

ATHLETIC POLICY

The athletic programs for the Lafayette Parish School System give each student athlete the privilege each year to become a member of the team. Athletics is an important phase of a high school education and must be based upon the same sound philosophical principles that guide the academic disciplines.

It is with this philosophy in mind that Lafayette Parish School System student athletes are afforded the opportunity to develop into intellectual, responsible, successful contributors to society, and with the knowledge that athletics play an integral part of the student-athletes educational aspect, the following guidelines are stated:

- I. Grades – Eligibility is enforced under the guidelines of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. (Refer to the LHSAA Official Handbook and LPSB Middle School Handbook).
- II. Attendance – Adhere to the guidelines of the Lafayette Parish School System and the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA). Student athletes are required to attend school daily. If some medical or serious personal complications arise, the student athlete or parent must call the coach to inform him/her of the situation. This call must be made before practice begins that day.
- III. Practice – Each student athlete is required to attend practice daily; unless excused by the coach of the sport involved or by administrative excuse. Failure to comply will result in discipline and/or suspension from the team.
- IV. Discipline – Student athletes are required to follow the rules and regulations as they are determined by the Lafayette Parish School Board. If a student athlete is sent to behavior clinic or the discipline center, he/she will receive disciplinary action from the coach.

If a student athlete is suspended from school, he/she will be indefinitely suspended from the team. However he/she can be given the opportunity to return to the team after the successful completion of the disciplinary action administered by the coach subsequent to approval by the principal and athletic director. The student athlete will also be required to confirm to the sportsmanship rules as stated in the LHSAA Handbook.

Lafayette Parish student athletes of any age who exhibit unexemplary conduct in or out-of-school or competition (namely the buying, selling, possession, or use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, fighting, stealing, lying, possessing false identification, forgery, cheating, vandalizing, trouble with the police, or other unacceptable conduct) will be suspended from interscholastic competition in accordance with the formal suspension policy. In addition, the following violations are considered to be very serious: organizing or having parties where drinking or use of controlled substance takes place, selling or distributing controlled substances, being charged with or committing a felony.

Any student athlete who commits any of these violations will be suspended immediately and may be suspended up to one calendar year pending staff review. If persons in possession of alcohol or controlled substances (invited or uninvited) arrive at a party being given by a Lafayette Parish student athlete, that student athlete is responsible under this policy for the immediate removal of those persons and of all alcohol and/or controlled substances from the premises. Police should be contacted without delay if these persons refuse to leave.

All disciplinary action will be reasonable and based on the specific circumstances and facts as determined by the school administration.

V. Lettering (Jackets) – Once a student-athlete has earned a letter jacket, individual schools will adopt their own lettering policies. Along with the earned right to wear this athletic award goes certain responsibilities. If for any reason the student athlete does not live up to the responsibilities, the earned right to wear the jacket is revoked. If the right to wear the jacket has not been revoked, upon graduation the jacket becomes the student athlete's personal property. Until then, the jacket is the property of the individual's School Athletic Department and may be picked up if any student athlete does any of the following:

1. Breaks training rules, such as smoking, drinking or using drugs.
2. Quits the sport in which the athlete has lettered.
3. Does not follow general team rules or attend practice sessions, scrimmages or games.
4. Shows continual disrespect to coaches, faculty or administration.

5. Does not maintain an academic average which will permit participation in athletics (refer to LHSAA Handbook and LPSB Middle School Handbook).

The application of this policy will be carried out by the school base athletic director and the coaches under the supervision of the principal and parish athletic director.

Suspension periods and extra work both physical (not abused) and academical may be used so that the student athlete may be reinstated as a lettered athlete in the athletic department if so warranted.

- VI. Do-right student athletes are given the opportunity to develop the understanding that the realm of sports is closely related to the challenges, responsibility and obstacles that they will face in society. Understanding as adults that in the situation of high school athletics, we are dealing with youth and that young people will make mistakes.

The above disciplinary policy will be thoroughly thought out in all situations and that reasonable, fair and impartial decisions will be made by the coach in accordance with their judgement and the betterment of the team. To ensure that equitable discipline (suspension periods and extra work) is given all student athletes suspended, regardless of sex, coaches will submit the proposed disciplinary plan to the athletic director and obtain his/her approval prior to administering the disciplinary action.

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