in a spirit of sportsmanship and good citizenship at **all** times.
- b. Demonstrate an attitude of unselfishness and be willing to function as part of a group.
- c. Be cooperative and respectful toward their coach and teammates at **all** times.
- d. Attend school regularly. If it is necessary to be absent from school, or practice, the school principal or coach should be notified.
- e. Return **all** equipment owned by the school.
- f. Ride the bus to and from games, events. etc.
- g. Obey **all** rules and regulations established by the activity advisor and school principal.
- h. Degrading coaching staff or teammates on social media or networking sites **will not** be tolerated. Such activities **will** be addressed by coach or advisor.
- i. Hazing **will not** be tolerated as per board policy.

### **III. RULES:**

1. Initial violation of training rules, rules established by the group advisor, etc., **will** be handled by the coach/advisor.
2. The head coach, working in cooperation with the building principal, is generally responsible to communicate rules and behavior expectations to students participating in athletics and/or other group activities.
3. Continued, or repeated, violations of expected standards of good behavior, good sportsmanship and citizenship, can result in denial of participation, following procedural process. The school principal is the authority in matters of denial of participation.
4. Because athletes and cheerleaders are highly visible representatives of Loudonville High School, they are expected to maintain standards of personal excellence, not only during athletic season, but all school year long. Therefore, substance abuse, be it tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs, **will not** be tolerated in season or out of season. Penalties for possession, use or abuse of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs **will** be assessed as follows:

Drugs/ Alcohol:

First Offense: 30% denial of participation.

NOTE: The penalty may be reduced if the offender has an evaluation by a certified alcoholism counselor and follows the recommendations of the assessment including treatment. If the violation occurs out-of-season, the penalty Will be assessed during the offender's next complete athletic season of participation. A "complete athletic season" begins with the first day of practice as established by OHSAA. The head coach of the next available sport reserves the right to deny participation if the student's sole purpose is to avoid a suspension from his/her favored sport

Second Offense: Denial of participation in all athletics for one year from the date of the offense.

NOTE: The penalty may be reduced to denial of participation **of 30% of the contests** of the season if the offender has an evaluation by a certified alcoholism counselor and follows the recommendations of the assessment including treatment. If the violation occurs out-of-season, the penalty Will be assessed during the offender's next complete athletic season of participation. A "complete athletic season" begins with the first day of practice as established by OHSAA. The head coach of the next available sport reserves the right to deny participation if the student's sole purpose is to avoid a suspension from his/her favored sport.

Third Offense: The student Will be denied participation in all athletics for one year from date of offense.

Tobacco:

First Offense: Reported to LHS Administration.

Second Offense: Denial of participation for 30% of the contests of the season.

If more than 70% of the season has already transpired, the penalty Will carry over to the next season.

Third Offense: The student Will be denied participation for one year starting from the date of the offense.

5. Stealing: Denial of participation for the rest of the season.

6. Vandalism of School Property Or Other Property Denial of participation for a time established by the school principal.

N. DUE PROCESS:

Each participant shall receive a copy of this code of conduct. A copy signed by the participant and the participant's parent/guardian, shall be on file in the athletic director's office before participation is permitted. Before a participant is denied participation, he/ she Will be given notice that such denial may be made, the basis for the possible denial, and the opportunity to explain his/her actions. The denial of participation may be appealed to the superintendent.

Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Activity \_\_\_\_\_