

**LOYAL
MIDDLE-
HIGH
SCHOOL**



ATHLETIC CODE

2024-25 Handbook

ATHLETIC POLICY

PHILOSOPHY

The School District of Loyal recognizes the importance of extra-curricular athletics as an important part of the total educational opportunity in the Loyal Schools. We believe participation in school-sponsored athletics is vital to the development of socially active and responsible young men and women. Through involvement in extra-curricular athletics, we hope students can build on the following important characteristics:

- a. Developing **respect** for themselves and the people around them.
- b. Taking **responsibility** for their actions and accepting consequences for those same actions.
- c. Developing a sense of **pride** in their work and accomplishments.
- d. Students need to be aware that when they participate in athletics, they are not only representing themselves, but also their families and the School District of Loyal.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT

Participation in athletics is a privilege at the School District of Loyal. In order to keep this privilege, students must accept certain responsibilities. As students are the most visible representatives of our school, they are expected to be exceptional examples of the quality of the School District of Loyal students. They are expected to display the highest standards of social behavior and respect for those in authority, including teachers, coaches, advisors, administration, officials and other school personnel, as well as fellow participants and competitors.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COACH

Coaches are some of the most influential people in the School District of Loyal. Their methods and results are a matter of record and discussion each time their group competes. In most cases, the attitude, desire, and spirit possessed by a group is a reflection of those same qualities in the coach. Coaches are influential role models and need to be aware that students learn a great deal from observing their actions.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

Parents are the greatest role models for a young person. The School District of Loyal seeks parental assistance to help develop outstanding young men and women who possess the self-discipline and motivation to make a difference in the world. The administrators, faculty, staff, and coaches ask that parents be supportive of the programs and personnel at School District of Loyal and demonstrate that support by respecting the decisions and efforts of the coaches/advisors who work with the young people of Loyal.

Parental assistance is also requested in enforcing this Athletic Code so that a fair and healthy environment will exist for all students.

While spectators, at any extra-curricular events either at Loyal or any other site, parents are expected to display sportsmanlike behavior. An individual or group who willfully interferes with or interrupts the proper order or management of a school sponsored extra-curricular event by an act of violence, boisterous conduct, threatening language, or unsportsmanlike conduct toward coaches, players, or officials, or disobeys board policies or administrative rules may be removed from the event and may be prohibited from further. Individuals prohibited from attendance may follow the established grievance procedure.

ELIGIBILITY

1. A high school student must be under the age of 19 before August 1 of each school year.
2. WIAA physical exam or alternate year card form is required for students participating in interscholastic athletics. Physical exams conducted after April 1st are good for the following two school years. Physical exams conducted prior to April 1st are good for the remainder of the school year and the following school year. In years when a physical exam is not required, a WIAA alternate year athletic permit card must be completed.
3. Athletic Code must be signed annually by students and parents through the online registration process which indicates an understanding of the athletic code.
4. WIAA Rules of Eligibility must be signed annually by students and parents/guardians and indicates that both have read, understand, and agree to abide by the WIAA Rules of Eligibility.
5. Athletic Fees must be paid prior to the first contest/game.
6. Registration must be completed prior to participating in practices, scrimmages, or contests/games.

ACADEMICS

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY-HIGH SCHOOL

1. Eligibility for high school will be based on all posted grading periods to include mid-trimester (6 weeks) and trimester (12 weeks) reports in the high school.
2. Eligibility for fall sports is based on grades earned in the previous spring grading period.
3. Students who are academically ineligible are allowed to practice at the discretion of the coach. Students are not allowed to dress in uniform but may travel with the team; again at the coach's discretion.

4. Students are responsible for any school work missed due to athletic activities. They are expected to make every effort to contact the instructor prior to the absence.
5. Grades of incomplete are viewed as F's unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by an administrator. Students are not eligible to compete until incompletes are made up.

ACADEMIC VIOLATION-HIGH SCHOOL

1. In order to be academically eligible, a student must have no failing trimester grades. Any student not maintaining this level of academic performance will adhere to the following:
2. If a student is failing one or more courses, the student will be immediately ineligible for a minimum of fifteen (15) school days from when the grading window closes. After the fifteen (15) day ineligible period has expired, eligibility may be restored provided passing work is achieved in all current classes. Eligibility is restored on the 16th school day. The athletic director will notify the coach involved that the student is again eligible to participate. The coach will not allow the athlete to compete until he/she gets verification from the athletic director.
3. For fall activities, the period of ineligibility is twenty-one (21) calendar days beginning on the first day of allowed competition or one-third of the maximum games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if the result is a fraction).
4. If a mid-trimester grade shows a student failing, the student must show proof from the teacher that the student is passing or making progress to the teacher's satisfaction. Once, it has been confirmed that the student is passing or making satisfactory progress, the student may compete.
5. While academically ineligible, the student will be required to participate in all practices and attend all contests as an active member of the team for the ineligibility period to be fulfilled. Coaches shall be part of the discussion concerning participation.
6. Incoming freshman shall follow the middle school eligibility guidelines for fall activities.

ACADEMIC VIOLATION-MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. In order to be academically eligible, a student must have no failing trimester grades. Any student not maintaining this level of academic performance will adhere to the following:
2. A student failing one subject at the end of a trimester is ineligible to participate in athletic events for a minimum of five (5) school days and one (1) event. The five-day period begins the day grades are posted. The student will remain ineligible until a passing grade is attained or satisfactory progress is made.

3. A participant failing two or more subjects at the end of a trimester is ineligible to participate in athletic events for a minimum of ten (10) school days and a minimum of two (2) events. The student will remain ineligible until passing grades are attained or satisfactory progress is made.
4. If a mid-trimester grade shows a student failing, the student must show proof from the teacher that the student is passing or making progress to the teacher's satisfaction. Once it has been confirmed that the student is passing or making satisfactory progress, the student may compete.
5. While academically ineligible, the student will be required to participate in all practices and attend all contests as an active member of the team for the ineligibility period to be fulfilled. Coaches shall be part of the discussion concerning participation.

ATTENDANCE

1. Any student who is considered habitually truant from school will not be permitted to participate in any Loyal School Athletic program until administration determines there has been an improvement in attendance.
2. To be eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic event or practice, the student must be in school at least half of the school day.
3. Any exceptions to this rule must have prior approval of the athletic director and/or the principal. The determination of whether the circumstances supporting such an excuse shall be deemed to exist is left to the sound discretion of the athletic director and/or Principal.

DISCIPLINE

1. At the beginning of each athletic season, the head coach shall give each team member a list of his/her expectations. Said expectations shall be in writing and each athlete shall indicate an understanding of the expectations. A violation of a coach's expectations shall be subject to enforcement by the particular coach.
2. Athletes suspended from school are not allowed to practice or participate in an athletic contest on the day(s) of suspension. Athletes issued a detention shall have their detention assigned without regard to the athletic contest schedule or practice schedule. In addition, an athlete will not be allowed to practice or compete even on a non-school day until his/her suspension has been completed.
3. An athlete who is suspended from participation in a given sport by the coach will not compete until he/she is officially reinstated. However, such athlete may attend or participate in practices at the coach's discretion. Athletes suspended from a sport may be subject to loss of awards earned in that sport. The suspended athlete may

also be subject to loss of special athletic awards, including but not limited to memorials.

4. Attendance at practice/meetings are mandatory, unless the school, coach or advisor has excused the student prior to the event. The consequence for missing practice is left to the discretion of the coach.
5. Any student who transfers to the Loyal Middle/High School with a suspension pending or in progress at their former school is required to fulfill that suspension at Loyal prior to any competition.

ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES & DUE PROCESS POLICY

1. Violations of the Athletic code will be based on the following:

- A. Violations reported to the school by law enforcement officials with corroborating evidence.
- B. Violations reported by teaching or coaching staff members, parents, students, or members of the community.
- C. Self-Admission.
- D. Evidence from web sites or other technological devices may be used during an investigation.

1. Electronic Transmissions

Students are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmission (e-mail, text messaging, etc.) and any information posted on social media. Students are not precluded from participating in such online social network sites, however, any student that is identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior may be considered in violation of the Athletic code.

Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when, or location of where, the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student must assume. It must be noted that there may be persons who would attempt to implicate a student by taking such images to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standards. This is our rationale for requiring that our students not place themselves in such environments.

2. Reports of violations must occur as soon as possible, unless referred by the judicial system or social services.
3. Upon receiving a report of a violation, the principal/athletic director shall conduct an investigation, as soon as is feasibly possible, which shall include an interview with the accused, to determine whether or not the student has violated the Athletic code. A parent may be contacted in the investigation process.
4. Parents and students will be informed by the athletic director that any challenge or complaint can be taken to the Athletic review council if they are

dissatisfied. The student and parents will be asked to put the challenge or complaint in writing.

SELF-REPORTING

1. To avoid a penalty of guilt by association, if an athlete member finds themselves at an event/location where alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco are present, they must leave IMMEDIATELY without use and report their attendance to the principal or athletic director before the end of the next school day. Only illegal events count. Weddings, fairs, family gatherings, and/or parties that are not "illegal" for the youth to be attending do not pertain.
2. If the violation occurs over the summer or on a weekend, the student-athlete participant has 24 hours to report to the principal or athletic director, leaving a detailed voice mail or email is considered reporting.
3. Self-reporting allows students who know they did something wrong to confess the next school day and receive a lesser penalty. This only applies to first offense violations.
 - a First offense self-reporting will receive a one-time special consideration, (ex. one game/match suspension). The Principal or Athletic Director will determine whether this clause applies.

HONESTY CLAUSE

If the high school administration has a reasonable suspicion that a specific student may have violated the district's code, he/she may question that student about a possible violation. In responding to any such questioning about his/her personal actions, **it is expected that the student shall answer truthfully**. Also, during the questioning process, a student may not attempt to mislead or misrepresent himself/herself, which may impede the investigation.

If a student's answer is subsequently found to be untrue, the disciplinary action/penalty will be doubled. (Example: A half season suspension will become a full season).

CONDUCT ELIGIBILITY

GENERAL CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

1. All students involved in school-sponsored Athletic programs/clubs are expected to exhibit conduct which reflects the ideals, principles and standards of the School District of Loyal. Behavior deemed inappropriate by administration may be considered a violation of the athletic code. This includes, but is not limited to, being involved in any active investigation, displays of poor sportsmanship, abusive language during Athletic, violations of school policy as listed in the student handbook, willful disobedience of rules established by the coaches and any other actions deemed conduct unbecoming an athlete. Determination of conduct unbecoming an athlete shall be determined by the athletic director and/or principal.
2. Regardless of quantity, it is a violation for a students to use, possess, buy, or sell a beverage containing alcohol, tobacco (in any form), or any substance defined by law

as a drug or its look-alike—including Performance Enhancing Substances (PES) as defined by the WIAA.

3. It is a violation of this code for a student to engage in any activity that results in his or her arrests or charges of a felony or misdemeanor under Federal or Wisconsin Law. Conviction under a county or municipal citation ordinance will not automatically be considered a violation the Principal/Athletic Director will determine if the conviction is a violation based on its severity.
4. Even though the student may be in the presence of his or her parent/guardian and may have their permission to do so, the consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited at all times when participating in Athletic programs/clubs subject to this policy, as is the possession, consumption or other use of controlled substances. This is not meant to prohibit presence in establishments that are primarily eating-places or presence at halls for parties, weddings, or other similar events with parents/guardians, or presence at family functions where there is parental supervision.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Any student who misses a game in the WIAA tournament series due to a code violation is ineligible for the entire tournament series thereafter.
2. While serving a suspension for a code violation, a student will NOT be allowed to hold honorary positions such as “captain” or “president” in any sport/club in which the suspension is served.
3. All students are expected to positively represent the school in all interactions within the community at all times. Any conduct by a student that brings negative attention to the individual, school or community may be deemed a violation of the athletic code. This includes activities that may be considered hazing.
 - a Hazing is defined as any act whether physical, emotional, mental or psychological that subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass or intimidate the person, or which may in any fashion compromise the inherent dignity of the person.
4. Locker rooms may only be used by those individuals participating in after school events or practices. All other individuals must obtain permission from a coach prior to entering the locker room. Everyone is entitled to a reasonable amount of privacy therefore no recording devices, including cell phones, may be used in the locker room unless directed to by the coaching staff. Unauthorized use of a recording device to capture, record or transfer a representation of a nude or partially nude person is a violation of Wisconsin Act 118, which carries criminal penalties.
5. Under Wisconsin law, a deferred prosecution agreement allows a person facing criminal charges to enter into an agreement with the court to fulfill certain conditions in return for a dismissal. To be eligible to participate in deferred prosecution an offender usually does not have a criminal record, accepts

responsibility for the offense, and must be willing to participate in the agreement. This is considered a code violation.

ATHLETIC PENALTIES

Violation	Consequence
<p>A. Use, possession, buying or selling drugs, alcohol, look-alike drugs and/or inhalants or performance enhancing substances.</p> <p>B. Use, possession, buying or selling tobacco products. This includes e-cigarettes of ANY kind.</p> <p>C. Grievous offense – to include any offense that is deemed serious enough by the school administration that a penalty more severe than the codes prescribes is warranted. This may include any act in violation of any of the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes or violation of any municipal, county ordinance or laws of other jurisdictions. It is not necessary for a student to have been issued a citation to be considered a violation.</p> <p>D. Unacceptable use of cell phones and other technology to include, but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and other social media websites and applications.</p>	<p>First offense – Suspension for 25% of season/games*</p> <p>Second offense –Suspension for 50% of season/games*</p> <p>Third offense – Suspension from all sports for one calendar year (from the date of the infraction)</p> <p>Fourth offense – Suspension from all sports for the remainder of high school career</p> <p>Progressive consequences: First and second violations are progressive. If a student-athlete receives a first and a second violation before the consequence can be served, the consequences are combined. (E.G. 25% + 50% = 75%)</p> <p>Additionally – Students with any violation become ineligible for All-Conference awards, including coach/school sports award for season.</p> <p>Homecoming: any student who is serving a suspension for one of these violations during Homecoming will not be eligible for Homecoming Court</p>
<p>E. Guilt by association (Student athlete is in attendance, but is not found to have used, possessed, or consumed alcohol, tobacco, or unauthorized drugs.) Only illegal events count. Weddings, fairs, family gatherings, and/or parties that are not “illegal” for the youth to be attending do not pertain. Students will be found guilty unless they have proof of AT LEAST one of the following acts:</p> <p>-Proof of an attempt to leave the event in a reasonable amount of time and have proof of either a phone call or a text requesting a ride home, OR</p> <p>-Proof of either a phone call or a text that they attended the event only at the request of another individual to provide a safe ride home for them. (Student must not stay at activity, but leave within a reasonable amount of time.)</p>	<p>First offense – Suspension for 10% of season/games*</p> <p>Second offense –Suspension for 25% of season/games*</p> <p>Third offense – Suspension for 50% of season/games*</p> <p>Fourth offense – Suspension from all sports for one calendar year (from the date of the infraction)</p> <p>Progressive consequences: First, second, and third violations are progressive. If a student-athlete receives a first, second, and/or violation before the consequences can be served, the consequences are combined. (E.G. 10% + 25% + 50%= 85%)</p> <p>Additionally –Students with any violation become ineligible for All-Conference awards, including coach/school sports award for season.</p>
<p>F. Unacceptable behavior or behavior which is disruptive to or interferes with the learning environment.</p>	<p>May result in suspension from contest/event</p>
<p>G. Suspension from school</p>	<p>One contest/event for every occurrence</p>
<p>H. Cheating/Plagiarism</p>	<p>One contest/event for every occurrence</p>
<p>I. Disqualification/ejection from a contest</p>	<p>Suspension from interscholastic competition for no less than the next competitive event (but not less than one complete game or meet).</p>
<p>J. Dishonesty - If it is determined that an athlete was not honest regarding participation in any of the violations mentioned above, the consequence will be doubled.</p>	<p>Double of normal consequence for specific violation.</p>

GENERAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1. If violation occurs between seasons, the suspension is enforced during the next season they participate in.
2. If there are not enough events remaining in the season to equal the percentage, the remaining events will be applied to the next sports season the student participates in.
3. Students are required to practice with the team during the suspension and are required to complete the season in good standing in order to fulfill their code violations obligations.
4. Middle school students will be accountable under this athletic code; however, any violations of the athletic code will not carry over into high school.
5. A student-athlete must follow his/her Athletic code on a year-round basis.

ATHLETIC COUNCIL APPEAL MEMBERSHIP, PROCESS, AND PROCEDURES

ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The high school Athletic Council shall consist of the following members:

1. High School Principal (another Administrator may take this position)
2. Athletic Director;
3. Guidance Counselor;
4. Two (2) head varsity coaches;
5. One (1) teacher

ATHLETIC COUNCIL APPEAL PROCESS

1. Introductions of Code Review Council
2. Presentation of Findings
3. Student Statement
4. Parent Statement
5. Questions form Review Council
6. Closing Comments
7. Timeline for decision

ATHLETIC COUNCIL APPEAL PROCEDURES

1. An athlete found in violation of this Code may appeal the decision within five (5) school days or ten (10) calendar days, whichever is less, to the Athletic Council. The Athletic Council shall meet to hear and decide the case. At this time, the athlete(s) involved will be allowed to speak on his/her own behalf and shall have the right to have his/her accuser present. The athlete also has the right to be represented by an agent of his/her choice and will be presented the opportunity to testify and present evidence on his/her behalf. The Athletic Director will call

and chair all meetings of the Council. Five (5) members will be necessary for the Council to act on the violation. The coach of the sport involved, parent, and athlete shall be present to hear each such appeal.

2. If aggrieved, an athlete may appeal the decision of the Athletic Council to the Board of Education. In order to do so, the athlete must apply, in writing, to the District Administrator for such a hearing, which written request shall be delivered to the Administrator within seven (7) days after the date of the decision of the Athletic Council. Upon receipt of such an appeal, a date shall be established for a hearing, which hearing shall be held no later than seven (7) days after receipt of the written appeal.

GUIDELINES FOR APPEAL HEARINGS BEFORE THE BOARD AS TO ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

1. Role of the School Board: The Board shall act as an impartial decision-maker. It shall allow the Principal/Athletic Director to present documentation in support of the Council's action and then provide the athlete with the opportunity to present his/her evidence in response thereto. The Board's decision shall be made based upon the evidence and arguments presented at the hearing.
2. Both the administration and the athlete may be allowed to be represented at said appeal hearing by an attorney or agent of their choice. Each party shall have the right to fully cross-examine all witnesses.
3. Conduct of meeting. The rules of evidence do not apply to such a hearing and the Board shall consider all testimony presented and will attach, in its sound discretion, the appropriate weight to testimony and evidence presented before it.

a Minutes of each such meeting shall be taken. At the time of commencement of such a meeting, the Board shall inform the athlete and his/her parent(s) and/or legal representative that the meeting will be closed unless they specifically request that the hearing be open to the public. In addition, the purpose of the hearing shall be identified, the individuals present shall be noted, the provision of notice of the hearing to the athlete and his/her parent(s) prior to the meeting shall be confirmed, and the procedures to be followed by the Board shall be generally explained.

4. After the conclusion of the hearing, the Board shall deliberate in closed session and shall notify the athlete and his/her parent(s) of its decision at that time. A written notice of their findings and conclusions will be issued to the athlete and his/her parents within a reasonable amount of time.

PARTICIPATION PENDING RESULTS OF AN APPEAL

During this appeal process the student will remain ineligible in compliance with WIAA regulations for participation in all school athletics.

All decisions from the Athletic Review Committee shall be final and any disciplinary action shall commence immediately after the decision is rendered and the student is notified.

CHANGING A SPORT

An athlete may not be involved in two sports during the same season, except with the consent of each sport coach and athletic director. An athlete who is dropped from a team for disciplinary reasons or who quits is not eligible to compete in any other sport during the season in question without mutual consent of both head coaches.

If an athlete quits a sport in which a suspension due to a conduct violation is being served, the suspension is enforced in full during the next sport season the athlete participates in.

CLASSIFICATION AS AN ATHLETE

A student shall be considered to be an athlete from the first time he/she participates in a high school sport and acknowledges receipt of the Athletic Code of Conduct. Once he/she officially acknowledges the Athletic Code of Conduct, said Code must be followed for the remainder of the student's high school years, provided he/she plans to remain eligible for athletics.

NON-ATHLETIC INFRACTIONS OR PENALTIES

If a student decides to become an athlete at any point in time during his/her high school years and has not formerly been an athlete, his/her pattern of conduct and disciplinary record with respect to academic and non-sports related school activities shall be irrelevant for purposes of ascertaining compliance with this Code. In all cases, the Principal will make the final determination on eligibility.

AWARDS

Students who violate the athletic code are not eligible for All-Conference awards during the season in which the violation occurred.

INJURIES & STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Each athlete shall inform his/her coach of any or all injuries sustained, whether in practice or in competition. An insurance claim form shall be obtained from the school office as soon as possible and prepared immediately.

TRANSPORTATION

An athlete shall travel to and from all athletic contests/practices at other schools using school provided transportation. However, the parent/guardian may sign their child off the bus/van at the event with the coach present. For cooperative sports, the parent/guardian may elect to have their child self-transport themselves to practices/events. A coop transportation form must be completed by the parent/guardian, student, and athletic director and/or principal for this to take effect. For emergency or extenuating circumstances, the principal may

approve a request by a parent/guardian allowing an athlete to travel home with them.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Students are expected to care for all school equipment and uniforms in a proper manner and return them at the end of the season. If damaged or not returned, fines will be issued to the student for replacements.

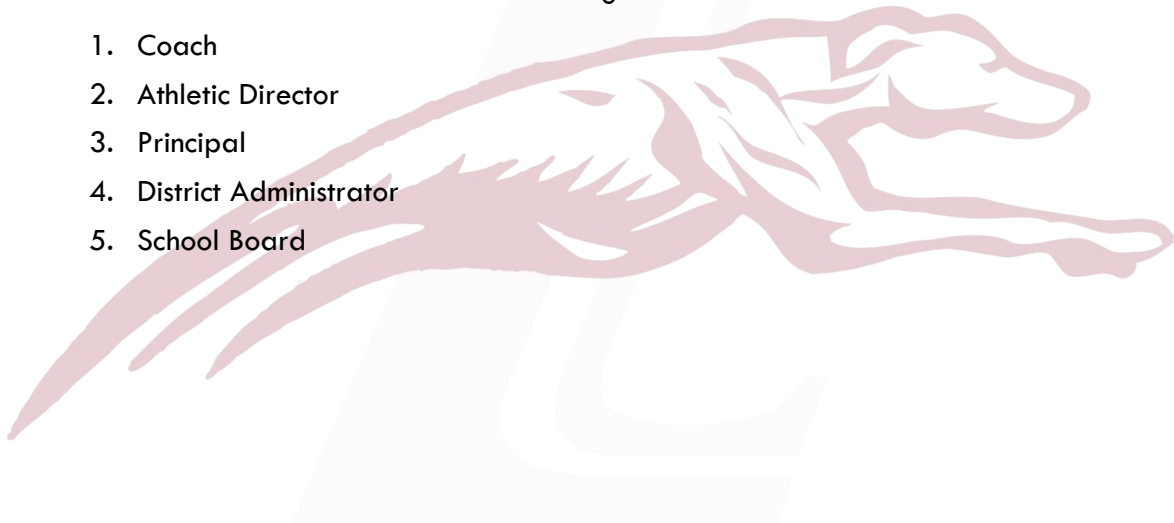
INTERPRETATION OF THE ATHLETIC CODE

It is entirely possible that situations/incidents may arise that are not specifically covered under the athletic code. When such situations/incidents do arise, the final decision as to how to interpret or administer the athletic code will be a joint decision by the Principal and Athletic Director.

HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS-ATHLETICS

If concerns arise regarding an athletic team policy, decision or issue, the proper chain-of-command should be followed in working toward a solution:

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Principal
4. District Administrator
5. School Board



Student Name (PRINT): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

