

LMS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

PHILOSOPHY

The athletic program of Lebanon Middle School is intended to give our students an opportunity to grow as athletes and to mature as individuals through athletic competition. We believe that the athletic program is an integral part of the school's total educational program. Athletics should strive to meet stated goals of Lebanon Middle School. The athletic program shall encourage participation, stress fundamentals, and serve to articulate programs between the elementary schools and the high school. Such traits as sportsmanship, character, leadership, and loyalty shall be fostered. We consider the participation in athletics to be a privilege rather than a right. The emphasis on athletic competition shall not interfere in any way with the academic growth of the individual or academic climate of our school.

Lebanon Middle School participates in interscholastic athletics, primarily with junior high/middle schools in and around Boone County and the central Indiana area. Lebanon enjoys a reputation of athletic excellence statewide due to the outstanding efforts of its students, parents, and coaches.

Along with seven other schools, Lebanon participates in the sponsorship and governance of conference championships for nine different teams.

Lebanon Middle School provides a variety of athletic activities listed below in which students may participate providing they meet any eligibility requirements that may apply.

Fall	Grade Level
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Boys Tennis	6/7/8
Cheerleading	6/7/8
Boys Cross Country	6/7/8
Girls Cross Country	6/7/8
Football	6/7/8
Boys Soccer	6/7/8
Girls Soccer	6/7/8
Volleyball	6/7/8

Winter	
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Boys Basketball	6/7/8
Girls Basketball	6/7/8
Boys Swimming	6/7/8
Girls Swimming	6/7/8
Wrestling	6/7/8

Spring	
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Girls Tennis	6/7/8
Golf	6/7/8
Boys Track	6/7/8
Girls Track	6/7/8

LEBANON MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICIES

Participation in athletics is a privilege earned by meeting the rules and standards set by the school. Students who have questions concerning eligibility should contact the Athletic Director before they endanger their athletic eligibility rather than after it is too late.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All students participating in athletic activities must pass 60% of the full credit subjects or the equivalent that a student athlete can take or have no more than one F. More than one "F" in any nine-week grading period will result in suspension from all athletic activities. During the academic suspension, an athlete may not dress or participate in any games but may participate in practice upon parent and coach agreement. The suspension will last until the grade has been brought up to passing by the next issued grade card. Anyone failing more than one class the 4th nine weeks will begin the following school year on probation, grades will be checked at midterm and to be removed from their probationary status student athletes must have no more than one failing grade. More than one F will make the student athlete on probation ineligible until the nine weeks check. Each coach may have rules and guidelines specific to his or her sport. All student managers in the athletic program fall under the same eligibility rules as the players in each sport.

****Any student that receives an F, regardless if they remain eligible or not, a mandatory meeting will take place with the student-athlete, Head Coach, and Athletic Director to establish a suitable intervention. The uses of Study Tables and Homework Help sessions, as well as continuous monitoring of the student-athletes academic performance are examples of a suitable intervention. It will also be to the discretion of the Head Coach as to whether playing time will be compromised until passing grades have been achieved.**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

If a student athlete is assigned to Tuesday School or Thursday School, In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension, the athlete may NOT attend practice, play in games, or attend any extra-curricular activity during the suspension. If a

student athlete is excused from P.E., the athlete may NOT participate in athletic practice or contest, The Athletic Director and Principal may waive any or all eligibility requirements for any LMS student athlete if they deem it to be in the best interest of the athlete. **Suspension period does not end until the beginning of the next regularly scheduled school day.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Amateurism: Students shall not play under assumed names, accept remuneration directly or indirectly for athletic participation, nor participate in athletic activities, tryouts, auditions, practices, and games held or sponsored by professional athletic organizations, clubs, or their representatives.

Athletic Insurance: The school has **NO** medical insurance protection on athletes.

Changing Sports: Athletes (including current season cheerleaders) will be permitted to compete in only one sport at a time. Athletes must fulfill their commitment in one sport before being allowed to practice or compete in another sport.

Attendance: Students must be in school by 10:30 a.m. and complete the day or arrive at 7:30 a.m. and not leave until 12:00 p.m. to remain eligible to participate in the activity that day. Students who are absent from school on a Friday may participate in a contest on the following Saturday at the coach's discretion. However, students who must leave school to attend a funeral, medical appointment, etc., may participate that evening with the approval of the Athletic Director.

Equipment: Each athlete is responsible for the care and return of all athletic equipment that has been issued to him/ her. Lost equipment is not an acceptable excuse. Each athlete is to use the equipment properly and to respect all athletic facilities and buildings. Equipment lost or damaged due to player neglect will be paid for by the student/parent, at the replacement cost of such items.

Physical Form: Each athlete must have a completed IHSAA Physical Form on file in the athletic office before they can practice or try out. This form must be signed by parent, student, and physician. A new form must be completed each year.

Travel: Lebanon Middle School athletes are required to travel to and from athletic contests and special events in school-approved vehicles (bus or van) under adult supervision provided by Lebanon Middle School. Exceptions to this guideline must be submitted to the coach for review. It is our desire for our students to participate fully with their team, which includes travel. We discourage parents from taking their children immediately after competition concludes. Cheerleaders will travel on team buses or in the school van with the coach.

Practice: Practice is an important part of athletic participation. Most instruction on athletic skills takes place at this time. Athletes are expected to attend all scheduled practices unless the coach has excused them for a valid reason.

Most teams practice immediately after school each day. Students staying for practice are to take their coats, books, etc., with them to an assigned area of the building. **Student athletes will not be permitted to re-enter the main part of the building after practice. Students must be under the supervision of school personnel at all times.**

For practices held at times other than immediately after school, players should not report to the building earlier than 15 minutes before practice. Arrangements should be made for rides to pick up players within 15 minutes of the scheduled end of practice. If players/managers/cheerleaders fail to comply with the 15 minute pick up rule twice, they may then forfeit the right to participate at the discretion of the coach or Athletic Director

Training Rules: Each coach will have rules and guidelines specific to his/her sport.

Undue Influence: Students shall be ineligible if a person uses undue influence to retain or secure them as student-athletes or to retain their parents as residents.

Scholar-Athlete Award: The Scholar-Athlete Award will be presented on Honors Day to an eighth grade boy and an eighth grade girl who during their three years at Lebanon Middle School have met the following standards: maintained a scholastic average in the top half of their class, shown an interest in and exhibited the qualities for potential leadership, participated in a minimum of two different sports, and exhibited the standards of good sportsmanship during their athletic participation.

CONDUCT CODE OF ATHLETES

It is the position of the Lebanon Board of School Trustees to regard student participation in any extra-curricular activity as a privilege rather than a right. Students engaged in any or all such activities are representatives of the student body, the school, and the community. A code of conduct and behavior which is above reproach must be maintained at all times when the student is participating in such activities. Failure of a student to uphold these standards in any way renders the student ineligible for continued participation in extra-curricular activities according to the school policy.

A student who represents Lebanon Middle School must exhibit at all times the highest standards of personal behavior. When students become athletes, they take on a special responsibility for exemplary conduct because there will be times when they will be representing the school in other communities as well as their own. Therefore, they should conscientiously fulfill all the rules established for the sport in which they are participating and avoid the following:

1. Possession or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, smoking materials, and illegal drugs;
2. Violation of city, state, or federal codes/laws; and
3. Exhibiting personal behavior while on or off school grounds, in or out of season, which reflects poor judgment and is not the exemplary conduct expected of a student athlete. This includes *digital citizenship behavior at and away from school.

4. The dress code for athletic events is the same as found in the LMS Student Handbook under Dress and Grooming. The Coach may set his/her Dress Code for each sport.

Athletes in violation of the above rules will be disciplined according to the seriousness of the situation. Probation, suspension, or removal from the team are all possibilities. The coach, the Athletic Director, or the Principal will determine these penalties.

The Athletic Director and/ or Principal may call in teams or individuals at any time to provide counsel, conduct inquiries, or impart information related to good conduct, sportsmanship, or rule violations.

*Digital Citizenship means “the norms of appropriate, responsible, and healthy behavior related to technology use, including digital literacy, ethics, etiquette, and security.”

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICIES

Lebanon Community School Corporation recognizes the use of mood-altering, illicit chemicals as a significant health problem for many youth. The use of mood-altering chemicals results in negative effects on behavior, learning, and the total development of the person. As coaches, directors, and sponsors we have a unique opportunity to observe, confront, and help the youth of Lebanon change for the better. This goal can be best accomplished by giving students who need help a chance to redirect their lives. Therefore, the following extra-curricular policy exists to help those students who are in need of assistance with a substance abuse problem.

DEFINITIONS

1. Controlled substance is any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic, amphetamine, barbiturate, steroid, mood-altering drug, or any intoxicant of any kind including alcoholic beverages and “near beer.” Such terms further include marijuana and any look-alike substances, whether in fact such substance actually is a controlled substance.
2. Confirmed violation takes place when a student uses, possesses, or transmits a controlled substance and is identified by means of one of the ways described below:
 - a. communication from the office of the prosecuting attorney which indicates there is probable cause to support the filing of a criminal information or petition of delinquency on grounds involving possession, transfer, or use of a controlled substance;
 - b. a voluntary admission of guilt of such act by the student alleged to have violated this policy;
 - c. finding by school officials that a student violated this policy, based on observations and/or direct information.
3. Extra-curricular Council Review Committee is a group composed of the Athletic Director; Assistant Principal; a minimum of three head coaches, directors, or sponsors; and a minimum of one student. This committee exists to hear an appeal from a student relative to a penalty imposed for a substance abuse violation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

General provisions are provided for the purpose of governing those students who are confirmed as substance abusers. Substance abusers will be treated in a manner that provides a penalty and rehabilitation. The intent of these provisions is for the substance abuser to redirect his/her life with a goal of eliminating the use of controlled substances.

1. Rules regarding substance abuse violations are in effect year round: off-season and summer as well as in season.
2. Substance abuse violations are not removable as they relate to subsequent violation. All are counted and are removable only when the student graduates from Lebanon High School. Violations are carried over to the high school from the middle school.
3. The student suspended from extra-curricular activities due to substance abuse violations loses his/her good standing for that sport/season in which the violation takes place during a non-season.
4. A student not participating in an extra-curricular activity at the time of violation of this policy shall have the penalty applied to the next extra-curricular activity in which he/she participates, and the penalty shall remain in effect until successfully completed.
5. A student who does not successfully complete a penalty during the sport/activity in which it was imposed must serve the penalty in full in each subsequent sport/activity in which s/he participates until such time as the student successfully completes participation in a sport/activity for the full term of the activity.
6. If the penalty is not completed during the school year, the remainder will carry over to the following school year.
7. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to require the school to follow the provisions of the Due Process and Pupil Discipline Statute (IC 20-8.1-5) in removing a student from participation in any extra-curricular activity.

REHABILITATIVE AND PENALTY MEASURES

1. Upon being identified as a confirmed violator, the violator will not be permitted to participate in a number of contests/performances equal to 50% of the season. The penalty will be served under the guidelines of the General Provisions. The student must also receive a substance abuse assessment from an outside agency and meet with the building principal to gain eligibility.
2. The suspended student will not be permitted to practice.

1. If the penalty is served during a time when the team/group is involved in a state- sanctioned tournament, the number of activities/games in which the group participates will be counted toward meeting the violator's imposed penalty.

SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS

1. The second infraction will result in the student not being able to participate in 100% of the contests/activities of his/her current activity season. The student must receive a substance abuse assessment from an outside agency and meet with the building principal to regain eligibility.
2. The third infraction will result in exclusion from participation in all further extra-curricular activities.