

LEMON BAY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETE POLICIES

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Policy 1: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY (FHSAA)

In order for any athlete to be eligible:

- 1) Student may participate in interscholastic athletics until the age of 19 years 9 months if the student has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility. **Beginning with students who entered Grade 9 in 2014-15**, and thereafter, a student who reaches the age of 19 on or after September 1st, and who has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility, may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year.
- 2) Student must have unweighted G.P.A. of 2.0 cumulative or better.
- 3) **Students must have all required FHSAA forms completed and on file in the Athletic Office prior to participating in any team try-out, activity, practice or game.**

Policy 1B: STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

The athletic department will check the grades at the beginning of each week beginning with the 3rd week of a new quarter and send a notification to the coach that they will need to pass on to the student-athlete.

1. Any freshman or sophomore student-athlete that has 2 Ds or 1 F in any class, will have to meet with a tutor 2 days per week to raise the grade to a minimum of a C.
2. Any junior or senior student-athlete with a cumulative unweighted GPA below 2.5 and has 2 Ds or 1 F in any class, will have to meet with a tutor 2 days per week to raise the grade to a minimum of a C.

The tutors will be supplied by the school and will have optional hours both before and after school. It will be the responsibility of the student-athlete to schedule the meeting times. It will also be the job of the student to communicate with the teacher and find out what they need to accomplish to improve their grade. The tutors will send their attendance records to the athletic department.

Policy 2: ATHLETE TEAM ELIGIBILITY/GRADE LEVEL POLICIES

- 1) Twelfth graders may only participate at the varsity level.
- 2) Eleventh graders should participate at the varsity level, but can participate on junior varsity teams.
- 3) Tenth graders may participate at the junior varsity level, but may participate at the varsity level at the discretion of the head coach.
- 4) Student athletes have four consecutive years of eligibility starting when they first enter ninth grade.
- 5) Student athletes are allowed to participate only one year as a ninth grader.

Ninth Grade Eligibility on Varsity Contact Team Sports: (Football, Volleyball, Wrestling, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball)

Step I – Head Coach submits recommendations in writing to the Athletic Director listing reasons for wanting to place a freshman student on a varsity team.

Step II – Athletic Trainer's Evaluation

1. Skeletal development (physical development, etc.)
2. Review of physician's physical form

Step III – Parent Conference with Coach, AD, Administrator & Student Athlete:

Step IV – Athletic Director's Decision shared with Head Coach and Principal

1. Decision is Final
 2. If 9th Grader is placed on a varsity team, the student athlete will be monitored regarding:
 - a. Academic Achievement
 - b. Attendance
 - c. Behavior
- 6) If you leave a team voluntarily (quit) you are not eligible to begin another sport until the final conclusion of that sport's season.

Policy 3: GENERAL RULES

Student athletes are representatives of the school and should conduct themselves accordingly. All athletes are expected to adhere to the following general and specific rules:

- 1) Student athletes are regarded as role models and should set an example for the rest of the student body in regards to scholastics, sportsmanship and behavior.
- 2) Avoid disciplinary referrals.
- 3) Attend all practices and contests unless excused by the coach.
- 4) Complete the season.
- 5) Attend school regularly and maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- 6) Respect school property. All equipment issued should be returned in the same condition. Students are responsible for loss or damage to uniforms and other equipment.
- 7) Display good sportsmanship at all times.
- 8) Do not become involved in any form of gambling.
- 9) Always show respect towards fellow athletes, officials, coaches, administration, faculty of LBHS, community members, and the community of hosting schools when traveling.
- 10) Proper attire required during practices and games. Boys – Shirts ON (no bare chests) / Girls – Shirts ON (covering sports bras)
- 11) Parents and their student athlete are encouraged to meet with a coach on an appointment basis, but not prior to, during, or after games.

Policy 4: SPORTSMANSHIP/FIGHT PLAN

If a fight or physical disruption breaks out, it is important that ALL athletes and coaches follow these 3 steps:

- 1) ALL player immediately take a knee.
- 2) Assistant Coaches monitor kneeling players.
- 3) Head Coach/AD/School administrators assist in breaking up the fight.

Policy 5: ATTENDANCE ZONE POLICY

Charlotte County Public Schools adheres to a clear and concise attendance zone policy. It is the responsibility of the student athlete and his/her parent or guardian to comply with these established zones.

Policy 6: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE THE DAY OF/AFTER COMPETITIONS

Student athletes are expected to be present in at least four class periods on the day of a practice or game. It is the student athlete's responsibility to attend school on time the day after an evening competition. Participation on an inter-scholastic team is a privilege, not a right. It remains the student athlete's responsibility to make up any assignments missed in any classes. Failure to uphold this policy may result in disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the coach and may include game suspension(s) or removal from the team for repeated infractions. Prior approval by the Athletic Director may be given to excuse an absence on the day of or after a game according to the CCPS student attendance policy.

Policy 7: OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT AND COMPETITION TEAMS

Communication is the key to being successful in both sports and extracurricular activities. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the Coach and the Sponsor (Band Director, Drama Director, Class Sponsor, etc.) are made aware of any scheduling conflicts as soon as they arise. This includes bringing a copy of the schedule from both activities to both teachers prior to the sports season. Missing a practice or game due to another club obligation without prior permission by the Coach will be treated as any unexcused absence and may result in disciplinary consequences such as game suspension(s) or removal from the team for repeated infractions.

Participation as a member of a LBHS athletic team should take precedence over club or competition team practices, games, or tournaments. Any student who participates in a club or competition activity in place of a LBHS athletic activity without the coach's prior approval, will receive disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the coach. This may include game suspension(s) or removal from the team for repeated infractions. The Coach will immediately notify the Athletic Director of the infraction and any disciplinary actions taken.

An athlete may participate simultaneously on more than one team provided that:

- a. Head coaches from both teams meet and mutually agree to allow participation.
- b. Parents of the student athlete are contacted and made aware of the dual sport participation.
- c. The Athletic Director is advised that the above protocol has been followed.

Policy 8: SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROHIBITION

The School Board prohibits harassment of any student on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or marital status.

Specific Prohibition

It is sexual harassment for a student to subject another student, employee or non-employee volunteer to, or be the subject of, any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature from another student, employee, or non-employee volunteer. Students who engage in such conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action as described in the district *Code of Student Conduct*.

Procedures

Any student who alleges sexual harassment by another student, employee, or non-employee volunteer may use the Student Grievance Procedure or may complain directly to the building principal, the Director of Student Services, or the Assistant Superintendent for School Support.

Reprisals or retaliation for reporting sexual harassment will not be tolerated and will be regarded as threats or intimidation as defined in this document. The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected, consistent with the School Board's legal obligations, and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, all of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct, and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred will be investigated. The Superintendent or designee has the responsibility of investigating and resolving complaints of sexual harassment.

Disciplinary Action

A substantiated charge of sexual harassment on the part of a student shall subject that student to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, consistent with the *Matrix of Infractions and Disciplinary Actions* which is located in the *Code of Student Conduct*.

Florida Statute 1006.07(2) (h), School Board Policy 3362, 5517

Policy 9: ANTI-HAZING POLICY

1. At no time will any activity considered hazing be allowed with any team or group associated with Lemon Bay High School. Any member found in violation of this policy may face penalties up to and including removal from the team and loss of the ability to participate in any athletic activities at LBHS.
2. It is the coach's responsibility to educate their athletes with regards to this policy. This information should be shared at the parent meeting and conveyed to all participating athletes.

Hazing Defined

"Hazing" refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. In years past, hazing practices were typically considered harmless pranks or comical antics associated with young men in college fraternities.

Today we know that hazing extends far beyond college fraternities and is experienced by boys/men and girls/women in school groups, university organizations, athletic teams, the military, and other social and professional organizations. Hazing is a complex social problem that is shaped by power dynamics operating in a group and/or organization and within a particular cultural context.

Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating. The specific behaviors or activities within these categories vary widely among participants, groups and settings. While alcohol use is common in many types of hazing, other examples of typical hazing practices include: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/newbies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; brandings; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault.

Policy 10: PARENT CONCERNS & CONFERENCES

Parental involvement in LBHS athletics is encouraged and we hope to have a positive relationship with all parents. Should the need arise to discuss parental concerns, please respect the chain of command that exists within our school:

- 1) Schedule a time to talk to the Coach and/or Head Coach --- Please do NOT try and discuss your concerns during practice or a game or “in the heat of the moment”. The best way to go about this is telling the Coach you need to schedule a time to talk in person or over the phone.
- 2) If your concerns have not been handled in a manner you are satisfied with after speaking with the coach, please schedule a time to talk to the LBHS Athletic Director. Our AD oversees all athletic teams and coaches.
- 3) If your concerns still have not been handled in a manner you are satisfied with, please schedule a time to talk to the LBHS Assistant Principal for Activities & Athletics.
- 4) If your concerns still have not been handled in a manner you are satisfied with, please schedule a time to talk to the LBHS Principal.
- 5) If your concerns still have not been handled in a manner you are satisfied with, please schedule a time to talk to the Director of Student Services for Charlotte County Public Schools.

With the use of texting, email and social media increasing, please be advised that these forms of communication can be misunderstood and should NEVER be used if you are upset or angry. We advise our coaches not to reply to angry or emotional texts and emails. We recommend they meet face-to-face with parents whenever possible.

Policy 11: SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

1. Any student athlete assigned detention by a teacher or administrator must report to that detention. Detention takes precedence over team practice or games. The Coach may impose team discipline if the infraction violates the team’s expectations for athletes. The Coach must notify the Athletic Director in writing of disciplinary action taken toward the student athlete.
2. Any student athlete assigned to In School Suspension (ISS) on the day of a game or practice will be permitted to participate; however, the Coach may impose team discipline if the infraction violates the team’s expectations for athletes. The Coach must notify the Athletic Director in writing of disciplinary action taken toward the student athlete.
3. Any student athlete assigned to Out of School Suspension (OSS) is NOT allowed to participate in any athletic events during the suspension. The athlete cannot participate in a game or practice until the suspension is over and he/she has been reinstated by the school administration.

Policy 12: RESPONSIBILITY OF FINES

Any fines assessed by the FHSAA because of the action of a coach or student athlete will be paid by the coach, parent, or student. This includes fines for improper conduct, failure to attend meetings or clinics, as well as all other fines. Student or coach will not be allowed to participate until the school is reimbursed for the fine.

Policy 13: TEAM SUSPENSIONS

1. Game suspension(s) by the coach for disciplinary reasons may be implemented, provided the Principal and Athletic Director are notified. The Athletic Director must be notified of any game suspension(s) the day they are implemented and reserves the right to further impose additional suspension time should such infractions of the student athlete reflect negatively on the LBHS Athletic Program.
2. Players and coaches ejected by the referee may not participate in the next scheduled contest per FHSAA regulations.

Policy 14: OFF CAMPUS CRIMINAL CHARGES

While in season, a LBHS athlete is required to self-report any off campus arrests (both misdemeanors and felonies) to his/her Head Coach at the first opportunity to do so and prior to participating in a practice or game. The nature of the misdemeanor charges may demonstrate behavior that goes against the student athlete policies set forth for our student athletes. The Head Coach will confidentially discuss the charges with our Athletic Director and determine if team disciplinary consequences are warranted. Failure to report off campus charges to his/her Head Coach may result in team discipline or dismissal from the team.

Felony charges are governed by CCPS School Board policy. If a student is arrested for an on or off-campus felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, that student's participation in interscholastic, extra-curricular activities may be suspended by the principal in consultation with the Director of Student Services in their sole discretion until final disposition of the criminal charge. If the student is convicted of said felony charge, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, that student's participation in interscholastic, extra-curricular activities will be suspended for a minimum of eighteen (18) consecutive school weeks. The student may only be reinstated for eligibility with the approval of SERT.

Florida Statute 1006.15(3)(a)4
School Board Policy 2431, 2431.02

Policy 15: DISMISSAL FROM THE TEAM

When the behavior of an athlete is deemed inappropriate, it may be necessary to dismiss that individual from the team. Before dismissal of an athlete, the Principal or Principal's Designee, Athletic Director, and Head Coach shall review the case. Parents and athletes will be given the opportunity to meet with the Coach and/or Athletic Director prior to the dismissal.

If an athlete is suspended or dismissed from a team for disciplinary reasons, he/she is ineligible to participate in any sport unless granted permission by the Athletic Director. The Coach will immediately notify the Athletic Director of any suspension or dismissal.