

# New Lebanon Central School Athletic Code of Conduct

**I. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART** – New Lebanon Central School athletics is governed by the Central Hudson Valley League (CHVL), Section 2 and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) constitutions.

**II. PURPOSE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS is (but not limited to):**

to give students . . .

the opportunity to develop organizational skills to balance athletics and academics.

the opportunity to learn new skills and improve existing ones.

the opportunity to experience commitment and dedication to school, sport, team & coach.

the opportunity to develop physical vigor and desirable habits in health and safety.

the opportunity to learn what it takes to be a good teammate.

the opportunity to develop new friendships.

the opportunity to observe and exemplify good sportsmanship.

the realization that athletic competition carries with it certain responsibilities.

the chance to learn that a violation of this Code has a consequence.

**III. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

Interscholastic sports is considered an integral part of the total educational process. To ensure this, our athletic program is based on sound educational principles. New Lebanon Central School District is committed to individual growth for each student athlete, by facilitating excellence in citizenship, academics, sportsmanship and athletic skills. Participating in athletics is a privilege not a right. It is the obligation of the administration and the coaching staff to enforce this policy.

## **A) Team Standards**

In addition to the school (code of conduct) regulations that are in effect at all times, athletes must:

- a. Attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach.
- b. Demonstrate respect for fellow teammates.
- c. Teammates will abstain from harassment and intimidation.
- d. Demonstrate respect for game officials, opponents and spectators.
- e. Demonstrate respect, loyalty, commitment and dedication to team and coaches.
- f. Demonstrate control over emotions and speech.
- g. Demonstrate constant effort to improve.

**Violation of team standards** The coach will review his/her specific expectations and consequences at the beginning of the season. Violation of team standards will result in disciplinary action by the coach. This may include suspension, ranging from one game to all games remaining on the schedule. The coach may refer repetitive minor infractions and will report all severe infractions to the Athletic Director.

## **B) Sportsmanship Policy**

1. New Lebanon student athletes must learn and understand the rules of the sport that they have elected to participate in. It is expected that athletes play hard, play to win and play fairly. Student athletes should respect their opponents and never taunt. Opponents are to be congratulated at game's end. Good citizenship and appropriate behavior is expected of each student athlete, as they are representatives of New Lebanon Central School District and should conduct themselves in a manner that will not discredit their team, coach, school, family or community. Athletes should work to set a positive example for the school, teammates and opponents.
2. A player who is disqualified by an official from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior is prohibited from playing in the next scheduled athletic contest. If a second ejection occurs, the player is prohibited from play in the next two contests. Players will practice and will sit on the team bench in plain clothes while serving the game suspensions. A third ejection will result in expulsion from the team for the remainder of that sport's season.
3. Players must respect the integrity and judgment of officials. A player who verbally and/or physically assaults an official will be subject to an extended suspension from athletic competition. A physical confrontation with an official is an incident in which a player either strikes, bumps, or otherwise physically intimidates an official prior to, during, or after a contest.

### C) Academic Standards

1. Athletics, generally speaking, have a positive effect on the athlete's academic performance in the classroom and attitude toward school.
2. In order for a student to be eligible to participate in a sport, he or she shall have no more than one failing grade in any subject, either for the current marking period or for the year. Such eligibility will be reviewed at the end of the fifth week of school and every two weeks thereafter. Students will remain eligible/ineligible for two weeks at which time the student will be re-evaluated. If students have more than one failing grade in the final marking period and participate in a fall sport, they will not be allowed to participate the first two weeks of the fall season. They will be re-evaluated following that two week ineligibility period. The athletic director will review the eligibility notices and suspend students from a sport if they become ineligible. The athletic director will have the authority to make exceptions when circumstances warrant.

### D) Team Bus

#### Students are expected to:

1. Observe all school rules when riding to interscholastic contests. Student athletes are expected to respect the bus driver and pick up after themselves.
2. Be courteous, neat and clean in public venues such as restaurants, bathroom stops and parking lots.
3. Respect other motorists during travel.
4. Ride the team bus to and from all away athletic contests. Athletes may receive permission from their coach to return home with THEIR PARENTS, or another member of their immediate family. The athlete **must** provide the coach with a note from his or her parent if he or she desires to ride home with another family member or another athlete and his or her parents.

### E) School Attendance Policy

1. In order to participate in any contest or practice, the athlete must be in attendance on that day for at least 4 class periods, unless excused in advance for a valid reason by the athletic director or an administrator. (Ex: doctor, dentist, funeral, college visit, etc.) Exceptions can be given by the athletic director or an administrator on the day in question. Athletes absent from school on the Friday preceding a weekend contest will not be eligible to participate in that contest unless approved by the athletic director or administrator in advance.
2. Students serving a penalty of suspension from school (OSS) shall be **ineligible** to participate in the interscholastic athletic program during the period of suspension. The student may **not** practice or sit on the bench. They may not attend home school events. *Please note \*Athletic Code violations involving game suspension(s) allow the athlete to practice and sit on the bench for games in plain clothes.* Students serving detention may attend practices after the detention period is over.
3. Students serving a penalty of in school suspension (ISS) for all or part of the day lose the right to attend athletic practices or games during the period of suspension, unless approved by the Athletic Director or Principal.

### F) After School Supervision (2:10-3:00)

Student athletes are expected to report to the cafeteria for supervision at the end of the school day. Exceptions are granted to those with scheduled appointments with a teacher or counselor.

### G) Physical Exam

All students must have a doctor's physical exam giving clearance to participate in interscholastic sports. Physicals are only valid for 1 year. Sports sign up sheets are given to the school nurse to check for medical clearance. Any student without an up to date exam will NOT be allowed to participate in practice or games until re-evaluated by a physician.

### H) Standards Related to Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol

#### 1. Possession or Use of Tobacco

Possession or use of tobacco will not be permitted. This includes smoking items and chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco and snuff.

#### Penalties

**First Offense** will result in a minimum penalty of suspension from 4 contests (including but not limited to meets, interscholastic scrimmages, matches and/or scheduled games). Athletes will be required to participate in practices during the suspension period, and further, will attend contests out of uniform and will sit on the bench.

**Second Offense** will result in suspension from the team for the remainder of the season.

## **2. Possession and Use of Illegal Drugs (including marijuana), Anabolic Steroids, and Alcoholic Substances**

- a. The use or possession of any substance prohibited by the New York State or the Federal Narcotics Law is strictly prohibited. This rule is in effect throughout the school year.
- b. The use of alcohol under the age of 21 and the use of drugs are illegal. Parents should take responsibility to see that no alcohol is served at social events given or attended by their children.
- c. Anabolic Steroids - The use of anabolic steroids poses serious health risks to users and is strictly prohibited. In addition, possession of even personal use steroids, not validly prescribed a doctor, is a federal crime.

Penalties:

**First Offense (in season):** The student will be suspended from the team for the remainder of the sport season.

**First Offense (out of season):** The student will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic sports activity during the subsequent sport season.

**Second Offense:** The student will be suspended from all sports for one calendar year.

**Sale and/or Distribution:** If a student is selling or distributing illegal drugs, the student will be barred from any participation in interscholastic athletics for one calendar year. Law enforcement officials may be involved in the investigation and legal charges may be filed.

## **3. Hosting or Attending Parties Where Drugs, Alcohol, or Other Controlled Substances Are Used by Minors**

Hosting or Attending a function where drugs, alcohol or other controlled substances are used by minors is not permitted.

Penalties:

**First Offense (in season):** The student will serve a minimum suspension of 4 contests (including but not limited to meets, interscholastic scrimmages, matches and/or scheduled games).

**Second Offense (in season):** the student will be suspended from the team for the remainder of the sports season and will be ineligible to participate in any interscholastic sports activity during the subsequent sports season

## **I) Hazing Policy**

**"Hazing":** committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a risk of emotional, physical or psychological harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. Athletes are responsible for reporting an incident of hazing to the coach, who is required to then report to school administration. An administrator will conduct a full investigation of the charges in accordance to district policy. Any student found guilty of hazing will be suspended from all sports for one calendar year. Law enforcement officials may be involved in the investigation and legal charges may be filed.

## **J) Harassment Policy**

Harassment can be verbal/sounds (comments, spreading rumors, accusations, jokes or whistling), physical (touching, flashing or mooning), visual (showing pictures or making obscene gestures), electronic (e-mail, texting, social networking), or in writing. Harassment can happen to girls and boys and can include, but is not limited to sexual, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination. Athletes are responsible for reporting an incident of harassment to the coach, who is required to then report to school administration. An administrator will conduct a full investigation of the charges in accordance to district policy. Any student found guilty of harassment will receive a consequence depending on the severity of the incident. The penalty could range from a game suspension to an expulsion from all sports for one calendar year. Law enforcement officials may be involved in the investigation and legal charges may be filed.

## **K) Leaving a Team**

### **1. Quitting A Team:**

Any athlete who quits a team, after the team roster is reported to the athletic director, will not be permitted to join another team during that sport season. Any athlete that quits a team prior to the submission of the team roster may join another team with the permission of the athletic director after consultation with the coaches involved.

### **2. Dismissal from the Team:**

Any athlete who is dismissed from a team for violating the Code of Conduct will not be permitted to join another team during that sport season.

## **L) Eligibility Standards**

1. **AGE** - A student shall be eligible for interschool competition until his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. If the age of 19 is reached on or after July 1<sup>st</sup>, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports.

2. **GRADE** - A student is eligible for interschool competition for only 4 years once in high school. Two years are

allotted for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

3. PARTICIPATION - A student may not participate in more than one sport during a given season.

4. ADVANCED PLAY - do not play/practice with or against college level teams (during college visits). Students who do may lose their eligibility to finish out their high school career.

#### **M) Selection Classification Testing Procedures**

In order for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to be eligible to participate on a junior varsity or varsity team, they must pass ALL parts of the selection classification test.

PROCEDURE: A coach recommends (to the athletic director) a junior high student for participation on a junior varsity or varsity team. If the student meets the NYSPHSAA and section 2 guidelines for selection classification, the parents are informed of the coach's request. If the parents wish their child play up, they complete and return the proper permission and health forms for testing. The test is scheduled and administered by the athletic director to assess the student's physical ability to participate at a higher level.

#### **N) Transfer Rules**

A student transferring into the New Lebanon Central School District from a district without a corresponding change of address of parent/guardians could be in violation of the transfer rule. The athlete transferring should notify the Athletic Director in both districts to insure that the state transfer rule in regards to athletic eligibility is upheld. Violation of the rule may result in the forfeiture of athletic contests.

#### **O) Uniforms**

An athlete shall care for his/her uniform and all equipment issued by the school. It is suggested by the manufacturer that for increased longevity, all sport uniforms should be washed in cold water and hung to dry. Dryers may shorten the life of the uniform. If some problem develops (i.e., stain, torn uniform, etc.) athletes should notify the coach as soon as possible. In the event that items are lost or stolen, athletes are required to pay a replacement cost. No player will try out for another sport until all uniforms and equipment have been turned in or paid for from the previous sport. Players are not allowed to wear uniforms or warm-ups in practice or recreationally out in public. Athletes should wear uniforms only during games or at times specified by the coach. Students should always turn uniforms in to a school official to be checked in. The main office accepts uniforms.

#### **P) Risk of Injury**

Participation in sports involves a certain degree of risk for injury. Such physical activity can occur in any type of sports activity and may vary in nature. Before going out for the team, athletes should be aware of the risk so they will be better able to reduce ~~you~~ their chances for injury. Pre-season conditioning, learning the skills and techniques of the sport, and knowledge of rules and any safety factors will help athletes have a healthy season. It is the responsibility of the athlete and/or parent to report all injuries immediately to the coach.

#### **Q) Jewelry Clause**

No jewelry may be worn in any sport. Religious and medical medals must be taped to the body and under the uniform. Soft, pliable barrettes are permissible.

#### **R) Team Sign Up and Selection**

Sign ups for sport teams will be held in all Physical Education classes well in advance of the season. When signing up, student athletes are asked to please write neatly so that coaches can read the given information accurately. Sign up **is** by grade level, either 7 & 8 or 9-12. Team levels (mod, jv & v) are chosen by the coaches only.

#### **S) Playing Time**

New Lebanon's modified programs are designed to safely accommodate as many students in grades 7-9 that are interested in participating in a given sport. Every effort is made by the coaches to ensure that every student receives playing time. At the junior varsity and varsity level, student athletes seek to achieve mastery skill in a given sport and focus on overall team success. Coaches field the best possible squad for the purposes of interscholastic competition. There is no expectancy of equal or guaranteed playing time.

#### **T) Awards and Recognition**

A sports awards ceremony will be held at the end of each sports season to honor the student athletes. At the sports awards ceremony the following awards will be distributed:

modified sports - certificate

junior varsity sports - certificate

varsity sports - letter (for first varsity sport played) and pin (of sport played each season)

A student must be listed on the team's final roster to be eligible for these awards.

#### **IV. ADMINISTRATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. When a coach becomes aware of an alleged violation of the above Athletic Code, the coach shall inform the principal or assistant principal before the completion of the following school day.

2. When the principal or assistant principal is informed of an alleged violation of the above Athletic Code, he/she shall notify the appropriate coach.

The following procedures shall be followed:

a. The principal or assistant principal shall meet with the athlete and investigate the alleged violation.

b. When the principal or assistant principal deems that a violation has indeed occurred, he/she shall make a written report, which will state the infraction, the facts related to the infraction, and the date and time of the conference with the athlete. The principal or assistant principal shall assess an appropriate penalty and notify the athlete, athletic director, coach and the athlete's parent(s) by letter. The penalty will go into effect immediately.

c. If the principal or assistant principal deems that an infraction has not occurred, the case shall be dismissed.