

Revised 8/2024

LaBelle High School



2024-2025 Student-Athlete Handbook

Also available on our website
<http://www.hendry-schools.org/Page/1178>

LaBelle High School

Home of the Cowboys & Cowgirls

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Welcome back and congratulations on making an athletic team at LaBelle High School! I want students and parents to use the contents of this handbook as a guide to better understand school, district, and FHSAA expectations, rules, and policies. Questions regarding this handbook can be directed to your athlete's coach or the Athletic Director. FHSAA rule clarifications have to be made through the Athletic Director or Principal. We hope that all of our student-athletes will strive to become the best they can, both on and off the court and/or field.

LaBelle High School is committed to improving the athletic program in addition to its academic programs. Both programs need to be aligned in order to achieve great success. In the word "student-athlete", student always come first. The post-secondary goal of college should be one of an academic and not athletic nature. Above average grades far outweigh how many goals you score or how many homeruns you hit. Good grades can be the foundation of a person's life and career. On the other hand, participating in athletics creates memories and teaches valuable life lessons. Everyone should try to keep a healthy perspective on the purpose of athletics. It is a reminder that student-athletes must have the following priorities, in the following order of importance: family, student, and then competitor.

Sportsmanship is very important here at Labelle High School, for both student-athletes and parents, and your actions reflect directly upon all Cowboys and Cowgirls. Our fans have a great tradition of hospitality and kindness, which we would like to uphold. Fans that cannot act responsibly will be asked to exit the event and repeat offenders will not be allowed to return to athletic events. The FHSAA will fine schools with poor sportsmanship and I'm proud to say our fans haven't been fined in a long time

Parents are welcome to call or email us at any time. Most issues of concern between coaches and athletes, or parents and coaches, are the result of poor communication. We encourage athletes and parents to attempt to resolve issues by first communicating with the coach. If you still have concerns, we have an open door policy for all students, parents and coaches. You can contact us at (863) 674-4120 and/or at bechtelje@hendry-schools.net.

Please initial and sign the *LaBelle High School Athletics Rules, Regulations and Conditions* form that follows after you have read the student-athlete handbook to indicate that you understand the expectations for LaBelle High student-athletes and parents. When completed, please turn this form into your coach.

Thank you.
Go Cowboys and Cowgirls!

Jessica Bechtel
Athletic Director

LABELLE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS

Congratulations on being selected to be a part of the LaBelle High School Athletic Program this season. The administration and coaches hope that this will be an enjoyable and positive experience for you and your family. We want to make sure that you are fully aware of and understand the commitment the school will make towards you and in turn, what our expectations and your obligations will be for being a member of our program. Please review the points below and initial next to each point showing your understanding of that statement. Lastly, please sign and date in the appropriate place and return the appropriate pages to your coach.

_____ Being a member of the LaBelle High School Athletic Program is a privilege not a right. This privilege is maintained through hard work in school, on the field or court, and at home. This privilege can be revoked at any time if any of the below rules, regulations, or conditions are not met.

_____ There is no guarantee of minimum playing time. Players not happy with their playing time should ask for help and be willing to do extra practice to improve. This does not guarantee more playing time.

_____ Team members are students first and athletes second. Please be aware of the academic requirements for you to remain eligible to practice or play. You must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA to play.

_____ **Do not miss school and expect to practice or play in games. Nonattendance in school means no practice or game play for at least that day. You must be in all seven classes to be eligible to practice or play. Be on time to school and to your classes. Excessive tardiness or absences may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.**

_____ **A student who maintains an attendance rate below a 90% in any or all class periods, based on unexcused absences, will be suspended from participation until their attendance rate improves.**

_____ **A student who has six (6) or more cumulative tardies in one semester will be suspended from participation.**

_____ **A student-athlete who accumulates 5 days of unexcused absences at any point of the semester will be ineligible for the remainder of the semester, plus one additional semester that immediately follows.**

_____ **A student-athlete that accumulates any unexcused absence shall be ineligible for a contest for five school days. They may still practice during that time.**

_____ Whenever possible, arrange doctor and dental appointments before or after practice, or on off days. If you miss school time for an appointment, prior notice must be given to your coach to allow you to still practice or play that day. These arrangements should be made prior to the absence or you will not be allowed to practice or play.

_____ Do not have excuses to get out of practice. A practice schedule will be issued to every player in advance. Work schedules and other commitments should be scheduled with the team's schedule in mind. Please note, on occasion it may be necessary to change practice times on short notice. Although this will be a rare occurrence, players are still expected to attend practice. Leaving practice early is not acceptable.

_____ School suspensions of any kind will not be tolerated. Any form of ISS will mean the player may not practice or play that day. OSS means the player may not attend practice or games as they are not allowed on school board grounds. OSS may result in dismissal from the team.

_____ Alcohol, tobacco or drug use is not allowed. These infractions will be dealt with as per the guidelines set forth in the Hendry County School Board Student Code of Conduct.

_____ Players suspended from games that are not the result of a school suspension, must attend any games during their suspension but may not be in uniform. Players will be expected to sit on the bench with the team, be supportive of their teammates, conduct themselves in an acceptable manner, and contribute in any way possible.

_____ Team members must be at practice. Team members must be on time for practice. Team members must be prepared for practice. Team members must pay attention and give their best effort during practice. Being late for practice will not be tolerated and will result in a reduction of playing time. Missing practice will mean reduced playing time or not playing in the next game. Repeat offenders may be suspended or dismissed from the team. Please be aware there may be Saturday practices and games.

_____ Do not leave for trips or vacations and expect to play when you return. Missing time in the middle of the season causes problems in our ability to have full practices and have the proper personnel for games. While you are gone other players will be used to fill your role. While you are gone new plays and information will be added. It will be at the coach's discretion as to when or if you return to the lineup.

_____ If you are injured during practice or during a game, inform a coach immediately.

_____ If you are injured you must attend all practices and games unless prior arrangements are made with your coach. You are expected to be attentive during practice so you will continue to know what the team is doing. You are expected to sit on the bench during games, be supportive of your teammates, act appropriately, and contribute in any way you can.

_____ All players are expected to ride the bus, when provided, to and from all games. Prior permission must be given by the coach to do otherwise. The bus leaves on time and waits for no one.

_____ Be on time for games. Failure to be on time will result in lost playing time. Continued violation of this rule may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

_____ Exemplary sportsmanship on and off field is an expectation of LaBelle High School Athletics. Any team member incurring a fine from the FHSAA as a result of an ejection or otherwise will be responsible for the payment of that fine, before they will be eligible to return to game play.

_____ Any player who uses social media inappropriately, as suggested in the social media guidelines, on or off school property, may be suspended or dismissed from the team.

_____ Any player who quits or is dismissed from a LaBelle High School Athletic Team will not be reimbursed for any team fees and will be responsible for payment for any equipment, uniforms, etc. ordered on their behalf. The athlete will be expected to return any school uniforms or equipment they were issued as soon as possible following their dismissal or quitting.

_____ **Any player who quits or is dismissed from a LaBelle High School Athletic Team may not participate with another school team in any way, until the original sport that they quit or were dismissed from has completed their season.**

_____ Any conduct deemed detrimental to the team listed on these pages or otherwise, may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.

_____ Violations of these rules, regulations and conditions will be dealt with on an individual basis, using past player violations and history as a basis for decisions regarding disciplinary action(s).

_____ These pages represent the rules, regulations and conditions of participation in the LaBelle High School Athletic Department. Any of these rules, regulations and conditions that are contrary to the policies of the Hendry County School Board are superseded by those policies. Please visit the Hendry County School Board website to review school board policy.

_____ Please be aware that the Hendry County School Board's Student Code of Conduct applies to athletes at all times.

Please sign this form at the bottom indicating that you and your athlete have read and understand the information provided in this handbook. We will keep this form on file all year.

Parent (Print)

Parent (Sign)

Date

Student (Print)

Student (Sign)

Date

Table Of Contents

1.General

1.1-Vision & Core Values.....	1
1.2-Student-Athlete Code of Ethics.....	2
1.3-Revenue & Expenditures.....	3

2.Eligibility

2.1-FHSAA.....	3
2.2-Athletic Eligibility.....	3
2.3-School Attendance.....	4
2.4-Practice Attendance.....	5
2.5- Dual Sport Participation.....	5
2.6-College Eligibility.....	5

3.Tryouts, Practice, & Contests

3.1-Try-Outs.....	6
3.2-Schedules.....	6
3.3-Playing Time.....	6
3.4- Transportation.....	6
3.5-Parent Pick-Up.....	7
3.6- Summer Training.....	7
3.7- Summer Camps.....	7

4.Principles of Conduct for Student-Athletes and Parents

4.1-Sportsmanship.....	7
4.2-Teamwork.....	8
4.3- Social Media Guidelines.....	8

5.Compliance and Enforcement

5.1-Ejections/Fines.....	9
5.2-Hazing.....	9
5.3-Discipline.....	10
5.4 Due Process.....	10

6.Health & Safety

6.1-Training Supplements.....	11
6.2-Safety Courses.....	11
6.3-Insurance.....	11

7.Equipment and Facilities

7.1- Equipment/Uniforms.....	11
7.2- Facilities	12
7.3-Obligations.....	12

The vision of the LaBelle High School Athletics Program is to combine excellence and integrity in developing leaders through academic achievement, development of character and maturity, and sense of fair play. Our priorities will focus on student-athletes first as individuals, second as students and third as athletes.

LABELLE ATHLETICS CORE VALUES

Excellence

We are committed to achieving excellence by striving to perform at the highest levels in all that we do. We are always looking for ways to improve and demand higher levels of performance than what is normally expected.

Integrity

We act in a fair, ethical and honest way. We do what is right at all times even when no one is watching.

Passion

We are enthusiastic about what we do and why we do it. We give everything for the people and school we love.

Teamwork

We cooperate, communicate, and display loyalty with each other to successfully achieve common goals.

Respect

We treat each other as we would like to be treated with fairness, honesty and kindness.

Cowboy & Cowgirl Pride

We are proud of the Cowboy and Cowgirl tradition that was forged by all the efforts of all those who have come before us. We honor and build upon that tradition by demonstrating excellence, integrity, passion, teamwork and respect in all that we do.

Student-Athlete Code of Ethics

1. Represent LaBelle High School in a positive manner - Everywhere and all the time.
2. Exhibit good sportsmanship even when it is not easy.
3. Always attend practice and be on time.
4. Make positive choices in the community.
5. Develop good relationships with teammates and coaches.
6. Make a positive impact on LaBelle High School and the community.
7. Be a good teammate - Team before self.
8. Team wins are more important than individual goals or statistics.
9. Communicate with parents and coaches.
10. Use athletics as a means to improve life skills.

1.3. REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

LaBelle High School's athletic budget is generated by advertisement, sponsorship, boosters, fundraisers and ticket sales. All donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated, but first need to be approved by the A.D. Donations have to be made in a manner that does not violate gender equity. The greatest source of revenue is generated by ticket sales, which primarily pay for contest officials and team travel.

2.1. FHSAA

The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) is the governing body of all high school athletics in Florida. LaBelle High School's classification is based on enrollment and number of schools that participate in any given sport. The FHSAA governs all aspects of the sports' season. The Athletic Director at every school is in charge of rule interpretation and correspondence with the association. To learn more about the FHSAA go to their web site at FHSAA.org

2.2. ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The Hendry County School District and LaBelle High School hold that participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, and that this privilege can be revoked at any time when a violation of the Hendry County School District Student Code of Conduct and/or LaBelle High School Student-Athlete Handbook occurs. Coaches may hold student-athletes to additional expectations that exceed the minimum standards of this handbook only when approved by the AD and Principal and are communicated beforehand. The Principal of LaBelle High School will make the final determination of a student-athlete's eligibility.

Student-Athletes must have a complete and current FHSAA Physical Form on file in order to draw equipment and participate in athletics or use any of its related facilities (e.g. weight training, conditioning). Physical forms remain "current" 365 days after the physical examination by doctor and then must be renewed before continued participation. The required forms (GA7, EL2, and EL3) can be found at <http://www.fhsaa.org/forms/general> under *Eligibility*.

Hendry County School District and the FHSAA require that students possess, *at least*, an overall cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 at the end of each semester for athletic eligibility. All incoming freshmen start with a 0.0 GPA and establish their GPA after the first ninety (90) day mark, or semester, unless students have taken high school credit courses prior. GPA is only reviewed after ninety (90) days of school and there is no appeal for students who do not meet the 2.0 cumulative GPA academic requirements for the previous semester. Freshmen (2nd Semester) and sophomores (1st Semester) who are unable to meet this requirement may be eligible to complete an Academic Contract based on FHSAA terms and conditions. However, eligibility is determined by the Principal and participating in athletics is a privilege that can be denied.

The Hendry County School District and the FHSAA require that student-athletes also meet the following eligibility standards to participate in athletics:

1. Participants must not have enrolled in the ninth grade for the first time more than four years ago. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.5)
2. Participants must be less than 19 years old to play. Any students that turn 19 before Sept. 1st will be ineligible (FHSAA Bylaw 9.6)
3. Participants must display good sportsmanship and follow the rules of competition **before, during and after** every contest in which you participate. If not, you may be suspended from participation for a period of time.(FHSAA Bylaw 7)
4. Participants must refrain from hazing/bullying while a member of an athletic team or while participating in any athletic activities sponsored by or affiliated with a member school.
5. Participants must not provide false information to your school or the FHSAA to gain eligibility. (FHSAA Bylaw 9.1.2.2)
6. A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets the criteria in s. 1006.15(3)(h) as follows:
 - a. Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.
 - b. Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone.
 - c. Children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to a separation or divorce, or serious illness or death of a custodial parent.
 - d. Authorized for good cause in district or charter school policy.
7. A student's eligibility to participate in any interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity may not be affected by any alleged recruiting violation until final disposition of the allegation pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(b).

2.3. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A student-athlete's attendance, both at school and practice, is critical for individual and team success. Coaches are expected to follow the school attendance policy.

School attendance is important for participation at practice and contests (e.g. games, matches, meets). Student-athletes may not participate at practice or in a contest if they are not present at school seven (7) out of seven (7) periods that day, unless they have a documented doctor appointment. All other excuses must be approved by the A.D. before the scheduled day of absence. Too many absences may result in suspension or dismissal from the athletic team. Student-athletes must maintain a 90% attendance rate in all class periods throughout the school year to maintain privileges and participation in athletics. For example, a student-athlete who has

five (5) days of unexcused absences in any combination of, or all, class periods within the first quarter (45 days) has a 88% attendance rate and therefore will be suspended from athletic participation with a formal hearing until school attendance improves. A student who has ten (10) or more cumulative tardies in one semester will be suspended from athletic participation with a formal hearing. A hearing will not be necessary if the coach and attendance office have proper documentation. All parents have the right to appeal the suspension, beginning with the Principal. Communication for any other absence should be done in advance and should not happen on a regular basis.

Effective May 21, 2022: A student-athlete who accumulates 5 days of unexcused absences at any point of the semester will be ineligible for remainder of the semester, plus one additional semester that immediately follows.

- A student-athlete is expected to be in attendance both the day of the contest and the day after
- A student-athlete that accumulates any unexcused absence shall be ineligible for a contest for five school days. They may still practice during that time.

Any student-athlete who is suspended from school (ISS or OSS) will be ineligible to participate in practice or contests on that day. If a student-athlete is suspended before a break, including weekends, they will be ineligible to participate in practices or contests during that break. For example, a student-athlete who is suspended Friday will be ineligible for an interscholastic contest on Saturday and will regain eligibility on Monday given the suspension has ended.

Communication with the Attendance Office , as well as the Coach and A.D., is very important. All Head Coaches can be reached through the main office phone number or email (last name, first initial @hendry-schools.net). Please remember notification is to be done before the absence occurs. Attendance is our number one reason for suspension and dismissal, so please communicate early and often.

2.4. PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

Everyone is expected to practice Monday through Friday, ideally 1.5-2.5 hours a day. Too many absences from practice may also result in suspension or dismissal from an athletic team. Players should want to be at practice every day. Regular attendance, being on time, and being prepared for practice teaches valuable life lessons. Coaches often have an attendance policy that fits their team needs. Please refer to the coach of a specific athletic team to inquire about their attendance policy.

2.5. DUAL-SPORT PARTICIPATION

Dual sport participation in a single season (i.e. fall, winter, spring) has to be cleared through the A.D. A meeting with parents, Coaches, and the A.D. will establish if a student can become a

dual sport participant. Any player who quits or is dismissed from a LaBelle High School Athletic Team may not participate with another school team in any way, until the original sport that they quit or were dismissed from has completed their season.

2.6. COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY

Student-athletes and parents should visit the NCAA Clearinghouse website for information on registration to the clearinghouse (www.eligibilitycenter.org). Students should do so at the beginning of their Senior year. Guidance Counselors can also help with this information and other Senior year requirements. Student-athletes should take college entrance exams (e.g. SAT, ACT) as Juniors to aid in college acceptance and placement.

3.1. TRY-OUTS

A list of dates for the start of each season is published on FHSA.org. Sports are broken down in seasonal terms: Fall, Winter and Spring. Fall sports are: Cross Country, Football, Golf, and Volleyball. Winter sports are: Basketball, Girls Weightlifting, Soccer and Wrestling. Spring Sports are: Baseball, Boys Weightlifting, Softball, Tennis, Beach Volleyball, and Track. Coaches will have an organizational meeting prior to the start of the season to list the specifics of try-outs. Try-outs last from 3 to 5 days depending on the number of students trying out and students coming from prior sports. Please contact the coach of the sports team you wish to participate in to inquire about the dates of initial meeting and try-outs.

3.2. SCHEDULES

Parents and students should understand that schedules change on a regular basis. Please check schedules through the updates on the school calendar (available at <http://www.hendry-schools.org/Page/5987>). Schedules are published in advance on the school website but may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Schedules are also available on Maxpreps.com

3.3. PLAYING TIME

A students' playing time is left to the discretion of the Head Coach and their coaching staff. Being on a team is a reward in and of itself. Parents and student-athletes should communicate with Coaches on what fundamental aspect(s) of the game need improvement. Parents should keep a clear perspective on the purpose of high school athletics. A team is made of individuals that add basic elements to the group for success.

3.4. TRANSPORTATION

A school bus is the primary mode of transportation for Hendry County School student-athletes. For safety and liability, Coaches will utilize bus transportation for all regularly scheduled events and contests during the season. All student-athletes are expected to travel on the school bus, or designated mode of transportation, with the team to any athletic event or contest. Any other form of transportation must be approved by both the Coach and A.D. Individual sports

participants will travel by approved parent/volunteer driver automobile only under certain circumstances. Student-athletes are never allowed to transport themselves to away contests in personal vehicles.

Please see the A.D. three weeks in advance for forms if you have volunteered to drive teams. The license check fee will be paid for by the driver. Students may only ride home with parents with coach's permission and written consent. Consent forms are to be used on a game to game basis and not for a whole season. A copy of the consent form (Student Travel Release Consent Form) can be found on the last page of this handbook. Coaches have the authority to opt out of the travel rule and designate that all players have to ride the bus home as a team. Parents should have a time or cue that allows students to call for a ride. Picking up students on time after a game is crucial to all parties getting home earlier. If parents can't pick up student-athletes on time on a consistent basis, a player may be taken off the travel list.

3.5. PARENT PICK-UP

Please be on time after games and practice to pick up athletes. Students waiting for rides from practice should wait in front of the main office and not wander the building or ever be in an unauthorized area of the building. Wandering around the building or parents not working out travel plans could lead to dismissal from an athletic team.

3.6. SUMMER TRAINING

Workouts are encouraged for all student-athletes. Coaches can schedule: league play, weight training programs, and camps. The weight room is open to all LHS student-athletes during the summer. Weight training and conditioning are the keys to any programs' success. Physical condition and strength play a larger role in athletics. Athletes that work hard to improve will reap the benefits.

In more physical sports, weight training is a must. Weight training reduces risk for injuries and has a direct correlation to success. Parents should not expect great result on the court or field unless effort has been given year around. Only LHS students with a current physical on file are permitted to use training facilities.

3.7. SUMMER CAMPS

Coaches and student-athletes are encouraged to organize a summer camp for younger students. Proceeds from summer camps can provide extra revenue for teams and do not count as a fundraiser during the year. If teams choose to attend a summer camp, parents may be responsible for a portion or all of the costs. Summer camps can provide time to develop new skills and form team chemistry. In many sports, summer activities outweigh regular season activities as far as development and exposure.

4.1. SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is important for everyone involved in an athletic contest including student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. Building healthy competitive relationships with

opposing schools helps in establishing tradition and consistent scheduling. A welcoming environment may curtail ill feelings in a heated moment. Student-athletes, as well as parents, should realize the importance of good sportsmanship and the consequence of poor behavior. As leaders in the community, student-athletes should always be setting the standard by displaying good sportsmanship. This includes remembering everyone on the playing field is trying to achieve the same goal, leading by example for your teammates, keeping your composure when speaking with your teammates, coaches and officials and moving on to keep playing with your best effort, even though everyone might not agree with the call on the field. Poor sportsmanship before, during or after a contest can result in FHSAA sanctioned fines and suspension from athletic participation. Fans and spectators are also expected to display good sportsmanship before, during and after contests. Game officials are in charge of a contest once it begins and can delay a contest until a spectator is removed. Officials can also levy fines against the school for poor behavior of spectators. The game time is for coaches and players to display their efforts made in practice. Please do not interject yourself into the situation and make things worse. Bad calls are always made both ways and preparation, talent and hard work outweigh bad calls. Parents and others should only be positive while in the stands at LHS. LHS has won several awards over the years for sportsmanship and would like to continue the tradition.

4.2. TEAM WORK

Teamwork begins with building positive relationships with coaches and other players. Students must follow all rules, as well as be a part of a cohesive group. Team work involves being supportive, dealing with conflicts directly and openly, being understanding, demonstrating respect, being encouraging, accepting your role on the team, having a positive attitude, listening, taking responsibility for your actions, understanding everyone on the team is important and giving your maximum effort. In order to have a successful team, individuals must surrender their self-interests for the greater good of the team.

4.3. SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

LaBelle High School and the Athletics department recognize and support student-athletes rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, etc.), however student-athletes must remember that playing and competing for LaBelle High School is a privilege. The use of these social networking sites can facilitate student communication, having positive appeal, but may also have negative consequences if used incorrectly. As a student-athlete, you represent the Hendry County School District, LaBelle High School and the LaBelle community and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, the school, and the school district in a positive manner at all times.

The following serves as a guide to navigate the appropriate use of social media and networking by student-athletes on and off school property. Ignorance of these guidelines does not excuse student-athletes from adhering to them. First, you must remember that everything you post is public information, text or photograph, even if you limit access to your site or username. Once you post information it becomes property of the website and may be searchable even after you

delete it. Whatever you post may affect your future, as current and potential employers, as well as college admissions offices, often access the information you make available on social media as a part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (i.e. pictures, videos, posts and comments). Maintain a self-image that you can be proud of years from now. Do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. You must remember that freedom of speech is not unlimited and online social networks are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.

Student-athletes should avoid derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates, coaches, student-athletes, teachers, coaches, or administrators, including any comments that may disrespect opponents. Student-athletes should also avoid posting incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, selling, possessing or using controlled substances, or any other inappropriate behaviors. Student-athletes should avoid creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person. Student-athletes should avoid indicating knowledge of an unreported felony theft or felony criminal damage to property. Student-athletes should avoid indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation, regardless of whether it was unintentional or intentional. Any deemed inappropriate use of social media websites, on or off school property, by student-athletes is grounds for suspension or dismissal.

5.1. EJECTIONS FROM CONTEST AND FINES

LaBelle High School will hold the responsible student-athlete or spectator accountable for paying any FHSAA fine associated with poor sportsmanship or behavior in athletics. Student-Athletes subjected to fines for any misconduct and suspensions will be obligated to pay the fines with their own money before return to participation in athletics. Ejections from athletic contests can carry a 4-8 game suspension and a \$250 fine. Common reasons for ejection include fighting and poor language. The Hendry County Schools Code of Conduct will be implemented and there will be consequences for student-athlete misconduct in the LHS Discipline Office. All suspensions are automatic and then reviewed by the FHSAA and school administration. If a spectator is ejected from an athletic contest by an official, all associated fines must be paid before being allowed to return to the athletic contest site.

5.2. HAZING

Student-athletes need to be aware of the age difference between Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity team members. Older student-athletes may want to impose rituals from the past on younger student-athletes, but any form of hazing will not be tolerated. Student-athletes need to be aware of the serious consequences hazing can produce and have the maturity to police themselves. This type of misconduct can have detrimental effects on the victim(s), perpetrator(s), team, and school. If a student deems an incident to be bullying, the administration will promptly investigate and impose the appropriate consequences. The Hendry County Schools Code of Conduct will be followed in these cases, as well as State laws involving bullying and hazing.

5.3. DISCIPLINE

The coach, Athletic Director and/or Principal shall suspend a student-athlete for general misconduct violations considered to be unbecoming to the high standards of our athletic programs. These violations may include wrongful acts on and off school property, but are not limited to, commission of an act that would be a misdemeanor (other than a minor traffic violation) or a felony under the laws of the State of Florida, violation of the HCSB Code of Student Conduct, disruptive behavior, violations of particular state or local membership rules (e.g., breaking team curfew, being late for meetings, practices, or contests), general disrespect toward a coach/sponsor/teacher, players or fans and unsportsmanlike conduct to the team or program. Incidents involving the violation of any local, state or federal laws are subject to automatic suspension from participation in athletics and possible dismissal from the team. All cases will be reviewed by the Coach and administration to determine if dismissal from the athletic program is necessary.

Any participant who is arrested or detained by any federal, state or local law enforcement authorities for a felony offense, or what may be considered a felony offense if the participant were an adult, shall be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities until final disposition of the charge(s) and adjudication. A formal hearing by the administration will determine athletic eligibility only after the final disposition of charges and adjudication.

If any violation or suspension occurs at or near the end of a sports season, the incident will be subject to Administrative review, in which case the student-athlete may be ruled ineligible for the same period of time in the next activity in which the student-athlete participates, even if that activity does not occur until the following school year.

5.4. DUE PROCESS

After the initial report, the student-athlete, parent/guardian(s), coach, and Principal will be notified as soon as possible by the Athletic Director that a violation has occurred. A brief and informal preliminary hearing will be held with the necessary individuals, to gather information prior to official administrative action. At this hearing, the student-athlete will be informed of the charges against him/her, and the names of witnesses and a brief summary of the facts supporting the charge(s) and the student-athlete shall be given the opportunity to refute the charges and present his/her side of the story. If it is determined that a violation has occurred, the parent/guardian(s) and participant will be notified in writing of the violation(s) and the decision, conditions, penalty or action that has been imposed.

The parent(s) and student-athlete shall have the right to appeal the decision. The request for an appeal must be submitted to the Principal within five (5) calendar days after the original decision. During the appeal process, the penalty, action, or condition imposed on the participant by the Athletic Director shall remain in effect until the final decision of the Principal. The Principal will conduct an informal administrative hearing on the alleged violation and will notify the student and the student's parents or guardian of his final decision.

6.1. TRAINING SUPPLEMENTS

LaBelle High School and its coaching staff will not encourage any student to use supplements of any kind. Always first check with a doctor and then bring a note, along with the supplement, to the front office. Energy drinks and other boost drinks are high in caffeine and can cause dehydration, therefore they are not to be consumed at school. Water and sleep is the best formula for athletic success. The use or possession of illegal supplements will result in suspension from an athletic team, in addition to appropriate discipline or report to local law officials.

6.2. SAFETY COURSES

All student-athletes are required to take the free NFHS “*Concussion in Sports*”, “*Heat Illness Prevention*”, “*Social Media for Students*”, and “*Sudden Cardiac Arrest*” courses prior to the date of first practice for their sport. These courses must be completed annually in order to be eligible to participate in any athletic practice or contest for that school year. Completion of this required course will be organized by the Coach of the specific sport played by the student-athlete. Otherwise, the course can be ordered free of charge by student-athletes and parents at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61037>

6.3. INSURANCE

Hendry County Schools have supplemental insurance coverage on all student-athletes. This insurance is only supplemental to the student-athletes own health insurance. Student-athletes that are injured during contest or practice must notify the coach immediately. When a doctor is needed, parents should request a K-12 insurance form from the Athletic Office. Once the form has been filed, parents must follow through the insurance process. The A.D. can be of assistance, but HIPPA Laws do play a part in how much we can do.

7.1. EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS

Take proper care of all equipment as if you paid for it with your own money. Report all missing equipment. Uniforms have a way of not being turned in and have a minimum of \$75 replacement cost. Student-athletes must purchase personal equipment (i.e. football girdle, bats) that meet FHSAA specifications for use in game competition. Coaches may buy in bulk and resale some items if it helps reduce costs. Individual sports will have to pick up fitted uniform cost (e.g. Tennis).

7.2. FACILITIES

Please treat LaBelle High School Facilities as if they were your own. Report any problems to Administrators in charge of events. Facilities should be well kept and clean. Please do your part in throwing away trash and other garbage. Our building is older and we have made a commitment to upgrade and improve it. However, this cannot happen if there are abuses. Student-athletes are not to wear cleats in the building. Students should never be unsupervised in any part of the building. All students must have current FHSAA Physical on file to use any LHS facilities.

7.3. OBLIGATIONS

Students who have obligations to The Hendry County School District will be deemed ineligible until all fines and/or costs are paid. These obligations include, but are not limited to, fines by the FHSAA, lost uniforms, lost school equipment, and books. Any player who quits or is dismissed from a LaBelle High School Athletic Team will not be reimbursed for any team fees and will be responsible for payment for any equipment, uniforms, etc. ordered on their behalf. The athlete will be expected to return any school uniforms or equipment they were issued as soon as possible following their dismissal or quitting.

REQUIRED PAPERWORK

FHSAA FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

All LaBelle High School students must have the following FHSAA documents completed and on file through the Athletic Office before they are allowed to draw equipment or participate in any preseason athletic activities:

□ EL2 – *Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation*

- ✓ Must be signed and dated by both the parent and the student.
- ✓ Part three (3), Physical Examination **MUST** be completed by a licensed physician.

□ EL3 – *Consent and Release from Liability Certificate*

- ✓ Must be completed in its entirety
- ✓ Must be signed and dated by both the parent and the student on page one through four.

□ GA4 – *Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting*

- ✓ Only for students who have changed schools at any point in time
- ✓ Does not apply for a student who changed schools during non-terminal year (i.e. 8th grade to 9th grade)
- ✓ Must be signed and dated by both the parent and the student while witnessed by a Notary.

□ GA6 – *Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Non-School Teams and Offseason Participation*

- ✓ If applicable during summer camps and/or club teams.

LaBelle High School Athletics
Student Release Travel Consent Form
2023-2024

This form must be completed for each contest as applicable

It is my request that Hendry County School District release my child into my custody immediately after the following activity.

Student Name: _____

Name of Activity: _____

Location: _____

Date of Activity: _____

Reason for Release: _____

The school may not release the student to anyone except the parent or guardian signing this application.

I hold the Hendry County School District, its officers, employees, and agents harmless from all liability and claims as a result of my request for the removal of my child from transportation returning to school by District transportation.

Signed: _____
Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Head Coach

Date

Athletic Director

Date

SUBMIT THIS FORM FOR APPROVAL 24 HOURS PRIOR TO ATHLETIC CONTEST
