LYNCHBURG-CLAY
STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK

About this Handbook

This packet has been prepared with the intention of being a reference guide for regulations and existing rules in effect concerning the athletic policies and procedures of Lynchburg-Clay Schools. It is our hope that this booklet would contribute to a better understanding of policies and procedures that will enable all those involved to work together within the athletic program.

It is our wish that this handbook will be helpful to those for whom it is intended. Obviously in the future certain policies and regulations may change. We also welcome any ideas or suggestions that would be meant to improve the athletic program.

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Lynchburg-Clay Athletic Handbook

Section I: Vision Statement and Goals of the Lynchburg-Clay Athletic Department

A. Vision Statement of the Lynchburg-Clay School District

The Lynchburg-Clay Schools will be places where all strive for educational excellence. We envision our students to be lifelong learners who obtain the skills necessary to be productive citizens.

B. Goals of the Lynchburg-Clay Athletic Department

In correspondence with the vision of the Lynchburg-Clay School District, the Athletic Department believes that participation in athletics improves the opportunity to become productive citizens. Through lessons on teamwork, goal setting, and individual responsibility, participation in athletics allows student-athletes to grow mentally, morally, physically, and emotionally.

C. Philosophy of the Lynchburg-Clay Athletic Department

The most important goal of the Lynchburg-Clay Athletic Department is to provide every participant the opportunity to grow mentally, morally, physically, and emotionally. To assure that the program can provide these opportunities, a degree of self-discipline is required of each participant. Self-discipline involves compliance with rules and regulations concerning personal behavior.

Rules promote order and safety, and assist participants to reach maximum performance potential. Every participant should adhere to the rules of the school, and conduct himself or herself as a "good citizen" of that school and the community at all times. Dedication and personal sacrifice by each participant promotes a sense of group unity and common goals.

Compliance with the rules can help each participant learn values that carry beyond the extracurricular program and into daily living.

It must also be remembered that participation in extracurricular programs is not a right, but a privilege that may be regulated. Therefore, all students who participate in interscholastic athletics or other extracurricular program activities at anytime, must meet the following regulations from date of enrollment or date of participation, whichever comes first. Failure to comply with the regulations could jeopardize a student's participation in the Lynchburg-Clay Athletic Program.

The Lynchburg-Clay Administration reserves the right to use discretion in any disciplinary action needed. Severity of violations, past history of the violator, age of the violator, and other circumstances may be considered in determining the action taken.

Section II: Eligibility Requirements

A. Enrollment/Resident Requirements

1. High School students must be enrolled at Lynchburg-Clay High School on the first day of their 9th grade year OR have moved into and live within the District. If a move has occurred, a residence affidavit must be filed with the OHSAA.

B. Scholarship Requirements

1. High School students must maintain a minimum **1.75 GPA** for the previous 9 weeks grading period. Students must be passing a minimum of 5 credits and **cannot have failed any class** during the previous 9 weeks grading period.

2. Middle School students **cannot have failed any class** during the previous 9 weeks grading period.

3. Students who fail to meet the academic requirements may continue to practice with the team until the end of the season or until academic eligibility is regained.

a. Students will travel to all games and sit on the bench in street clothes.

b. Students will not be eligible for awards unless they regain eligibility during the season.

c. Students who choose to continue practicing will be expected to attend every event.

4. To be eligible to participate in a contest on a given day, the student athlete must be present for at least 3 periods on the day of participation.

C. Online Schooling (Edginuity, or other LC adopted programs)

1. Any student athlete who is enrolled in online classes must have a passing grade and completed the required amount of lessons at the end of a 9 weeks grading period.

2. A student who is enrolled in a semester class must have 50% of the lessons completed with a passing grade at the conclusion on the 1st or 3rd 9 weeks, depending on which semester the class is taken.

3. A student who is enrolled in a yearlong class must have 50% of the lessons completed with a passing grade at the conclusion of the first semester.

4. This does not apply to CCP student athletes.

D. Age Requirements

1. High school students cannot have turned 19 before August 1 of the participating year.

2. Middle School students cannot have turned 15 before August 1 of the participating year.

E. Health/Medical Requirements

1. All students must have a physical on file before they may participate in any organized Lynchburg-Clay athletic event.

2. All students must have an emergency medical form on file before being allowed to participate in any organized Lynchburg-Clay athletic event.

3. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must have a written “release to play” document from a doctor before resuming participation.

F. Miscellaneous Requirements

1. Athletes may not receive any award or merchandise as a result of participation valued at more than $200.00.

2. When enrolled in grade 9 for the first time, all students have eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility taken in order of attendance whether participation does or does not occur.

3. Other requirements are based on OHSAA guidelines.

a. A member of a school sports team may not participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices (including open gyms/fields) with a non-school team in that same sport during the school team's season.

b. Selected Team Sports – A member of a school team may participate with a non-school program or team after the school team's season based on the OHSAA 50% rule.--There are exceptions from June 1-July 31 for this rule.

d. No restrictions apply for individual sports once the high school season is over.

Section III: Athletic Code of Conduct

A. Illegal Substances—Use is strictly prohibited by Lynchburg-Clay Athletes

1. Tobacco and Alcohol

a. The first violation for a tobacco offense may result in a suspension that is the equivalent of 10% of the scheduled games. If 10% is a fraction, the total will be rounded (for example, soccer has 17 games scheduled, so the suspension would become 2 contests).

1. This includes E-cigs, Vaping, and JUUL.

b. The first violation for an alcohol offense may result in a suspension that is the equivalent of 20% of the scheduled games.

c. In order to be reinstated to play, the athlete must attend substance abuse counseling with the District Social Worker and submit paperwork to the AD for verification.

d. A second offense for this category may result in removal from athletic participation until the first official day of practice of that season (when the offense occurred) in the next school year.

1. Example—A basketball player who commits a second offense would be ineligible to participate until the first day of the winter season of the next school year.

2. In order to be reinstated to play, the athlete must attend substance abuse counseling outside of the district and submit paperwork to the AD for verification. The District Social Worker will assist the athlete in finding suitable counseling services.

e. A third offense will be permanent expulsion from athletic participation.

2. Illegal Drugs/Steroids

a. The first offense for this category will result in removal from athletic participation until that particular season begins in the next school year (see above)

b. In order to be reinstated to play, the athlete must attend substance abuse counseling outside of the district and submit paperwork to the AD for verification. The District Social Worker will assist the athlete in finding suitable counseling services.

c. A second offense will be permanent expulsion from athletic participation.

3. Other

a. Violations will be tallied separately during the Junior High years (grades 7 and 8) and the high school years (grades 9-12). Athletes entering the 9th grade will have a clean slate concerning the Illegal Substances section of the Athletic

Handbook.

b. Violations can/will include pictures where the prohibited substances are in use (ie. parties, Facebook, phone messages, etc.)

B. Behavior Expectations

1. Lynchburg-Clay Student Handbook

a. Students are expected to abide by the Lynchburg-Clay student handbook at any time they are representing a Lynchburg-Clay athletic team.

b. If the LC student handbook guidelines are violated, the student may be disciplined by the coach and/or the administration depending on the severity of the violation.

2. School Disciplinary Standards*

a. Detentions/Saturday School

1. Any athlete who receives 4 detentions may receive a 1 contest suspension.

2. Any athlete receiving a Saturday School may receive a 1 contest suspension.

3. Athletes who receive this punishment will be permitted to practice and sit on the bench (out of uniform) during games during the suspension.

b. In School/Out of School Suspensions

1. Any athlete receiving an in-school suspension may receive a 1 contest suspension. Athletes who receive this punishment will be permitted to practice and sit on the bench (out of uniform) during games during the suspension.

2. Any athlete receiving a 1-4 day out of school suspension may receive a 2 contest suspension. If the out of school suspension concludes before the contest suspension is completed, the athlete will be permitted to practice and sit on the bench (out of uniform) until the 2 contest suspension in completed.

3. Any athlete receiving a 5-10 day out of school suspension will have punishment determined by the administration based on the severity of the athlete's actions.

4. The Administration reserves the right to increase or decrease *any punishment* based on the severity of the incident and the history of the athletes that are involved.

c. Expulsion

1. Any student athlete who has been expelled may not participate during the duration of the expulsion.

3. Criminal Misconduct

a. Any student charged with any criminal offense, whether it be juvenile or adult, other than a non-drug/alcohol related traffic violation, may be denied participation permanently.

4. Hazing

a. Hazing is described as various rituals and other activities that may involve the harassment, abuse or humiliation that used is a way of initiating a person into a group.

b. Hazing will not be tolerated on any level. Punishments for hazing will

be handled on a case by case basis. It will be determined by a combination of past disciplinary issues and the severity of the hazing incident.

5. Miscellaneous Expectations

a. All student athletes will be expected to follow the guidelines/rules that are set up by the coach for that season. Violations of the team rules will be handled by the individual coach.

b. All financial expectations (shoes, hats, socks, etc.) must be met before participation in any contest may occur.

6. In order to make students and parents aware of expectations, the athlete and at least one parent must attend a pre-season parent meeting.

a. The Varsity coach of each sport must send home a copy of the team rules for that program and parents must sign off on the team rules and return them to the coach. Participation in any scrimmage, preview or contest will be denied until the team rules are signed and returned.

*seasons will begin on the first day of organized practice.

Section IV: General Regulations

A. Equipment and Uniforms: Athletes are responsible for all equipment and uniforms that are issued to them. Athletes will be charged for lost or damaged equipment.

B. Travel

1. All athletes must travel to away games with the team. Exceptions will be made if there are extenuating circumstances and are cleared with the administration before the trip.

2. Athletes will be permitted to ride home with another adult from an away game if the release form is signed by both the parent and the person providing the transportation. The form is attached and must be emailed to the Athletic Director by noon on the day of the game. The person providing the transportation must be a high school graduate.

C. Awards Program: Athletes are expected to attend the awards program. *If an athlete does not attend the program, they will forfeit any award that they receive.* Athletes must be dressed appropriately and follow school dress code standards.

D. Any behavior that may cause embarrassment to the Team will be dealt with appropriately. Depending upon the violation, an appropriate disciplinary action will be decided. *This could include permanent expulsion from the team.*

E. If a player is removed from or quits the team, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the next season until the present season is over. The Principal and Athletic Director have the authority to modify this rule when unique circumstances arise.

F. Every athlete will also be expected to follow the Lynchburg-Clay School District student handbook regulations at both home and away athletic contests.

G. These rules and regulations are in effect any time the student/athlete is participating in a sport (conditioning, practice, etc.) from the date that they are signed until one calendar year has elapsed.

F. Senior Banners

1. The Lynchburg-Clay Athletic Boosters purchase senior banners for the athletes. If a senior athlete quits or is removed from the team during the season, the athlete will be required to reimburse the Boosters for the banner.

2. The Senior will receive their individual banner at the completion of the season.