

ATHLETICS

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 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

Boys Tennis 6/7/8

Girls Golf 7/8

Cheerleading 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

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

Girls Tennis 6/7/8

Boys Golf 6/7/8

Boys Track 6/7/8

Girls Track 6/7/8

Baseball 7/8

Softball 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

Minimum Course Enrollment and Grades for Participation

To be eligible scholastically, students must have received passing grades and earned credit at the end of their last Grading Period in school in at least seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects that a student can take and must be currently enrolled in at least seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects that a student can take.

A. Lebanon is considered a Block 8 Class schedule; therefore a student must pass 6 classes to be eligible to participate at the end of the Lebanon Eligibility Certification Dates. Reminder, semester grades take precedent over certification dates if they were to occur at the same time.

B. A student must meet the required 70% of maximum number of courses allowed. If approved by administration and a student is not enrolled in 70%, the minimum number to determine eligibility is 4 courses. Students must pass 3 of the 4 classes enrolled in.

C. If grades reported at an Eligibility Certification Date include both Grading Period grades and semester grades, then semester grades take precedence for eligibility purposes.

D. In the event a school or team establishes minimum academic requirements which are greater than the IHSAA academic requirements, those students are required to meet those greater academic requirements before that student is eligible scholastically under this rule.

E. The Lebanon Middle School Certified Grading dates used to determine eligibility are as follows:

- 1.) Midterm Grade Date in September
- 2.) End of First 9 Week grading period in October
- 3.) First Semester Grade Date in December
- 4.) Midterm Grade Date in February
- 5.) End of third 9 Week grading period in March
- 6.) Second Semester Grade Date in May

F. Lebanon Middle School certifies eligibility on the dates grade cards are distributed to student-athletes. At the end of each grading certified date, grades will be used to certify eligibility. (Semester grades will be used to determine eligibility at semester breaks.)

G. Scholastically ineligible athlete will not participate in contests until he or she regains their academic eligibility on the next grade card certification date.

H. All incoming 6th grade students each school year are automatically eligible for the start of the Fall season until the first-grade card certification date is reached. Once this occurs, eligibility will be determined from this point on by each grade card certification date.

The second semester grade card certification date will determine academic eligibility for the next school year's Fall season for those students returning to Lebanon Middle School.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Attendance: An athlete must have an attendance record in accordance with Lebanon Middle School's attendance policy found in the Student Handbook*. To participate in an athletic practice or contest, the student-athlete is expected to be in attendance the second half of the school day (11:25 am until 2:45 pm regardless of which lunch block they have been assigned), unless they have a prior scheduled, (with school administration) pre-approved appointment. 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.

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

TRYOUTS FOR SPORTS TEAMS

1. Tryouts for teams will be conducted the first week of the season for each sport. If you cannot attend the tryout period, you must see the coach prior to the season starting to determine whether you still can tryout and participate in the program. This decision will be left up to the Head Coach and Athletic Director.
2. After tryouts are completed, a student may not decide to try out for a particular team. We strongly discourage students from deciding, after the fact, they wish to participate on a particular sports team. This is not fair to student-athletes currently participating in the program. However, certain circumstances and situations will call for a review by the Athletic Director and Head Coach to understand why the student did not tryout at the proper time, and the impact on the program the decision to participate later may have on the program's current structure and athletes. After the review, it may be determined and agreed upon by the Athletic Director and Head Coach to allow a student to participate in

some way. Examples when this could possibly occur include lack of participation numbers, cannot fill a weight class, or a person would like to be a team manager.

3. Incoming Transfer students or new students will be allowed to try out for sports as soon as they are enrolled at Lebanon regardless of the time of season. The decision to allow this individual to participate on a team will be left up to the Head Coach and the Athletic Director. All individuals must be academically eligible according to LCSC policies and have completed the required 10 practices before they can compete. Finally, they will have needed to complete Final Forms and have a physical on file.

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.

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 and Final Forms: Each athlete must have a completed IHSA Physical Form on file in the athletic office and fill out the online Final Forms before they can practice or try out. This form must be signed by parent, student, and physician. A new physical 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 Athletic Director 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.

When traveling, athletes represent the school, community, and the athletic program. Proper dress will be stipulated by the coaching staff. Student-athletes will act in an acceptable manner when traveling and will conduct themselves on the bus in a manner that is above reproach. Equipment and facilities of the visiting team will be respected and cared for with the utmost respect. Any theft, breaking, defacing, or other vandalism which is purposely done may result in direct suspension from the team.

All student-athletes are expected to keep the school buses clean. All athletic trips will be carried out on school corporation owned vehicles or by school corporation employees, unless otherwise

arranged by the Athletic Department. All Student Athletes are to be on the bus to and from all athletic events with a coach unless prior arrangements have been made with the Athletic Office.

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.

Athletes with scheduled practice time after school should take all belongings with them to the athletic area. Student-athletes will not be permitted to re-enter the main part of the building after practice. Students must be always under the supervision of school personnel.

For practices held at times other than immediately after school, players must leave school campus and should not report to the building earlier than 15 minutes before practice. There are no study tables or supervision after school.

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 extracurricular 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 always maintained 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 always exhibit 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.”

CELL PHONES & SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

1. Cell phones and cameras may not be used inside a locker room for any purpose. This means no texting, no calling, and no pictures/videos. The use of cell phones, regardless of if it has a built-in camera or not, is not permitted in the locker room at any time. **NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE.** This rule applies to all players, managers, and coaches (coaches may use a cell phone in their office, not the locker room). A violation of this rule will result in immediate penalty, which could include dismissal from the team. If a photograph is taken, the matter may be turned over to legal authorities for possible prosecution. Should an athlete receive a call or text while (s)he is in the locker room, (s)he should take the phone (still in backpack, book bag, gym bag, etc.) out to the hall or outside the building before use. **CAMERAS AND PHONES MAY NOT BE IN USE OR OUT IN VIEW IN THE LOCKER ROOM FOR ANY REASON.**

Social Networking Policy for Student Athletes: Participation in LMS Athletics is a privilege and not a right. While using a school registered computer, on or off school grounds, or any technology device, including a cell phone, while on school grounds, student-athletes are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmissions (e.g. e-mail) and any information posted on a public domain (e.g. internet, twitter, Snapchat, chat room, Tick Tock, blogs, Facebook, You Tube, etc...) Information that is inappropriate or embarrassing, including pictures and content that is sexual in nature, and causes disruption to school classes, activities during the school day and/or impacts athletic teams or individual's morale, discipline or team cohesiveness, should not be posted, passed along in transmission, or shared with others. Texting, tweeting, and uses of other social networks to disparage or criticize the team, other students, opponents, coaches or other school personnel is considered inappropriate behavior and conduct unbecoming of a Lebanon student-athlete. Student-athletes are not precluded from participation in online social networks; however, student-athletes should be reminded they serve as representatives of their team, the athletic program, and the Lebanon Community School Corporation. Any individual identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior will be considered in violation of the Athletic Handbook and subject to athletic discipline. In addition, illegal content or inappropriate behavior will be turned over to the LMS Student Resource Officer and/or local law enforcement. Athletic discipline could include suspension or dismissal from the program. Length of suspension will be determined by the athletic director with coaches and School Principal involvement.

2. Social Networking Policy For Parents: Appropriate use of social media by parents protects the dignity of every student athlete, coach and LMS Athletic program. Parents or guardians should voice concerns, issues, complaints, or frustrations through LMS Coaches, and appropriate Athletic Administration rather than posting these items on social networking sites. It is important for parents and guardians to immediately bring any social media concerns to coaches and/or Athletic Administration. Responding in kind to uncharitable communications through social media channels e.g., Facebook, twitter, etc. merely perpetuates divisiveness. Coaches and LMS Athletic Administration will not mediate social media issues between students or parents unless it directly affects the school and/or the athletic programs. LMS Athletics considers the following examples to be inappropriate uses of social networking sites. (This list is non-exhaustive and intended to provide examples only):

Making allegations about coaches, student athletes or LMS staff members.

Making complaints about coaches, student athletes or LMS staff members.

Making defamatory statements about LMS athletic programs, LMS staff members or coaches.

Making negative/offensive comments about specific student athletes, LMS staff members and or coaches.

Making negative/offensive comments about officials, LMS opponents' coaches, student athletes or the opposing school.

Parents should also ensure that their student athlete is not using social networking/internet sites in an inappropriate manner. Once a post is brought to the attention of the Athletic Director, Coach or School Administrator and meets one or more of the criteria set forth, the Athletic Director, Coach and/or School Administrator will contact the originator and explain why the post is deemed inappropriate and request that the offending post be taken down or retracted if necessary.

LMS ATHLETIC TECHNOLOGY POLICY Computer Usage:

1. All student- athletes must refrain from bringing their computer to any practice, game, or athletic event. Computers should be locked up in a locker or stored safely at home. No computer is to be left in the bleachers, a car, a bus, the sidelines of a competition or practice, in a locker room not locked up in a locker. If a coach grants permission to work on homework at a practice, home or away athletic event, student athletes need to make a conscious effort to prepare to complete their assignments without the use of their computer.
2. Exception:
A coach has the discretion to request/require a student- athlete bring their computer to an athletic event for the purpose of instruction. (Example: film use, concussion test) If this occurs, the coach will plan for the student- athlete to safely store their computer in a locked secure area.
3. A student-athlete who does not follow A and B will maintain full responsibility for a lost, stolen, or damaged computer.

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 need 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 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.
4. 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 regain eligibility.
2. The suspended student will not be permitted to practice.⁴⁹
3. 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.