

Leesburg High Athletic Philosophy

It is this school district's philosophy that all athletic programs are an extension of the classroom and that learning is the "primary" objective for each program.

Leesburg High School Belief Statements

We believe that...

- Athletic programs promote leadership training, mental and physical health, self-discipline, and responsibility.
- Athletic programs provide a positive alternative to drug and alcohol related activities.
- Athletic programs have a positive effect on the general school climate.
- Athletic programs are responsible for a significant number of students graduating from high school.
- All participation should be voluntary.
- There is value in promoting healthy competition between individuals and teams.
- Athletic programs provide a good balance between individual efforts and team cooperation.
- Athletic programs are an important integral part of the total school.
- Athletic programs should provide equal and equitable opportunities to both boys and girls.

Athletic Goals

The Leesburg High School supports the concept that a wide variety of athletics should be made available to all students. However, participation in athletics is a “**privilege**” not a right. Athletics should be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines.

1. To emphasize sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To show courtesy and establish good relationships with visiting teams and officials.
3. To respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials as well as the rights of others.
4. To develop leadership and good judgment by the players on the team.
5. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual players.
6. To remind everyone that an athletic contest is only a game – not a matter of life or death for a player, coach, school, official, fan, or community member
7. To promote understanding of the rules essential to playing the game and emphasize the value of playing by the rules.
8. To improve the individual’s ability to work within a framework of a team.
9. To demonstrate and appreciate the values of teamwork.

Athletes and parents should remember that their schools and their coaches devote a considerable amount of time and resources to provide them with an interscholastic athletic program. For this reason, athletes owe them and their teammates a great deal of loyalty. Athletes should relinquish their place on the team if they believe they cannot be loyal to their school, coaches, themselves and their team.

Athlete, Parent, and Spectator Expectations

- A. Athletes, parents, and spectators are representatives of the school and community and have a responsibility to behave in a manner consistent as a positive role model for others.
- B. Displays of temper should be controlled. An athlete, parent, or spectator who loses his/her composure may cause problems for the individual and for the game participants.
- C. Athletes, parents, and spectators should respect the position of the coaches and should only discuss strategy, methods, ideas, etc. of the coach at appropriate times (**not during or immediately following a contest**) and in an appropriate manner.
- D. Through FHSAA by-laws, schools have the responsibility to **ban spectators** whose behavior is deemed disruptive or contrary to the educational goals for high school contests.

Parent – Coach Communication

Parents and coaches are two of the most important role models in a student's life, and clear communication between these individuals is essential. The guidelines listed below are intended to clarify school expectations for this relationship.

A. Communication that parents expect from coaches:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for the student and the team.
3. Team requirements: i.e. practices, special equipment
4. Procedures to follow if injuries occur during participation
5. Disciplinary action that may be taken resulting in the student being denied the right to participate.

B. Communication that coaches expect from parents:

1. Concern's regarding son/daughters skill level
2. Notification of any illness or injuries or missed practices

C. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. Treatment of the student, emotionally and physically.
2. Ways to help the student improve.
3. Concerns about the student's behavior.

It can be very difficult for a parent/guardian to accept that their student is not playing as much as the parent/guardian hopes. Coaches understand this concern. They make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. The

amount of participation time is at the discretion of the coach. As you have seen from the above list, certain things can and should be discussed with your coach. Other items, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

D. Issues not appropriate to discuss with the coach

1. Other student athletes regarding participation or skills.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.

Communication and Conflicts

It is inevitable, because of the nature of high school athletics that student athletes or their parents and coaches are going to have disagreements. The High School would encourage parents to resolve conflicts in a respectful manner. Our goal would be to resolve any and all conflicts at the building level; therefore, the following conflict resolution plan must be followed in sequence.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach immediately before, during, or after a contest.

These can be emotional times for both parents and coaches. Meetings of this nature do not promote conflict resolution. It is important that problems and concerns be addressed as soon as possible. At times coaches may be difficult to contact; however, each building has an athletic director who is available when coaches are not. We encourage student athletes to contact the appropriate coach or athletic director immediately when problems arise. If satisfaction is not found at the building level, the Principal or Athletic Director will work with parents and coaches to meet and present their concerns and problems to the Superintendent.

The following sequence is the preferred way when dealing with conflicts:

1. Student athlete and coach/head coach
2. Student athlete, parent, coach
3. Student athlete, parent, coach, Athletic Director
4. Student athlete, parent, coach, Athletic Administrator
5. Student athlete, parent, Principal, Athletic Director, coach
6. Student athlete, parent, Principal, Athletic Director, coach, Superintendent.

Leesburg High School Code of Conduct

Extracurricular activities provide important educational opportunities for students at Lake County high and middle schools. Studies have shown that participation in extracurricular activities enhances academic performance. Additionally, it is through these activities that individuals will be faced with situations that emulate real life challenges—conditions that are often difficult to teach in a traditional classroom setting. All students who participate in extracurricular activities become representatives of our school, community, and state—thus, such activities **are a privilege and not a right**. However, it is the goal of the Lake County Schools to create a balance between high expectations and encouraging each and every student to participate. In view of our staff and community desires for the health and overall well-being of our students, it is important we remain judicious in preventing students from participating in harmful and illegal activities. For the purpose of this policy, extracurricular activities will include all events and activities sponsored by FHSAA. **Therefore, it is understood students are required to adhere to these expectations during the school year, regardless of whether school is in session and whether or not they are in season.** Recognizing the fact that participation is purely voluntary on the part of the student, the participant is to be accountable to rules, regulations, and procedures set forth in this code. Once the acknowledgement is properly signed, the student is subject to this code during the entire school year in which he/she is eligible to participate. This includes, but is not limited to scrimmages, tournaments and summer camps where students are representing the Lake County Schools.

Parents and athletes will need to accept the responsibility of knowing and understanding the athletic code.

CODE OF CONDUCT BEHAVIORS

The following will be grounds for disciplinary action.

1. Illegal drug, tobacco, E-cigarette, and vapor pen use, sale or possession
2. Alcohol use, sale or possession
3. Willful destruction, damage or defacing of any school property or equipment.
4. Hazing and initiation will be handled with **Zero Tolerance** and the athlete will be dismissed from the team immediately.

** There may be additional school consequences associated with each of the listed offenses above, including school suspension, expulsion, or legal action

PENALTIES FOR RULE VIOLATIONS

1st VIOLATION ---- Loss of eligibility from 20% of the contests. During this time, students will be expected to attend all practices and perform other duties as assigned by the coach or sponsor. Athletes may attend all games during the suspension but may not dress out nor sit on the team bench. If a participant should be suspended late in the season and is not able to fulfill the 20 % penalty, the remaining suspension will be extended into post-season play and/or the participant's next sport/activity season.

2nd VIOLATION ---- Suspension from practice and competition for the remainder of the activity. If a participant should be suspended late in the season and is not able to sit out at least 20% of the contests, the suspension will be extended into post-season play and/or the participant's next sport/activity season. Professional assessment by a drug and alcohol rehabilitation counselor and a drug and alcohol course must be taken, at the expense of the student, to regain eligibility involving a 2nd offense of alcohol use.

3rd VIOLATION ---- Suspension from any sponsored activity for the remainder of the school year.

INDIRECT INVOLVEMENT: BEING PRESENT WHEN DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ARE BEING USED WILL BE CONSIDERED, "Guilty by Association"

Studies show that students who fraternize with peers who partake in drugs and alcohol are at a substantially higher risk of participating in those activities. Therefore, any student who violates this rule will be guilty by association and subject to the following consequences.

1st VIOLATION ---- Loss of eligibility from 20% of the contests. During this time, students will be expected to attend all practices and perform other duties as assigned by the coach or sponsor. Athletes may attend all games during the suspension but may not dress out nor sit on the team bench.

2nd VIOLATION ---- Suspension from practice and competition for the remainder of the activity. If a participant should be suspended late in the season and is not able to sit out at least 20% of the contests, the suspension will be extended into post-season play and/or the participant's next sport/activity season.

3rd VIOLATION ---- Suspension from any sponsored activity for the remainder of the school year.

In addition, should a student violate any training rules while not participating in a sport, the suspension will begin with and be computed according to the student's next sport season.

Students without additional violations for one calendar year may be reinstated to "no prior" offense status. Such reinstatement can only occur once during a student's four years of eligibility. **Any student who violates any of the above rules including 1-4 Code of Conduct behaviors forfeits the opportunity to be nominated for any All Conference or All State awards. Lettering for a sport is up to the discretion of the coach per his or her requirements. Students who come forward with self-admission prior to school's knowledge or who admit to violating the "Athletic Code of Conduct" may reduce the amount of time they are ineligible to 10%.**

A fellow student or adult who has knowledge of a situation may identify that a violation has occurred. A student who has been identified as being in violation by anyone other than him or herself, and who disagrees with the interpretation of the situation, may appeal to the Activities Council comprised of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Dean of Students, and the Athletic Director for a final decision. **Consideration may be taken for students who immediately removed themselves from the situation when they learned of the presence of drugs or alcohol.**

If a student plays two sports during the same sport season, the penalty will apply to both sports. For example, a soccer player who also runs track would be suspended 20% of the contests in track and 20% of the contests in soccer.

Other:

Students charged with violations of the law other than traffic offenses that result in confirmed involvement in misdemeanor or felony activities will fall under the code of conduct.

******* At times there may be incidents not covered in the handbook and it will be at the discretion of the Principal and/or Athletic Director to handle these situations.**

General Eligibility Rules

All students at the high school level as published by the Florida High School Activities Association (FHSAA) must meet eligibility requirements. The school district has set more stringent eligibility requirements, an option under FHSAA by-laws. Leesburg High School has a modified **no pass/no play policy**. Eligibility requirements include good citizenship, acceptable academic standing, parental permission, and good health (sports only). The following rules shall govern participation in all school approved extracurricular activities and shall apply to all high school students, be they home-based, private school, out-of-district, or Lake County School students:

1. Participants must be full-time students, enrolled in courses that will earn a minimum of (5 classes) of credit per semester.
2. Students must be attendance at school a minimum of **one half-school day** in order to participate in any school sponsored contest or activity that is conducted on that day. In cases of emergency or extenuating circumstances, the Principal or designee may grant an exception to this limitation.
3. Eligibility will be checked on a semester basis. Students not carrying a 2.0 by end of semester will be considered ineligible and cannot participate.
4. A coach/sponsor may allow an ineligible student to travel with the group. However, the student may not travel if he/she will miss class time. The student may not participate in an extracurricular event. This is regardless of whether class time is being missed.
5. Home based, private school, and out of district students must meet the same academic requirements in place for district students.
6. Home based private school, and out-of district students must submit the semester grade verification sheet in writing to maintain eligibility.

Classroom Eligibility

1. Students are to abide by the expectations of their classroom teachers and coaches. When a teacher feels that the behavior interferes with the learning process of that student and/or others in the class, the student may be declared ineligible after consulting with the Principal and/or AD.

School Attendance requirements

All athletes are expected to demonstrate regular and punctual attendance at school.

If a student is a confirmed truant from class(es) he/she may not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled competition. When participants are absent from school for more than one-half of the day, or any afternoon classes, they may not be allowed to participate in Contests/Activities for that day unless a parent contacts the athletic director ahead of time. Exceptions will be an appointment that cannot be rescheduled or an excused absence other than illness. If a participant is absent because of an illness, the sponsor or school administrator may refuse the student to participate in the event. A student must be present for afternoon classes to be eligible for the day's events or practice.

Emergency Cards

An emergency card containing all pertinent emergency information about each athlete must be on file. This card will be in the possession of the head coach during contests and/or the athletic trainer during practices and games.

Sunday, Winter Vacation Practice

No practices of any nature are permitted on Sundays during the school year, or during the period from December 24 – December 27, inclusive.

Bus Transportation

Students who travel to school-sponsored events on school-provided transportation are expected to return the same. If parents are going to transport students after the conclusion of the event, they must simply notify the head coach or sponsor orally when departing. If students are riding with a responsible adult other than their parent or legal guardian, a written request from the parent or guardian must be submitted to an administrator for approval **24 hours prior to departure from the High**. Upon approval, students must notify the trip sponsor. A responsible adult is defined as someone 21 years of age or over and is stated in writing to be responsible by the parent or guardian.

Team Membership Guidelines

Membership on high school teams will be determined by specific criteria for each sport. Criteria will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Skills test for the specific sport
2. Game skills
3. Team skills
4. Attitude and Sportsmanship

Specific criteria will be developed by the coaches for each sport and written down for review and approved by the building Principal and/or Athletic Director at the start of each season.

Leesburg High School BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

To support the policies of the Leesburg High School, athletes are expected to agree to the following behavior that promotes physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well being of all students.

- Locker rooms/weight rooms will be free from any form of bullying, harassment, or hazing, including behaviors that students may view as consensual “teasing”. The same expectation will be held during athletic contests. Any behavior viewed as detrimental to the well being of students will not be tolerated.
- Locker rooms/weight rooms will be supervised and be considered as structured environments where students are to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.
- Cell phones/cameras are not allowed in locker rooms/weight rooms and must not be seen or heard.
- Buses transporting students to activities or athletic competitions will be supervised by the head coach and other assistant coaches as needed with the coaches located throughout the bus to ensure effective supervision. Athletes are expected to adhere to the same guidelines on the bus that is expected before, during and after athletic contests or training situations. This includes camps conducted throughout the school year or during the summer.
- Students violating the “Code of Conduct” may be subject to game/contest/school suspension, including expulsion, or legal action. It is critical for the well-being of all athletes that students inform an adult if they are being subjected to any behavior that violates these expectations.
- Parents are expected to inform the school if they have concerns about student behavior that they believe is detrimental.

****** At times there may be incidents not covered in the handbook and it will be left to the discretion of the Principal and/or Athletic Director as to the handling of these situations.**

INSURANCE STATEMENT

I fully understand the Leesburg High School **does not** provide accident or health insurance coverage for my son/daughter while he/she is participating in interscholastic athletics or extra curricular activities. However, such insurance is made available by the School District through an authorized agent. I further understand that it

is my responsibility to provide accident insurance coverage for my son/daughter. This statement releases the Leesburg High School of financial responsibility in case of accident/injury to my son/daughter while he/she is participating in interscholastic activities and/or extra-curricular activities.

ImPACT

Students participating in athletics will be required to undergo baseline cognitive testing. At this time the testing involves taking a computer cognitive test before the season and then allows for later testing after a sustained concussion in order to help medical providers assess when an athlete can return to play.

WARNING

BY ITS NATURE, PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS INCLUDES A RISK OF INJURY WHICH MAY RANGE IN SEVERITY FROM MINOR TO LONGTERM CATASTROPHIC INJURY. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate this risk

PLAYERS MUST OBEY ALL SAFETY RULES, REPORT ALL PHYSICAL PROBLEMS TO THEIR COACHES, FOLLOW A PROPER CONDITIONING PROGRAM, AND INSPECT THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT DAILY.

Consent To Treat

Your child has enrolled in the high school interscholastic sports program in Leesburg High School. The school district has contracted with Florida Sports Injury to provide athletic training services for the high school athletes. An athletic trainer assigned to your school will be the primary provider of these services. As such the athletic trainer will be present at some team practices as well as most of the home competitions.

By signing the POLICY AGREEMENT / PARENT CONSENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY - Student and Parent Contract / Permit for Athletic Participation form, you are providing authorization to treat your child if he/she is injured while participating in the high school sports programs and immediate parental authorization to treat is not available. There will be no charge if the athletic trainer assesses or treats a student at the school or during a game. If your child needs to go to the hospital for x-rays or for further treatment, a normal office visit charge will be incurred. If you have a physician whom you would prefer to provide ongoing care following the exam we will forward your child's medical records to that physician at your request.

Media Release Information

The Leesburg High School periodically provides information and images of students to the news media and distributes student names and images via its own printed and electronic materials. However, to protect our students from unauthorized publicity, the district is seeking permission prior to distributing such information. By signing below, I/We give permission for Leesburg High School to use the name and likeness (photographic, video, and electronic images) of my child, in printed and electronically published materials (including, but not limited to community television, broadcast television, newspaper, Internet, and cable) distributed by the school district and the news media to your child's school. The release will remain in effect for the school year or until you revoke such permission in writing.

POLICY AGREEMENT / PARENT CONSENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY Student and Parent Contract / Permit for Athletic Participation

I HEREBY GIVE MY CONSENT for _____, my son/daughter, to compete in athletics for Leesburg High School, in Florida High School Activities Association approved sports, except those indicated on the physician's statement form; to accompany any school team of which he/she is a member on its local or out-of-town trips; and to receive emergency medical care which may become reasonably necessary in the course of such athletic activities or related travel. I understand that the cost of such medical care is my responsibility. I further agree not to hold the School District, or anyone acting in its behalf, responsible for any injury occurring to the student in the course of such activities or related travel. I hereby certify that I have read the Leesburg High School Athletic Handbook and further certify that I understand and agree to abide by its contents.

I certify that I understand it is my responsibility to provide accident insurance coverage for my son/daughter and this statement releases Leesburg High School of financial responsibility in case of accident/injury to my son/daughter while he/she is participating in interscholastic activities and/or extra-curricular activities. I agree to keep such insurance in force and effect; and I hereby assume full and complete financial responsibility relative to any injury or accident that occurs while my child participates in the activity, or travels to and from such a activity.

WARNING: BY ITS NATURE, PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS INCLUDES SERIOUS RISK OF INJURY WHICH MAY RANGE IN SEVERITY FROM MINOR TO LONG-LASTING CATASTROPHIC OR EVEN DEATH. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school programs, it is impossible to eliminate this

risk. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all rules, report all physical problems to their coaches, and follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their equipment daily. BY SIGNING THIS FORM, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS WARNING. Parents or students who do not wish to accept the risk described in the warning should not sign this permission form or participate in the activity.

I hereby consent to emergency treatment, hospitalization or other medical treatment as may be necessary for the welfare of my child, by a physician, qualified nurse, and/or hospital, in the event of injury or illness as a member of an interscholastic activity team or group, and hereby waive on behalf of myself and my child any liability of Leesburg High School, any of its agents or employees, arising out of such medical treatment. By signing this form, I grant permission for my child's medical information to be shared with appropriate medical staff when necessary in compliance with HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) Regulations.

I hereby certify that I understand my son/daughter will be required to undergo baseline cognitive testing.

I hereby certify that I understand that my son/daughter may be photographed by the Leesburg High School and that my child's name and likeness (photographic, video, and electronic images) may be used in printed and electronically published materials (including, but not limited to community television, broadcast television, newspaper, Internet, and cable) distributed by the school district and the news media. I understand that the participation fee shall be paid within the first two weeks of the start of the activity.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

I have read, understand and agree to the General Eligibility Guidelines as outlined in the *FHSAA Competitor's Brochure* (as found on the FHSAA site at www.fhsaa.org).

Student Athlete/Extra-Curricular Participant Date

No student shall represent their school in interschool athletics until there is a statement on file with the superintendent or principal signed by his/her parent or legal guardian and a signed physical form certifying that he/she has passed an adequate physical examination within the past year, noting that in the opinion of the examining physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner or a certified/registered chiropractor, is physically fit to participate in high school athletics; that the student has the consent of his/her parents or legal guardian to participate; and, the parent and participant have read, understand and agree to the FHSAA guidelines for eligibility