

New Lothrop Area Public Schools

Student/Parent Athletic Code of Conduct



New Lothrop Area Public Schools is a tobacco free district, which includes all premises, vehicles and parking lots.

Please visit our website at: <https://www.newlothrop.k12.mi.us/>

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a rigorous athletic program which complements and supports a challenging academic program by teaching students to persevere, work as a team, and to strive for excellence in everything they do, keeping in mind that we do this with the utmost respect for sportsmanship. We are in a constant pursuit to become the home of Scholars as well as Champions. –New Lothrop Athletic Department

Philosophy of Athletics

New Lothrop's interscholastic athletic program is a vital and integral part of our total educational program. As an integral part of the educational process, New Lothrop's athletic program supports the objectives and standards of our district. Athletes must strive for educational and athletic excellence while staying within the boundaries of good sportsmanship. Students involved in extracurricular activities have a greater chance for success after completing high school. The development of character, integrity, commitment, and having a vision, is a key element of the New Lothrop Athletic Department. In life, as in athletics, an individual must have a vision to succeed and learn how to deal with success and adversity. The athletic environment provides an excellent laboratory for students to develop life skills that will stay with them after graduation and help bring success to their future.

Program Objectives

1. To provide a positive image of school activities at New Lothrop Area Public Schools.
2. To provide students with opportunities for physical, mental, and emotional development.
3. To experience team play and understand its importance.
4. To develop loyalty, cooperation, commitment, and sportsmanship.
5. To create a desire to improve and succeed.
6. To practice and develop self-discipline while learning to make decisions under pressure.
7. To develop an understanding of the value for extracurricular athletics within a balanced educational experience.
8. To develop leadership qualities and skills.

Purpose of Handbook

1. To serve as a reference for our students and their parents, Athletic Department, and other school officials who need to be knowledgeable of procedures, policies, duties, and responsibilities as they relate to the interscholastic athletic program in New Lothrop Area Public Schools.
2. To serve as a guide in the promotion of a well-planned program of interscholastic sports which subscribes to and promotes educational values, as expressed in the policies of New Lothrop Area Public Schools and to support Michigan High School Athletic Association Rules and fulfill the Federal Title IX guidelines.

Expectations of Coaches

New Lothrop Area Public Schools is proud of the tradition of excellence our coaches have built over the years. Coaches are role models for athletes in our interscholastic programs and for the entire school community. The conduct of a coach is closely observed by students, other staff, parents and the community. His/her behavior should be above reproach in all areas. Verbal, mental, or any type of physical abuse of athletes will not be tolerated.

1. Be positive, enthusiastic, supportive, maintain high standards of ethics, integrity, sportsmanship, and leadership.
2. Follow the policies and guidelines set forth by the New Lothrop Area Public School District, the Michigan High School Athletic Association, and the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference.

3. Communicate positively and regularly with parents, media, and other interested spectators as you see fit. *Varsity Coaches shall have scores and highlights turned in to the correct media outlets.
4. Maintain up-to-date knowledge of the rules, skills, strategies and safety precautions of the sport. Communicate the information effectively to athletes and their parents.
5. Provide a safe practice environment.
6. Organize properly planned activities.
7. Know emergency procedures and basic first aid for injuries common to your sport. You will be given a first aid box, be sure to keep it with you at all times, and make sure it is turned in at the end of every season.
8. Must be up to date in the following:
 - a. CPR/AED
 - b. Concussion Awareness
 - c. Blood borne Pathogens
9. Keep the facility clean, picked-up and locked at all times; including coaches' offices and locker rooms.
10. Supervise athletes at all times (i.e. before, during, and after practices and contests in all facilities, including the weight room).
11. Work together with all coaches within a program regarding the tryout process and procedures. Remember the importance of confidentiality within coaches' meetings during this process.
12. Understand how his/her sport fits into the total athletic effort of the New Lothrop Area Public Schools.
13. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals in his/her field of specialization.
14. Demonstrate the ability to relate to and deal with different people in an appropriate and professional manner (i.e. students, parents, faculty, administrators, and media).
15. Alert administrators of any behavior that violates the Athletic Code of Conduct.
16. All athletic teams must use one common communication platform approved by the athletic director.
17. ***Failure to follow the rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate dismissal from the team.***

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your son/daughter's coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for all of the players on the team.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements; i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at New Lothrop Area Public Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. There are appropriate and inappropriate issues to discuss with a coach.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.
4. Personal problems that the coach may help with.

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those on the following page, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other students-athletes

There are situations other than these that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:

1. Please Do Not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. Please use the 24 hour waiting period before confronting a coach. These can be emotional times for both the parents and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
2. Call to set up an appointment.
3. The New Lothrop Athletic Department telephone number is (810) 638-5400.
4. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, he will set up a meeting for you.

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance of success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this pamphlet makes both you and your child's experience with the New Lothrop High School Athletic Program less stressful and more enjoyable.

Expectations of Students/Parents/Fans

1. Be positive, enthusiastic, supportive, maintain high standards of ethics, integrity, sportsmanship, and leadership.

2. Work together with coaches and parents, within the program, regarding rules, processes, and procedures. Remember the importance of confidentiality during coaches' meetings regarding other students and the fact that the coach cannot discuss another student's situation with you. When adults and coaches get together, student athletes win! We need to work together to help kids be as successful as they can in every possible situation, and in everything they want to do.
3. Understand how his/her sport fits into the total athletic effort of the New Lothrop Area Public Schools and know that we are trying to create unity among all.
4. Understand that officials will make mistakes and will make bad calls at times. Remember that as the athlete your job is to play, not complain about officials, and as an adult, you are the model to our student athletes and how we should represent the New Lothrop Athletic Department.

If I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

1. **Verbal warning by an official, head coach or member of the school administration.**
2. **Written warning from the Athletic Director/Principal.**
3. **Game suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file by the Athletic Director.**
4. **Season suspension.**
5. **If parents/spectators are ejected by game officials or game management personnel for inappropriate behavior, in addition to the game suspension spectators must view and provide certification of completion of approved sportsmanship video prior to return to the next athletic event.**
6. Demonstrate the ability to relate to and deal with different people in an appropriate and professional manner (i.e. students, parents, faculty, administrators)

New Lothrop Area Public Schools
CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS
Student Activities Rules

The New Lothrop School's Uniform Code of Conduct for Students participating in co-curricular or extracurricular activities has been developed and implemented to provide a common set of rules for all students participating in activities in the district. The code combines the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association pertaining to participation status. Rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association are identified with an (*).

SECTION I: ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION

For a student to be eligible to participate in an interscholastic or school-related activity (in particular, athletics) the following conditions must be met.

- A. ***ENROLLMENT** - The student must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes by the Monday of the fourth week of the semester in which he/she competes or must move into the school district with his/her parent or guardian with whom he/she last lived during the current school year. The student must reside in the school service area in which he attends school unless he has received prior district and MHSAA approval to compete at a different school.
- Transfers-** A student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 who transfers from one high school or junior high/middle school to another high school is not immediately eligible to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or scrimmage in the school to which the student transfers, UNLESS the student qualifies under one or more of the Exceptions. Exceptions are on pages 38-47 in the MHSAA Handbook. The MHSAA Executive Committee will determine if an athlete meets one of the exceptions.

International Students: (F-1 or J-1 Visa) including incoming 9th graders are only eligible if they meet a residency exception or if they are placed by an Approved International Student Program (AISP). AISP students are eligible immediately for one year and then wait one year (play one, wait one). International students who are not from an AISP program may be eligible at the sub varsity level after sitting out as under Section 9 D (MLK or Aug 1), without any special approval if the school desires. Otherwise, international students are not eligible for varsity sports for up to 8 semesters or 12 trimesters.

The MHSAA – AISP list is at:

<http://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/documents/AD%20Forms/1516aisplist.pdf>

(All transfer students and international students must get clearance from the Athletic Director before they begin participation in athletics.)

- B. *** AGE** – (High School) The student who competes in any high school interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age. When the student's nineteenth birthday occurs on or after Sept. 1 of the current school year, he/she is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year.
- (Middle School)** A 6th grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 6th graders must be under thirteen (13) years of age, except that a student whose (13th) birthday occurs on or after Sept. 1 of the current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.
- (Middle School)** A 7th grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 7th graders must be under fourteen (14) years of age, except that a student whose (14th) birthday occurs on or after Sept. 1 of the current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.
- (Middle School)** An 8th grade student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 8th graders must be under fifteen (15) years of age, except that a student whose (15th)

birthday occurs on or after Sept. 1 of the current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

In addition, such students who will become 13 years old before Sept. 1 of their normal 6th grade year or 14 years old before Sept. 1 of their normal 7th grade year or 15 years old before Sept. 1 of their normal 8th grade year may, while in 5th grade, apply for eligibility at the junior high/middle school level. These students would be limited to a maximum of three years of junior high/middle school eligibility starting in 5th grade and must be in compliance with all other Sections of Regulations III, IV, and V, including that they would be required to meet the junior high/middle school academic standard of passing a minimum of 50 percent of full-credit load potential for a full-time junior high/middle school student in that school.

**" Applications for these options must be made and approved on MHSAA "Eligibility Advancement Applications." **

- C. ***PHYSICAL EXAMINATION** – For athletics, a student must have a physical examination completed by a physician certifying that the student is fully able to compete in athletics. This physical must take place April 15 or later to be used for the current school year. The student shall not participate in any practice sessions or contests until the completed form has been turned over to the team coach. Additionally, there has been consent for disclosure to the MHSAA of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA for the purpose of determining eligibility.
- D. ***CONCUSSION PROTOCOL** – NOTIFY the ATHLETIC TRAINER IMMEDIATELY if one is on site, when a concussion is suspected. KEEP IN TOUCH.

****All MHSAA and non-MHSAA sports will follow the current MHSAA concussion protocol.****

"Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional." The language in italics, which appears in the National Federation of High School Sports rule books, reflects a strengthening of rules regarding the safety of athletes suspected of having a concussion. This language reflects an increasing focus on safety and acknowledges that the vast majority of concussions do not involve a loss of consciousness. This protocol is intended to provide the mechanics to follow during the course of contests when an athlete sustains an apparent concussion.

1. The officials will have no role in determining concussion other than the obvious one where a player is either unconscious or apparently unconscious as is provided for under the current rule. Officials will merely point out to a coach that a player is apparently injured and advise that the player should be examined by a health care provider for an exact determination of the extent of injury.
2. If it is confirmed by the school's designated health care professional that the student did not sustain a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may reenter competition pursuant to the contest rules.
3. Otherwise, if competition continues while the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, that athlete may not be returned to competition that day but is subject to the return to play protocol.
 - a. The clearance may not be on the same date on which the athlete was removed from play.
 - b. Only an M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner may clear the individual to return to competition.
 - c. The clearance must be in writing and must be unconditional. It is not sufficient that the M.D., D.O., Physician's Assistant or Nurse Practitioner has approved the

student to begin a return-to-play progression. The medical examiner must approve the student's return to unrestricted activity.

- d. Individual school districts and leagues may have more stringent requirements and protocols including but not limited to mandatory periods of inactivity, screening and post-concussion testing prior to or after the written clearance for return to activity.

See the MHSAA Protocol information on the MHSAA website for additional information.

- E. ***SEASONS OF COMPETITION** – For athletics, a student may compete in no more than two seasons in a given sport while enrolled at the junior high level and no more than four as a senior high student. A student shall be limited to participation in a given sport only once during a school year, even though it may be offered twice during that given school year.
- F. ***SEMESTERS OF ELIGIBILITY** - A student shall not compete in any branch of athletics who has been enrolled in grades nine to twelve for more than eight semesters. The seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive.
- G. ***ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY** - To be academically eligible to participate in interscholastic or school-related activities, the student shall be academically eligible in two components:
 - a. Previous academic credit:
 - i. Must have successfully completed at least four credits of work during the previous semester (66% of coursework taken in previous semester).
 - ii. Deficiencies (including incompletes, conditions, and failures) from a previous semester may be made up during a subsequent semester, summer school, night school, or by tutoring.
 - b. Current academic credit:
 - i. The student must also receive a 'D' or better in all classes to be eligible to participate in scrimmages and competitions.
 - 1. This includes online classes as well where not only the grade is considered, but also the course completion percentage of the online course determined by the 18 week semester. 5.5% of weekly course completion must be followed as well which puts a student-athlete at 100% completion of the online course by the end of week 18.
 - ii. The student will be given a 1 week warning period if there is one failing grade. The student will be allowed to participate in scrimmages and competitions during the warning week, but must be passing in the second week to continue to be eligible.
 - 1. The warning period applies to each single failing grade individually, not collectively over the course of any period of time.
 - 2. There is no warning period for 2 or more failing grades, the participant is ineligible.
 - iii. Weekly eligibility will be conducted after the completion of two (2) weeks of the start of a marking period, and will run through the end of all competitions, including MHSAA postseason tournaments.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - A student who fails to meet any of these regulations for academic eligibility will not be allowed to participate in competition until such time as he/she does comply with the section (Participation in practice sessions/meetings is left to the discretion of the coach/advisor). A student is ineligible until deficiencies are made up upon the next scheduled eligibility check.

- H. High School Athletes may not participate in more than one sport at a time. An athlete who drops from a sport without the approval of the coach or is dropped by the coach for disciplinary reasons

will not be permitted to participate in another sport for the remainder of that season. An athlete who is out for lack of ability may be eligible for participation in another sport during the same season providing he/she makes the squad.

- I. Athletes participating in an in-season sport will not participate in any way in another sport which will lead to disruption of the in-season sport.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - Punishment for violation of Item I is left to the discretion of the offended coach.

- J. Junior High Athletes may participate in more than one sport, provided all stakeholders (both coaches, student-athlete, parents, and Athletic Director) complete a contract agreement stipulating the student's involvement in all activities.
- K. **INSURANCE** – New Lothrop Area Public Schools does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a voluntary program in which the student may participate if he/she so desires, but the student does so at his/her own risk of injury. Inherent risks of injury may include paraplegic, quadriplegic injuries or death.

SECTION II: AWARDS

- A. * A student will not accept from any source anything for participation in athletics or other activities other than an emblematic award. An emblematic award would include, but not be limited to, any medal, ribbon, badge, plaque, cup, trophy, banner, picture, or regular letter award. A student may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award, which does not have a value or cost in excess of \$ 40.00.
- B. *Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are not allowed.
- C. * No one, such as a parent, friend, or other person, may accept an award on behalf of the athlete at any time prior to graduation from high school unless prior arrangements have been made.
- D. Students are required to attend a scheduled awards assembly or they will not receive their award. Pre-arranged excuse for absence and release are the only acceptable excuses.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - Any student violating any area of this section would be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of at least one semester from the date of the violation. If violation occurs after Monday of the fourth week of a semester, a student is ineligible for the balance of that semester and the succeeding semester.

***SECTION III: MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS**

- A. After once representing an MHSAA member school in competition in any sport, a student shall not be eligible to represent his or her high school if that student receives money or other valuable consideration from any source for participating in athletics, sports or games.
- B. The above rule applies to the following sports: baseball, basketball, bowling, competitive cheer, cross-country, football, golf, softball, track, volleyball, or wrestling.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - A student violating the above rule may not apply for reinstatement until the equivalent of one full school year has elapsed from the date of the last violation. After that date, the student may request reinstatement.

***SECTION IV: OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL COMPETITION**

- A. A student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season shall become ineligible for the remainder of that season in that school year.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - A student violating this section will be ineligible for athletic competition and participation for a period from the remainder of the season up to one school year depending on the violation.

SECTION V: STUDENT ATTENDANCE ON DAY OF AN ACTIVITY OR ATHLETIC CONTEST

- A. Students must attend all class periods during a school day in order to participate in an activity the same day; students may NOT practice, participate, or play a game on a day on which he/she is not present for all hours of classes unless the student makes prior arrangements with the high school office or Athletic Director.

Examples of acceptable excuses are: (1) doctor or dentist appointment, (2) funeral, (3) important personal business arranged prior to absence with the Principal or Athletic Director.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - A student who violates Section V will not be allowed to participate in the next regularly scheduled athletics contest, activity, or practice.

***SECTION VI: HAIRSTYLES FOR ATHLETICS**

No student will be excluded from participation or athletic competition on any athletic team due to length of hair or how it is worn, with the following exceptions:

- A. The hair should not be worn in such a manner so that it may cover the eyes during athletic practice or competition. This is a safety precaution to protect the participant. Hair may be kept out of eyes with a sweatband or by cutting the hair. The choice is the participant's.
- B. A student participating in wrestling must comply with the length of hair as stipulated by the National Federation of Wrestling Rules.
- C. Athletes should be dressed neatly and cleanly for home and away games.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - Punishment for violation of any items in this section left to the discretion of the coach.

SECTION VII: TRAVELING TO AND FROM EVENTS OFF SCHOOL PROPERTY

- A. Any student traveling to an away event as a member of a team/group on school-owned or chartered mode of transportation or other such approved vehicle shall return to the home school on the same vehicle after the event is over. The only exception is if a parent makes prior arrangements with the Principal or Athletic Director. The student may then return home after the event with the student's parent or guardian only. All students must remain on the grounds of the event site for the duration of the competition unless arrangements have been made as stated above.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - Any student not returning with a team/group will be excluded from all activities for a period of one week from the date of violation. Second violation during the same school year will result in exclusion from participation for the remainder of the school year.

SECTION VIII: ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE SESSIONS

- A. Attendance at practice sessions is necessary to prepare students physically and/or mentally for athletic contests or other activities. All team/group members are expected to be at all practice sessions at the times designated by the coach or advisor. It is realized that there are situations when it is impossible for a participant to attend practice due to illness, injury, and other required school or family commitments. The participant shall make prior arrangements with the coach or advisor for an excused absence.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - Punishment left to the discretion of the coach or advisor.

SECTION IX: SUMMER AND OFF-SEASON ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

- A. A wide variety of sports, schools, clinics, and training programs are offered to athletes during the summer months and off-season by the district's clubs or individual coaches. These programs provide an excellent opportunity for the aspiring athlete to improve his/her skills in a chosen sport. Since these programs are held in the summer and off-season and are voluntary, in no way shall athletes be required to enroll in these programs as a condition for membership or placement on an athletic team the succeeding sport season.

SECTION X: RESPONSIBILITY FOR EQUIPMENT

- A. Students will be responsible for equipment issued to them during an athletic or extracurricular activity season. Students must maintain equipment in neat and clean condition, and return equipment to this school at the time prescribed by the coach or advisor. Students should be aware of laundering instructions on garment labels.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - A participant who fails to return equipment in an acceptable condition at the prescribed time will be reported to the school administration and privileges of the school, including but not limited to report cards, may be withheld until the equipment is returned or paid for. Seniors that fail to turn in equipment will be charged and forced to pay off their debt, before they will receive their diploma. All other students will be restricted from participating in any other extracurricular activity until cleared by the coach, Athletic Director, Principal, or advisor. Awards will be withheld until equipment is turned in or paid for.

SECTION XI: CLASS I VIOLATIONS: ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUG SUBSTANCES

- A. The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or having drug paraphernalia in one's possession shall fall under the following regulations which pertain to all students involved on an athletic team. (Note: Student-athletes are expected to avoid association at activities where the illegal use of alcohol or drugs is present. The student-athlete must make a conscious effort to leave the area or situation when he/she realizes that a controlled substance is being used or is in his/her presence.) A student's presence at such area or situation **will** result in the same disciplinary action as a student who is in possession of or using alcohol or drugs.
- Athletes will be disciplined whenever referral is made to the athletic director based on (1) being caught in the act by school personnel or authorities; (2) police report or court action brought to the attention of school personnel; (3) self-admittance resulting from investigation of an incident or (4) conclusion reached after an impartial and fair investigation implicating a student-athlete
 - Additional team rules will need to be approved by administration and communicated with student athletes and parents prior to the start of the season.
- B. A student's use or sale of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's athletic eligibility and extracurricular participation.

The Department of Community Health periodically distributes to the District the list of banned drugs based on bylaw 31.2.3.1 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Use of any drugs or substances appearing on this list will affect the student's athletic and extracurricular participation.

The school has a "Drug Free" zone that extends 1000 feet beyond the school boundaries as well as to any school activity and transportation. This means that any activity, possession, sale, distribution, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. If caught, the student could be

suspended or expelled and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the counter medication to another student.

- C. The enforcement of this section will take place for the calendar year beginning August 1 and running to July 31. Students desiring to excel in athletics and/or academics fully realize that they must abstain from the use of these substances year round if they desire to reach their fullest potential.

Athletes will be disciplined whenever a referral is made to the coach and/or school administration based on the following: (1) being caught in the act by school personnel, or authorities; (2) police report or court action brought to the attention of school personnel; (3) self-admittance resulting from investigation of an incident. Violation of the rule involving the possession, association with, or use of alcoholic beverages or drugs will result in the following:

FAILURE TO COMPLY:

First Offense: Suspension for 3/10 of the season's games. When games are not divisible by 10, the amount of suspended games will be the next highest number. After the first offense, the Athletic Director or Principal will meet with the athlete, parents, and coach to discuss the consequences. The participant must complete a substance abuse screening and the in-house substance abuse education program offered by the New Lothrop Area Public Schools. During the 3/10 suspension, the athlete may have the opportunity to practice with the team. When the actual athletic contest occurs, the athlete will dress in street clothes and sit on the bench. If, however, the coach and Athletic Director agree that the athlete's participation creates a distraction, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in practices, nor will he/she be permitted to join the team during athletic contest.

Alternative Penalty: The student/parent may choose a 10% loss of the contests or competitions plus 30 hours of community service to be completed before the student may resume competition.

Self-Reporting Penalty: If a student self-reports, they will receive a 10% loss of the contests or competitions plus 10 hours of community service to be completed before the student may resume competition.

Second Offense: The athlete will be suspended from participation for the equivalent of 60% of the current season. If the suspension cannot be fulfilled in the current season, it will carry over to the next season in which the athlete would normally participate.

Alternative Penalty: The student/parent may choose a 40% loss of the contests or competitions plus 60 hours of community service to be completed before the student may resume competition.

Third Offense: the athlete will forfeit their right to participate in athletics for the remainder of their high school career.

After one complete calendar year, the athlete would have the right to appeal the ban to the Athletic Council. (See Section XIV)

NOTE: A scrimmage with another school may not count as a scheduled inter-scholastic competition.

NOTE: A student suspended from interscholastic competitions must continue to demonstrate the qualities of sportsmanship outlined in this Handbook.

NOTE: If a suspension cannot be completed in the present season, the suspension will be carried over to the student's next sports season. The amount of dates to be suspended will be determined by the Athletic Director.

NOTE: Actions displayed on the internet/social media are considered a source of evidence in determining a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

NOTE: Community service must be conducted outside of normal school hours with prior approval from the Athletic Director.

SECTION XII: CLASS II VIOLATIONS: STUDENT CITIZENSHIP

- A. **SOCIAL MEDIA:** It is expected that each member of an athletic team will express a high degree of loyalty toward the members of the team and the coach. Excessive displays of disloyalty could result in disciplinary action. Student athletes are not to upload or post to social media websites content including, but not limited to, any comments, photographs, videos, or other materials that reflect negatively upon themselves, the team, or the school. Consequences for violating this policy may include dismissal from the team, suspension from school or expulsion.
- B. **HAZING – It is simply NOT allowed. HAZING IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE!!!** Senate Bill 0783 and 0784 became law and took effect on August 18, 2004...It is now Public Act 750.411t (2004)

What is hazing?

Hazing is any intentional, knowing or reckless act, occurring on or off school property, by one person alone or with others, that is directed at a student and that endangers the mental or physical health of that student. Examples might include, but are not limited to the following:

- Any type of physical brutality.
- Any type of physical activity that subjects a student to unreasonable risk of harm.
- Any type of activity involving the consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs.
- Any activity that intimidates or subjects a student to extreme mental stress, shame or humiliation.
- Any activity that induces a student to break the athletic code of conduct, school rules, or the law.

What are some myths about hazing?

1. Unity Builder- Hazing does not build unity. It separates the team into the "hazers" and the "hazees".
2. Motivator- Hazing does not motivate team members. It hinders achievement, damages self-esteem, causes emotional strain, and physical harm.
3. Harmless Fun- Hazing damages people and teams. Hazing doesn't just hurt the people who were targets; it hurts everyone!

How do you know if it's hazing?

- Is this activity an educational experience?
- Does it conform to the values and ideals of high school sports?
- Would you be willing to allow your parents to witness this activity?
- Would you be able to defend this activity in a court of law before a judge and jury?

Who is responsible for reporting hazing?

You are. If you witnessed a hazing incident or were hazed, you are responsible to report it. Talk to your coach, your parents, your athletic director, your counselor, or some other responsible adult. When you report a hazing incident, you are protected from retaliation. Reporting it is the first step to stopping it.

The student who participates in co-curricular or extracurricular activities represents himself, his family, the team, the school, and the community. For this reason, the student who participates in interscholastic or school activities or plans to do so during a school year must conduct himself/herself on and off the playing field or school grounds in a manner, which reflects the highest values and standards of good citizenship.

CLASS II VIOLATIONS

Class II violations relate to conduct unbecoming of a student, which occur in school, at school events, away from school, or during the off-season.

Class II violations may include, but are not limited to:

1. **Possession or use of tobacco / nicotine** – the act of violating the smoking regulations for students, including the use and / or the possession of tobacco in any form, including E-cigarette and / or “vaporizers”.
2. **Skippping / Truancy** – the act of unexcused absence from school for any period of time. Chronic tardiness, as specifically defined by building level, can be considered truancy.
3. **Fighting** – the act of quarreling involving bodily contact in or on school property, including bus stops, and any activity under school sponsorship.
4. **Insubordination** – the failure to respond to or carry out a reasonable request by a staff member or the act of verbal or physical opposition to a member of the school staff
5. **Threatening and /or harassing students**
6. **Cheating**
7. **Forgery** – the act of fraudulently using, in writing, the name of another person, or falsifying times, dates, grades, addresses or other data on school forms.
8. **Repeated referrals or dismissals from class.**
9. **Indecency** – the act of offending against commonly recognized standards of propriety of good taste including the use of vulgar language or gestures.
10. **Inappropriate Language** – The use of offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate language—including racial slurs and other derogatory remarks—will not be tolerated. Students who engage in verbal harassment or use inappropriate language will face progressive disciplinary action. Additional consequences may include participation in restorative conversations or other corrective measures as deemed appropriate.

FAILURE TO COMPLY - Students who demonstrate poor citizenship will be suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities as follows:

- First Offense - Discipline shall be administered based on administrative discretion and the prior discipline record of the student-athlete. Poor citizenship or intentionally committing an act, which is a threat to the health, safety, or general well-being of others, may result in a suspension up to two (2) weeks. This could carry over into the next sport or activity in which he/she is a participant.
- Second Offense - Discipline shall be administered according to the circumstances. It may include a loss of athletic participation privileges for not less than three (3) weeks or more depending on the severity of the violation.
- Third Offense - Discipline shall be administered according to the circumstances. Extreme examples of poor citizenship at any point during a student's high school career may result in a long-term suspension and/or expulsion.

SECTION XIII: APPEAL PROCESS

A student that has been penalized under the terms of this athletic policy may appeal if he/she believes the action unfair. An appeal by a student or a student's parent/guardian received at any administrative level

may be passed to a higher level. A student, who is appealing, will continue to serve their suspension while the appeal process is continuing.

Procedure- A participant detected of violating Sections V, VI, VII, IX, and X may appeal this outcome of violations relating to these sections as follows for **ALL ACTIVITIES**.

- A. Submit in writing a request for an appeal hearing to the building Principal within five (5) days from date of an application of penalty.
- B. Within five (5) days from the date of receiving the request, an appeal hearing will be held before the Athletic Council.
- C. The Athletic Council will make final determination of the appeal on their findings and the Code of Conduct for student activities.
- D. Parents will be notified in writing of the violation, date of hearing, and the results of the hearing.

SECTION XIV ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Any student who feels that he/she has been unjustly treated or that he/she has good reason for the violation of any rule will be heard by the Athletic Council which shall consist of (1) the Building Principal, (2) the Athletic Director, (3) three Head Coaches of varsity sports, and (4) one member of the Facility, Transportation, and Extracurricular Committee for the Board of Education. The Athletic Director will chair the meeting and will serve as a non-voting member. Decisions shall be arrived at by a majority vote of the members present. Also present shall be the coach of the grievant and also his/her parent or guardian.

Grievance Procedure For Non-Discrimination (Board Policy #2260B)

Grievance Procedures for Nondiscrimination

Section 1

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against or denied equal opportunity to access to programs or services may file a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance with the District's Civil Rights Coordinator.

Superintendent
New Lothrop Area Public Schools 9285
Easton Road, P.O. Box 339
New Lothrop, MI 48460

The individual may also, at any time, contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 600 Superior Avenue, Room 750, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2611.

Section II

The person who believes s/he has a valid basis for grievance shall discuss the grievance informally and on a verbal basis with the District's Civil Rights Coordinator, who shall in turn investigate the complaint and reply with an answer to the complainant. S/He may initiate formal procedures according to the following steps:

Step 1

A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the District's Civil Rights Coordinator within five (5) business days of receipt of answers to the informal complaint. The Coordinator shall further investigate the matters of grievance and reply in writing to the complainant within five (5) business days.

Step 2

If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision of the District's Civil Rights Coordinator, s/he may submit a signed statement of appeal to the Board of Education within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the Superintendent's response. In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within twenty (20) business days of receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting.

Step 3

If at this point the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled, further appeal may be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 600 Superior Avenue, Room 750, Cleveland, OH 44114-2611.

If the District's Civil Rights Coordinator is involved in the accusation, the complainant may contact the President of the Board of Education regarding the complaint.

Inquiries concerning the nondiscriminatory policy may be directed to Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201.

The District's Coordinator will provide a copy of the District's grievance procedure to any person who files a complaint and will investigate all complaints in accordance with this procedure.

A copy of each of the Acts and the regulations, on which this notice is based, may be found in the Civil Rights Coordinator's office.

NEW LOTHROP AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As PARENT/GUARDIAN I have read the New Lothrop Area Public Schools' PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT and PARENT /COACH HANDOUT along with SUPPLEMENTARY RULES and REGULATIONS governing participation in co-curricular or extracurricular activities. The Rules and Regulations are understood and will be abided by. I also realize there is a possibility that my child may suffer severe injury, including permanent paralysis or death, as a result of participating in interscholastic or school-related activities.

SIGNATURE of PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

As a New Lothrop Student I have also read these Rules and Regulations and I understand and will abide by them. This Code of Conduct will be active for 7th through 12th grade school years.

STUDENT NAME (Please Print)

GRADE

SIGNATURE of STUDENT

DATE