

LORDSTOWN LOCAL SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Revised 2026 Edition

This handbook has been reviewed and updated to reflect current requirements of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) bylaws, including amendments effective through 2026.

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PURPOSE OF HANDBOOK

This handbook has been developed to inform Lordstown student-athletes and their parents and guardians of the goals, expectations, and regulations governing participation in Lordstown Local Schools' interscholastic athletic programs. All student-athletes and their parents or guardians are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with the contents of this handbook. Questions that are not addressed here should be directed to the building Athletic Director or Principal.

Authority and Governing Documents: This Athletic Handbook is issued under the authority of the Lordstown Local Schools Board of Education and is intended to supplement, not replace, existing Board policies and administrative guidelines. The following documents collectively govern student-athlete participation and must be read together:

- Lordstown Local Schools Board of Education Policies — including but not limited to Board Policy 2430 (District-Sponsored Clubs and Activities), Board Policy 2431 (Interscholastic Athletics), and Board Policy 5610.05 (Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities). Board policies take precedence over all provisions of this handbook. In the event of any conflict between this handbook and a Board policy, the Board policy controls.
- Lordstown High School Student Handbook — all provisions of the Student Handbook, including the Student Code of Conduct, Substance Abuse Policy, Assault and Fighting Policy, Cell Phone Policy, Academic Integrity Policy, attendance requirements, and all discipline procedures, apply fully and equally to student-athletes. Student-athletes are held to these standards at all times, not only during school hours. In the event of any conflict between this Athletic Handbook and the Student Handbook, the Student Handbook governs for school-wide discipline matters; this Athletic Handbook governs for athletic-specific consequences imposed by the Athletic Department.
- Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Bylaws — applicable state law and OHSAA regulations govern interscholastic athletic eligibility, conduct, and competition. Where ORC or OHSAA requirements are more restrictive than Board policy or this handbook, ORC and OHSAA requirements control.

This handbook is reviewed and updated annually. Any amendments or updates to Board policies, the Student Handbook, ORC, or OHSAA bylaws issued after the publication date of this handbook take precedence over the provisions contained herein. The Athletic Director will notify coaches, athletes, and families of material changes as they occur.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege extended to students who meet all academic, conduct, and administrative eligibility requirements established by the Board of Education, the OHSAA, and this handbook. No student has an unconditional right to participate. Athletes and parents MUST sign the Athletic Participation Contract before any student-athlete may condition, practice, or compete.

I. PHILOSOPHY OF THE LORDSTOWN LOCAL SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PROGRAM

It is the basic educational philosophy of the Lordstown Local Schools to prepare our students to become productive, contributing citizens of our community and society. We believe that a comprehensive program of student activities enhances and is vital to the educational development of every student we serve.

Within this context, it is the purpose of the Lordstown athletic program to foster and promote:

- **Physical, social, and psychological development** that is appropriate to the age and maturity of each student-athlete, cultivating habits of health and fitness that last a lifetime.
- **Competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship** — teaching students to pursue success with integrity, to win with humility, and to accept defeat with grace and resolve.
- **Self-confidence, self-discipline, and goal orientation** — skills developed through the demands of athletic participation that carry far beyond the playing field.
- **The relationship between a sound mind and a sound body,** reinforcing the understanding that academic achievement and athletic excellence are complementary, not competing.
- **School loyalty, community pride, and a sense of belonging** — experiences shared by student-athletes, their families, coaches, and the broader Lordstown community.
- **Self-esteem and a positive self-concept** — every athlete should complete their experience in Lordstown athletics feeling capable, valued, and proud of their effort.
- **Respect for all participants** — coaches, officials, opponents, spectators, and parents — recognizing that how we conduct ourselves reflects on our school and our character.
- **The understanding that Lordstown athletes are ambassadors of this school and this community,** and that their conduct on and off the field defines the reputation we build together.

The interscholastic athletic program of Lordstown Local Schools shall be conducted in accordance with Board of Education policies and all applicable laws, including the bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. While this program takes pride in competitive success, it does not condone “winning at all costs.” At all times, the athletic program must be conducted in a manner that justifies it as an educational activity — one that develops not just better athletes, but better people.

II. ACADEMIC STANDARDS

A. Academic Performance

Maintaining good grades is more important than athletic participation. Academic eligibility is governed by Board Policy 2430 and by the local standards below.

B. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in the required minimum number of courses in the immediately preceding grading period (OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-1). The minimum number of courses differs by grade level as specified below.

High School Eligibility (Grades 9–12)

In addition to the OHSAA minimum, the following local requirements apply to all high school student-athletes:

- A student must earn passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period (OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-1).
- Any student with two (2) F's for either a nine-week grading period or final semester average shall be ineligible to practice or participate for the subsequent grading period.
- Any student with F's for the final nine weeks, second semester, or final yearly grade will be ineligible for the first nine-week grading period of the following year.
- Students must obtain a minimum GPA of 1.5 each grading period to be eligible for the succeeding nine-week period (Board Policy 2430).
- Summer school has no effect on eligibility.
- Eligibility begins and ends after grades are submitted and confirmed by the Athletic Director.

OHSAA Semester Eligibility Rule (High School Only): Once a student establishes ninth-grade eligibility, the student is permitted only eight (8) semesters of high school athletic eligibility, taken in order of attendance, whether or not the student participates in athletics during each semester.

Junior High Eligibility (Grades 7–8)

> *Compliance Note: OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-1 requires junior high student-athletes (grades 7 and 8) to earn passing grades in a minimum of FOUR (4) courses — not five — in the immediately preceding grading period. This differs from the five-course requirement that applies at the high school level.*

- A student must earn passing grades in a minimum of four (4) courses in the immediately preceding grading period (OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-1).
- A student must maintain a minimum GPA of 1.5 each grading period to be eligible for the succeeding nine-week period (Board Policy 2430).
- Any junior high student with two (2) or more F's in any nine-week grading period shall be ineligible to practice or participate for the subsequent grading period.
- Incoming 7th grade students are eligible for the first grading period regardless of their 6th grade grades. After the first nine weeks, all standard eligibility rules apply.
- Summer school has no effect on eligibility.
- Eligibility begins and ends after grades are submitted and confirmed by the Athletic Director.

Note: The OHSAA eight-semester rule does not apply at the junior high level. However, a junior high student who opts into high school athletics under the age-15/August 1 provision (Section IV) begins consuming high school eligibility semesters from that point forward.

C. College Credit Plus (CCP) Eligibility

Students enrolled in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program remain eligible for interscholastic athletics as long as they fulfill all academic, non-academic, and financial requirements (Board Policy 2430). The following additional requirements apply to student-athletes participating in CCP:

- CCP students must submit official letter grades signed and verified by the college instructor to the Athletic Director's office within one (1) week of the close of each nine-week grading period. Grades not reported within this timeframe will be treated as incomplete grades, subject to the Athletic Department's incomplete grade policy.
- For OHSAA eligibility purposes, CCP course credits are calculated using the Carnegie unit equivalency formula: multiply the credit hours of each CCP course by the applicable factor (factor of 2 for semester-based college courses; factor of 4 for quarter-based college

courses). A CCP course must count toward high school graduation credit to be used toward the five-credit minimum required for OHSAA eligibility (Bylaw 4-4-1).

- A student taking all coursework exclusively at a post-secondary institution under CCP must be enrolled in course work equivalent to a minimum of five one-credit high school courses. It is the student's responsibility to verify with the Athletic Director that their CCP schedule meets the equivalency requirement before the start of any sport season.
- CCP students are responsible for immediately notifying the Athletic Director of any changes to their CCP enrollment status, including course drops, withdrawals, or schedule changes. A course dropped or withdrawn after the nine-week period begins will not count toward eligibility for that grading period.
- A CCP grade not reported within the required timeframe will be treated as incomplete and therefore as an F for eligibility purposes until a verified letter grade is submitted and the eligibility calculation is recalculated by the Athletic Director.

> *Athletic Department Policy: CCP Grade Reporting Responsibility: Grade reporting for CCP courses is the sole responsibility of the student-athlete. The Lordstown Athletic Department will not independently obtain CCP grades from post-secondary institutions. Failure to report grades on time will result in the Athletic Department treating the course as incomplete for eligibility purposes.*

D. Post-Season Awards

- Students ineligible during a season are not eligible for post-season awards.
- Students who become eligible during the season may receive awards if all other requirements are met.

E. Transfer Students

Must meet OHSAA Bylaw 4-7. Parents must contact the Athletic Director for a preliminary ruling. Students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the OHSAA transfer bylaw, and who participated in a sport within 12 months of the transfer date, may be ineligible for that sport.

F. Ineligible Students

Students determined to be ineligible shall not:

- Practice or condition with the team.
- Be dressed in full uniform for any interscholastic contest.
- Participate in pre-game warm-ups during the period of ineligibility.

> *Compliance Note: OHSAA bylaws require all three restrictions above for ineligible students. Coaches must verify eligibility status before each practice and contest.*

G. Summer Programming

Students ineligible at the end of the 4th nine weeks may participate in summer programming.

III. PHYSICALS, INSURANCE, AND MEDICAL AUTHORIZATIONS

A. Physicals

Each student must have a physician's physical examination valid for one year before participation.

B. Insurance

Students must have accident/injury insurance. Contact the Athletic Director if coverage is needed.

C. Concussion Protocol (ORC 3313.539)

Per ORC 3313.539 and Board Policy 2430, students and parents/guardians must sign Forms 2431 F1 and F2 before the student may practice or compete.

> *IMPORTANT: A completed concussion acknowledgment form must be submitted each school year for EACH sport in which the student participates. One form is NOT sufficient if the student participates in multiple sports.*

- Any athlete showing signs consistent with a concussion must be removed immediately from practice or competition.
- An athlete removed for a suspected concussion may NOT return on the same day of removal under any circumstances.
- The athlete may not return until receiving written clearance from a physician (M.D. or D.O.) or other authorized healthcare provider.

D. Lindsay's Law — Sudden Cardiac Arrest (ORC 3313.5310)

Per ORC 3313.5310, all athletes and parents/guardians must review the Ohio Department of Health's sudden cardiac arrest materials annually and sign the required acknowledgment form before any athletic activity.

> *MANDATORY SCREENING (ORC 3313.5310): The following students may NOT participate until evaluated and cleared by a licensed physician: (1) Any student whose biological parent, sibling, or child has previously experienced sudden cardiac arrest. (2) Any student known to have exhibited syncope (fainting) at any time prior to or following an athletic activity. A student who exhibits syncope during any athletic activity must be immediately removed and may not return until cleared.*

IV. AGE LIMITATION — OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RULE

Age Limitation (Age 20)

Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition. An exception exists for students with disabilities as defined under Ohio Operating Standards and Federal IDEIA requirements.

Age Limitation (Grades 7 & 8)

If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th & 8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

High School Eligibility Option

An 8th grade student may, at the student's option, become eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level when the student attains his/her 15th birthday before August 1 of the ensuing school year. A student opting into high school eligibility while enrolled in grade eight shall have no more than

eight semesters of high school eligibility. Note: a student's senior year of eligibility will be affected by this choice.

Verification of Age

The date of birth as recorded in school records shall be considered final. Family Bibles, physician's statements, parents' affidavits, and baptismal certificates will not be accepted in lieu of birth certificates.

V. TWO SPORTS PER SEASON OPTION

An athlete may participate in two sports per season, subject to the following conditions:

Students wishing to participate in more than one sport within the same season must set up a formal meeting with both coaches, the parent(s)/guardian(s), and the Athletic Director before the start of competition. The student will be required to select a primary sport. If coaches and/or parents cannot reach an agreement, the matter will be referred to the Athletic Director for a final decision.

- If a student chooses a secondary sport over the primary without prior permission from both coaches, the student will be removed from the primary sport for the remainder of the season without a refund.
- Students cannot join a secondary team after the season's first sporting event in the district.
- Students cannot quit a Lordstown sport and join another sport they had not previously been a member of that season.

VI. TWO SPORTS PER SEASON REQUIREMENTS

- Students must always attend a primary season event over a secondary event unless both coaches allow otherwise.
- If no practice conflicts exist between two sports, students must attend both daily, unless coaches permit differently.
- If practice conflicts exist, students must attend the primary sport practice unless coaches allow differently.
- If a secondary sport event conflicts with a primary sport practice, the student must attend the secondary event unless coaches allow differently.

VII. COACH'S RULES

Each coach must have written team rules in addition to this handbook covering tardiness, absences, curfew violations, inappropriate dress, and misconduct during practice or games. Written rules must be distributed to all athletes, parents, and the Athletic Director at the beginning of each season.

VIII. STUDENT ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

- Coaches must hold a meeting with athletes and parents/guardians at the start of each season, no later than two weeks after the season begins.

- An Athletic Participation Contract must be signed by both athlete and parent/guardian before participation (conditioning, practice, or play).

A. Behavioral Requirements

Attendance: Students must arrive at school by 9:30 a.m. and remain until at least 1:00 p.m. on the day of any school-sponsored activity. Exceptions require a physician's excuse.

Illness: If a student is excused due to illness and sent home, they may not participate in practice, games, or activities that day.

Transportation: Travel to and from contests must be on school-approved transportation. Exceptions require written permission submitted at least 24 hours prior to the contest, OR the parent/guardian must be physically present at the event and personally contact the coach before departing.

Trust and Integrity: Lying, cheating, stealing, or breaking the trust of coaches, teammates, or school staff may result in disciplinary action, including immediate expulsion from the team.

Promptness: Athletes must be on time for practices, games, and buses.

B. Conduct Codes

Athletes SHALL NOT:

- Criticize or make unsportsmanlike displays toward officials.
- Antagonize, belittle, or ridicule teammates or opponents.
- Engage in physical altercations (pushing, shoving, fighting, etc.).
- Display, incite, or condone disrespect toward officials, coaches, students, or adults.
- Commit actions degrading to self, team, school, or community.
- Abuse or mistreat school equipment, uniforms, or facilities.
- Criticize coaches, teammates, or school policy except in private meetings with the coach.

Detentions and Suspensions:

- After-school detention: Students assigned after-school detention will NOT be excused from serving detention for the purpose of practice or to participate in any extracurricular activity. Detention takes priority over practice and games (per Lordstown High School Student Handbook).
- Saturday detention: Students assigned Saturday detention will not be permitted to practice or participate in any athletic activity beginning on the Monday following the day Saturday detention is served. A student misses as many practice/participation days as the number of Saturday detentions assigned (per Lordstown High School Student Handbook).
- Suspension from school: Students suspended from school will not be permitted to practice or participate in any athletic activity on any day they are suspended.
- Expulsion from a sport: A student expelled from one sport may not participate in any other sport for the remainder of that athletic season.

C. Penalties

Violations may result in suspension from participation, expulsion from the team, or other corrective actions deemed appropriate by the coach and Athletic Director.

D. Due Process & Procedure

Initial Action: The coach and Athletic Director determine if a violation warrants disciplinary action. Notification: Athletes and parents/guardians are notified in writing.

Appeal to Principal: Athletes/parents may appeal in writing within 48 hours; the principal conducts a hearing and provides a written decision.

Appeal to Superintendent: If disagreement continues, appeal in writing within 72 hours; the superintendent's decision is final.

E. Academic Integrity, Artificial Intelligence, and Cheating

Per the Lordstown High School Student Handbook, a student who uses or solicits information from Artificial Intelligence without teacher permission will receive a zero for that assignment. Cheating violations may result in a zero on the assignment and a failing grade for the nine-week period. Both cheating and AI misuse violations may negatively affect athletic eligibility. A student-athlete found to have committed such a violation may be suspended from athletic participation at the Athletic Director's discretion.

IX. USE OF TOBACCO, VAPING, ALCOHOL, AND ILLEGAL DRUGS OR CHEMICALS

The provisions of this section operate in conjunction with, and in addition to, the Lordstown Local Schools Student Handbook Substance Abuse Policy. Student-athletes are subject to BOTH the school-wide consequences outlined in the Student Handbook AND the athletic-specific consequences described below. These provisions are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year for the duration of a student's enrollment in Lordstown Local Schools grades 7–12. Athletic violations are cumulative throughout a student's six years of middle and high school participation and may carry over from one season to the next.

A. Prohibited Substances and Conduct

No student-athlete shall possess, use, purchase, exchange, conceal, or be under the influence of any of the following:

- Tobacco products of any kind, including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and chewing/smokeless tobacco.
- Alternative nicotine products, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, vape pens, vaporizers, Juul pods, or similar electronic nicotine delivery systems (ORC 2151.87).
- Alcoholic beverages of any kind (ORC 4301.69).
- Illegal or controlled substances, including marijuana in any form regardless of stated medical or recreational purpose.
- Prescription medications used without a valid current prescription, or used in a manner not prescribed.
- Anabolic steroids or performance-enhancing drugs. Ineligibility continues until medical evidence confirms the student's system is free of such substances (OHSAA). There is no automatic end date.

- Any substance represented as a controlled substance, or drug paraphernalia of any kind.

B. Presence at Gatherings Where Illegal Substances Are Present

Attendance at events or parties where drugs and/or alcohol are being possessed or consumed illegally is unacceptable. Student-athletes must exit the premises immediately. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action under this section.

C. School-Wide Consequences (Student Handbook)

Per the Lordstown High School Student Handbook Substance Abuse Policy:

- **First Offense (possession/use):** Ten (10) day out-of-school suspension. Students suspended may not practice or participate in any athletic activity on any day of their suspension.
- **Second Offense:** Recommendation for expulsion from Lordstown Local Schools.
- **Sale or Distribution — First Offense:** Referral for expulsion from Lordstown Local Schools.

These school consequences are determined and enforced by the building principal and/or superintendent. The Athletic Director does not control or modify school suspension or expulsion decisions.

D. Athletic-Specific Consequences

IMPORTANT: Athletic consequences are SEPARATE FROM and IN ADDITION TO school-wide consequences. A student-athlete receives both the school discipline AND the athletic consequences below simultaneously.

- **First Offense:** Removal from the athletic team for the remainder of the current season, with forfeiture of all awards and recognition for that season. The student-athlete may not join any other Lordstown athletic team until the following athletic season.
- **Second Offense:** Removal from all athletic participation at Lordstown Local Schools for one calendar year from the date of the second violation, with forfeiture of all awards and recognition.
- **Third Offense:** Permanent removal from all athletic participation at Lordstown Local Schools. Athletic offenses accumulate from grade 7 through grade 12 regardless of year.

E. Sale or Distribution — Athletic Consequences

Sale or distribution of drugs or alcohol is treated as the most serious violation. In addition to the school's expulsion referral, the athletic consequence is permanent removal from all athletic participation at Lordstown Local Schools.

F. Records

The Athletic Director will maintain records of all athletic violations and related documentation for the athlete's six years of middle and high school participation.

X. PARENTAL CONDUCT CODES

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Not criticize or display unsportsmanlike behavior toward officials.

- Not antagonize, belittle, or ridicule any player, coach, official, or spectator.
- Not condone disrespect toward fans, coaches, adults, or students.
- Discuss problems privately with coaches.
- Enforce team and Athletic Department rules.
- Encourage positivity and effort.

XI. STUDENT ANTI-HAZING POLICY (COLLIN'S LAW — ORC 2903.31)

Hazing is prohibited at all times. Hazing includes any act that causes mental or physical harm to another person or that coerces another person to consume alcohol or drugs. The fact that a student consented to or assumed the risk of hazing does not reduce or eliminate the prohibition.

Any observed or reported hazing must be immediately reported to the Superintendent and to law enforcement. Failure to report known hazing may itself result in disciplinary consequences.

XII. STUDENT-ATHLETE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Student-athletes represent Lordstown Local Schools and the Lordstown community. Any content made public via social media or online platforms is expected to reflect the values and standards of this handbook and to comply with applicable federal law, Ohio law, OHSAA regulations, and Lordstown Local Schools policies.

Student-athletes SHALL NOT:

- Post comments that attack, demean, or ridicule any student-athlete, coach, official, or athletic administrator.
- Post content of a sexual nature, harassing language, or anything inflammatory or discriminatory based on race, religion, gender, national origin, or any other characteristic.
- Post private or confidential information, including details about injuries, playbooks, rosters, or any team information that should remain internal.
- Use their status as a Lordstown athlete to promote products or personal brands in exchange for money, merchandise, or services, as this may affect amateur status under OHSAA regulations.

Violations may result in a meeting with the Athletic Director, required removal of content, suspension from the team, or dismissal from the team. Social media violations are subject to the same due process procedures in Section VIII.D.

XIII. GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

- Maintain perspective: it is a game.
- Treat all individuals with respect.
- Represent the team, school, and community with pride and dignity.
- Strive to better yourself as a student, athlete, and person.
- Congratulate success and encourage those who fail.
- Give 100% effort; everyone is a winner.
- Lead by example and learn by doing.
- Extend sportsmanship into the classroom, home, and community.

Coaches, athletes, parents, and fans displaying poor sportsmanship will be corrected immediately.

XIV. PRACTICE REGULATIONS

- No practice sessions on Sunday.
- Pre-season conditioning is optional but beneficial.
- Starting practice for one sport shall not interfere with another season.
- Athletes quitting a sport may not attend another until the first sport ends.
- Transfers between sports require Athletic Director and coach approval.
- Cross Country requires a minimum of 10 supervised practices before any athlete competes (OHSAA regulation).
- Coaches may excuse or deny participation for outside activities.

A. Open Gym / Open Field Policy

Coaches may open facilities for unstructured free play provided the activity is supervised by a Lordstown Local Schools employee.

> *OHSAA REQUIREMENT: Coaches may NOT require student-athletes to attend open gym or open field sessions, and may NOT imply — directly or indirectly — that attendance affects roster selection. For current OHSAA open gym guidelines, visit www.ohsaa.org.*

B. Vacation During the Season

Vacations during a sport season are strongly discouraged. If unavoidable, the student-athlete must contact the Athletic Director and head coach prior to the vacation and understand that consequences may include suspension from contests and/or a change in status on the squad.

XIV-C. SUMMER CAMPS POLICY

Head coaches are encouraged to provide summer camp and instructional experiences for their athletes and for younger students interested in the program. The following guidelines govern all summer camps and summer instruction activities associated with Lordstown Local Schools athletics:

A. Use of School Facilities

Coaches may utilize Lordstown Local Schools facilities for OHSAA-compliant summer instruction. Use of school facilities must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director and coordinated to minimize scheduling conflicts with other programs. The Athletic Director will assist coaches in scheduling dates and facilities.

B. OHSAA Compliance

All summer camp and instructional activities must comply with current OHSAA out-of-season coaching and open gym policies. Coaches may not conduct mandatory summer camps or imply that attendance affects roster selection. For current OHSAA regulations governing summer camps and out-of-season coaching, coaches should consult the OHSAA website at www.ohsaa.org and search “Summer Camps” or “Out of Season Training Guidelines.”

> *OHSAA RESTRICTION: A coach may not coach a student in the same sport in which the student participates at Lordstown outside of the defined sport season, with limited exceptions (see OHSAA out-of-season regulations). Summer camps must be structured to comply with these restrictions. Coaches who conduct summer leagues or training at outside venues assume all responsibility and costs for such activities.*

C. Camps as Fundraisers

Summer camps may be utilized as a fundraising opportunity for the current high school team. When conducted as a fundraiser, high school athletes may volunteer their time and skills to assist with camp operations. Any fundraising activity conducted under the school's name must comply with Board of Education policy governing fundraising and booster club activities.

D. Costs and Liability

Coaches who involve their athletes and teams in summer leagues or other training options at outside venues assume all responsibility and costs for such activities. Lordstown Local Schools is not responsible for injuries or incidents occurring at non-school summer camps or leagues. There is no school insurance coverage for non-school summer activities.

E. Incoming Athletes

Summer camps are an opportunity to reach younger athletes who may participate in Lordstown programs in future years. Coaches are encouraged to design camp programming that serves the broader community while developing interest in the sport program at all grade levels.

XV. TEAM SELECTION AND TRYOUTS

A. Tryout Period

Tryouts shall be a minimum of two (2) days and a maximum of four (4) days. Final selection of team member's rests solely with the head coach.

B. Notification of Cuts

No cut lists shall be posted publicly in any form — physical or digital. Coaches who make roster cuts are expected to meet individually with each student-athlete who does not make the team to provide feedback and discuss areas for improvement.

C. Appeals

Squad selection decisions are within the sole discretion of the head coach. A parent or student who has concerns about the selection process (not the outcome) may request a meeting with the head coach and Athletic Director.

D. Pre-Season Meetings

Every head coach (grades 7–12) shall schedule a pre-season meeting each sport season no later than two weeks after the season begins, covering: safety concerns, eligibility and lettering requirements, discipline and team rules, practice schedules, and required paperwork.

XVI. EJECTION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM ATHLETIC CONTESTS

General Ejection Rule:

- An athlete ejected from any contest is ineligible for the remainder of that day and for the next two (2) contests at the same level.
- If the ejection occurs during the last contest of a season, the ineligibility carries over to the athlete's next sport season.

- Ejected athletes may not sit on the bench, enter locker rooms, or remain in the team area for the remainder of the contest.
- A second ejection in the same season results in suspension for the remainder of that season, or as otherwise determined by OHSAA.

FIGHTING EJECTION — ENHANCED PENALTY: Any player or coach ejected specifically for fighting is ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until FOUR (4) regular season or tournament contests have been completed at the same level as the ejection. This four-contest penalty replaces the standard two-contest penalty for fighting ejections.

Important: Fighting also triggers separate school-wide consequences under the Lordstown High School Student Handbook. Both the OHSAA ejection penalties and the school-wide suspension consequences apply simultaneously — they are not alternatives.

XVII. COACH CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

> *Compliance Note: All coaches at Lordstown Local Schools must hold a valid Pupil Activity Program Permit issued under ORC 3319.303 and must comply with all mandatory training requirements as a condition of coaching any interscholastic athletic activity.*

A. Concussion and Head Injury Training (ORC 3313.539)

All coaches and referees must have completed a training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussions and head injuries, renewed within every three (3) years.

B. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training (ORC 3313.5310)

All coaches must complete the Sudden Cardiac Arrest training course approved by the Ohio Department of Health under ORC 3707.59. This training must be renewed annually.

C. Coach Mental Health Training (ORC 3313.5318 — Effective October 3, 2023)

MANDATORY: Ohio law (ORC 3313.5318) prohibits any individual from coaching an athletic activity at a school district unless the individual has completed a student mental health training course approved by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This training must be completed each time the coach applies for or renews a Pupil Activity Program Permit. Coaches who have not completed this training are not authorized to coach under Ohio law.

XVIII. ATHLETIC INJURIES AND ATHLETE ILLNESSES

Injured athletes may not return until receiving written clearance from a physician (M.D. or D.O.) or other authorized healthcare provider. No athlete will be allowed to return from a significant injury or illness on the basis of a verbal clearance only.

XIX. CHEERLEADING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Cheerleaders must follow all rules and behavioral codes applicable to other athletes. Pyramids, mounts, and mini trampolines are prohibited.

Clinics & Tryouts: Held before basketball season. Academic eligibility required at end of 1st nine weeks. A current physical is required.

- Varsity: Current grades 9–12

- Junior Varsity: Current grades 9–12
- Junior High: Current grades 7–8

XX. UNIFORMS

Uniforms are provided by the Athletic Department and remain the property of Lordstown Schools. Athletes must not modify equipment or uniforms. Wash after each use, pre-treat stains, warm water, no chlorine bleach. The cost of lost or damaged uniforms is borne by the athlete/parents.

All school-issued equipment and uniforms must be returned within three (3) school days of the last contest of the season. Athletes who fail to return equipment by this deadline will be ineligible to receive athletic awards until the obligation is fulfilled.

Religious Apparel: Per ORC 3313.5317 and Board Policy 2430, no student-athlete shall be denied the right to wear sincerely held religious apparel during interscholastic or extra-curricular activities unless such apparel poses a legitimate danger to participants. Athletes wishing to wear religious apparel should notify their coach and the Athletic Director in advance.

XXI. ATHLETIC AWARD SYSTEM

Minimum Requirements for Varsity Awards

- Cross Country: significant contributions to the team.
- Volleyball: play in 50% or more of the varsity matches.
- Soccer: play in 50% or more of 40-minute halves.
- Golf: counting score in 50% or more of matches.
- Basketball: play in 50% or more of the varsity quarters.
- Cheerleading: participate in 95% of games.
- Indoor Track: significant contributions.
- Baseball/Softball: play in 50% or more of the varsity innings.
- Tennis: play in 50% or more of the varsity matches.
- Track: score 10 or more individual points in one or more events.
- Bowling: play in 50% or more of the varsity matches.

Award Limits

Per OHSAA regulations, student-athletes may receive awards valued at $500 or less from any source as a result of participation in athletics, provided the award is not money or cash.

Additional Awards

Coaches may use discretion to award varsity letters based on meritorious service. Athletes must attend the Sports Awards night to receive their awards.

Senior Scholastic Athlete Award

Requires a GPA of 3.25 or higher, participation in two or more sports, and a committee evaluation.

XXII. REQUIRED FORMS — ATHLETES AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The following forms must be completed before any student participates in conditioning, tryouts, practice, or games:

- Physical Exam Form — Annual; required before conditioning, tryouts, practice, or games.
- Insurance Waiver — Parents must provide proof of accident/injury insurance.
- Field Trip/Emergency Medical Authorization — Required for all contests; updated as needed.
- Lindsay's Law (Sudden Cardiac Arrest) Signature Form — Annual; required under ORC 3313.5310.
- Concussion Information Acknowledgment (Forms 2431 F1 and F2) — Required each school year for EACH sport in which the student participates, per ORC 3313.539 and Board Policy 2430.
- Athletic Participation Contract — Signed by both athlete and parent/guardian.

XXIII. FAN AND SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

> *Compliance Note: OHSAA Bylaw 3-2 places responsibility on the host school to remove any individual who disrupts the educational goals of a contest or event, and requires the host school to appoint a site director or administrator-in-charge for every contest. This section is consistent with that obligation and with Ohio Revised Code provisions governing conduct at public events, including ORC 2911.21 (criminal trespass), ORC 2911.23 (criminal trespass on a place of public amusement), and ORC 2917.11 (disorderly conduct).*

Lordstown Local Schools believes that our athletic events should reflect the character of our community. Every spectator — parent, student, alumni, or community member — who attends a Lordstown athletic event is expected to conduct themselves with sportsmanship and dignity. This code applies to all home and away contests attended by Lordstown spectators, and to all OHSAA tournament events in which Lordstown participates.

A. Site Director Requirement

A site director or administrator-in-charge must be appointed for every home contest or event. The site director has full authority to manage spectator conduct, issue warnings, and direct the removal of any individual who violates this code. The site director's identity shall be communicated to game officials and visiting school administrators before the start of each contest.

B. Expected Spectator Conduct

All spectators attending Lordstown Local Schools athletic events are expected to:

- Conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the educational values of interscholastic athletics.
- Direct all cheers, comments, and support positively toward their own team. Cheers or chants directed at opponents, contest officials, or individual players by number, name, or position are not permitted.
- Respect contest officials at all times. Verbal criticism, taunting, or abuse of officials is prohibited before, during, and after contests.
- Refrain from the use of vulgar, profane, offensive, or racially and culturally insensitive language or gestures of any kind.
- Refrain from throwing any objects onto the playing surface, court, or field.

- Comply immediately and respectfully with any direction given by the site director, school administrator, or law enforcement officer.
- Remain in designated spectator areas at all times and not enter the playing area, team benches, locker room areas, or any other restricted zone.
- Refrain from using any noise-making device that unreasonably disrupts the contest or is prohibited by the host facility.

C. Prohibited Conduct

The following conduct is expressly prohibited and may result in immediate removal and/or referral to law enforcement:

- Use of profane, threatening, harassing, or discriminatory language or gestures directed at any player, coach, official, student, or spectator.
- Physical contact with or assault of any player, coach, official, or other spectator.
- Entering the playing area, athletic surface, or any restricted portion of the venue. Per ORC 2911.23, knowingly entering or remaining on a restricted portion of a place of public amusement — including a playing field or athletic surface — in a manner that interrupts or causes the delay of a sporting event is a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- Possession or consumption of alcohol or controlled substances on school property or at school-sponsored events.
- Disorderly conduct as defined under ORC 2917.11, including engaging in fighting, threatening harm, or creating a condition that presents a risk of physical harm to persons or property.
- Refusing to comply with the lawful direction of the site director, school administrator, or law enforcement officer.
- Any conduct that, in the judgment of the site director, endangers the safety or well-being of any participant, spectator, or official, or that disrupts the educational goals of the athletic event.

D. Progressive Removal Procedure

The site director or administrator-in-charge has authority to take the following progressive actions. Steps may be skipped or accelerated based on the severity of the conduct.

- **Step 1 — Verbal Warning:** The site director or designee will issue a verbal warning to the spectator, clearly identifying the conduct in question and the expected change in behavior. The warning shall be delivered respectfully and professionally.
- **Step 2 — Final Warning / Relocation:** If the conduct continues after the initial warning, the site director may issue a final warning and/or require the spectator to relocate to a different area of the venue. The spectator will be advised that continued misconduct will result in removal from the facility.
- **Step 3 — Removal from the Facility:** If the conduct continues, or if the initial conduct is severe enough to warrant immediate removal, the site director shall direct the spectator to leave the facility immediately. Law enforcement will be contacted to assist if necessary. No refund of admission will be issued upon removal.
- **Step 4 — Law Enforcement Referral:** If the spectator refuses to leave after being directed to do so, law enforcement will be contacted immediately. A spectator who refuses to leave may be subject to arrest for criminal trespass under ORC 2911.21 (misdemeanor of the 4th degree) or, if on the playing surface, under ORC 2911.23 (misdemeanor of the 1st degree).

IMMEDIATE REMOVAL WITHOUT WARNING: The following conduct warrants immediate removal from the facility without a prior warning: physical assault or threatening physical contact with any person; entering the playing area or any restricted zone; use of racial slurs or hate speech; possession of weapons; or any conduct creating an immediate safety risk to others. Law enforcement will be contacted in all such cases.

E. Suspension and Ban from Future Events

Following any removal from an athletic event, the Athletic Director and building Principal will review the incident and determine whether additional consequences are appropriate. Possible additional consequences include:

- Suspension from attending one or more future Lordstown athletic events for a defined period of time.
- Permanent ban from all Lordstown Local Schools athletic events.
- If the removed spectator is a parent or guardian of a Lordstown student-athlete, the student-athlete's participation may also be addressed through the due process procedures in Section VIII.D.

Per OHSAA General Sports Regulations, if a spectator enters the playing area to engage in conflict — verbal or physical — the OHSAA shall recommend to the member school that the individual be denied admission to any OHSAA-sponsored contests for a period to be determined in consultation with school administration and the OHSAA Executive Director's Office. The school is also required to immediately report the situation to the OHSAA Executive Director's Office and conduct an investigation.

F. Appeal of Removal or Ban

A spectator who has been removed from an event or banned from future events may submit a written appeal to the building Principal within five (5) school days of being notified of the action. The Principal will review the appeal and provide a written decision within ten (10) school days. If the spectator disagrees with the Principal's decision, a further appeal may be submitted in writing to the Superintendent within five (5) school days. The Superintendent's decision is final.

G. Conduct at Away Events and OHSAA Tournament Sites

Lordstown spectators attending away contests or OHSAA tournament events are representatives of Lordstown Local Schools and are expected to follow this code of conduct at all times. Conduct that results in warnings or removal at an away event will be reported to the Lordstown Athletic Director and may result in consequences consistent with Sections D and E above.

XXIV. POLICY UPDATES & LEGAL COMPLIANCE

This handbook is designed to inform athletes, parents, and guardians of the rules, expectations, and procedures governing participation in Lordstown Local Schools' athletic programs. All regulations, including those established by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), and the Lordstown Board of Education, are subject to change. Any amendments, updates, or policy changes issued by the ORC, OHSAA, or the Lordstown Board of Education take precedence over the provisions in this handbook.

Questions regarding compliance with ORC or OHSAA requirements should be directed to the Athletic Director.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION CONTRACT

By signing below, the student-athlete and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have received, read, and understood the Lordstown Local Schools Athletic Handbook, including all rules, expectations, and disciplinary procedures contained herein. The student-athlete and parent/guardian further acknowledge that they have received and reviewed the Lordstown High School Student Handbook and understand that its policies apply in full to student-athletes.

Student-Athlete Name (Print): _____ Grade: _____

Sport(s): _____

Student-Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____ Email: _____