

**LOCKHART INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC CODE**

Athletics in our society provides one of the finest ways in which young people have the responsibility, dedication, leadership, respect, team participation as well as many other qualities. It is our goal to provide each and every participant with the best equipment and facilities, and thereby, the opportunity to develop fully both physically and mentally. Since athletics is not required for graduation, it is considered a privilege for all individuals to participate in any sport. Considering this privilege, we place greater expectation on the athletes than on the general student body.

We firmly believe that a successful athletic program is achieved and continued **not** with good athletes but with athletes with good character. Discipline, the primary component of one's character can be defined as "the ability to do what is right and to avoid what is wrong." In conjunction with the above stated exceptions, all athletic participants must assume responsibility for their actions and be willing to accept the result of the consequences. Violation of the principles outlined in the Athletic Code will result in corrective disciplinary action. The facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining the appropriate action. Repeated violations will result in an increase in the severity of the punishment. The three types of action are as follows:

1. **Constructive Punishment**-Various physical exercises (i.e. lines, stand, tires) applicable to the specific sport. All corrective punishment must be completed prior to participation in a contest.
2. **Suspension Punishment**-Prohibits the athlete from participating in all or part of one or more contest. The athlete is expected to practice during the suspension period but will not suit-up or travel with the team for contest until the suspension period is completed.(Example)-(Academic Eligibility rules)
3. **Dismissal Punishment**-Results in the removal of the athlete from participation in the entire program. The Athletic Director will determine the use of Dismissal Punishment and set the length of dismissal.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS:

1. **Equipment**-Any equipment issued by the athletic department is to be worn or used for athletic participation only. Each athlete is responsible for proper care of the equipment. Any lost or damaged item must be replaced by the athlete. Athletic equipment or clothing shall not be worn in the community.
2. **Grooming/Dress Code**-The school district policies concerning grooming and dress code will be strictly followed. It is our goal for all athletes to set the example for the student body with the appearance at school and school events.
 - A. Boys will keep their hair clean, trimmed, and well groomed. Modern hair styles may be permitted if extremes are avoided. The hair must be above the eyebrows and a regular shirt collar length. The hair is not to extend lower than the bottom of the ear when combed down or when it has fallen down. Sideburns may extend to the bottom of the ear, providing that they are trimmed. No tails or pony tails will be permitted.
 - B. No male athletes will be permitted to wear ear/nose rings of any kind. This is a district policy.
3. **Quitting**-Participation in our athletic program requires commitment from start to finish of a season. If any athlete starts a sport and quits, he/she will not be allowed to start a second sport until the original sport has concluded. If you quit a program or become ineligible before the season is completed, you will not be awarded a letter or letter jacket for that sport. Any exemption to this rule must be appealed to the athletic director.
4. **Attendance**-A successful athletic program is based on excellent practice habits. The phrase, "Outwork your Opponent" expresses the importance of preparation. Certainly athletes must attend practice regularly. If an athlete misses practice, he/she must notify the coach in advance of the reason. Failure to do so will result in the athlete being held out for all or part of the next contest. Any unexcused absence will result in the athlete being held out for the next contest. Athletes will be expected to complete makeup work for missed practice prior to the next contest.
5. **Illegal Substance**-Any athlete found under the influence of or in possession of an illegal substance by school staff or any law enforcement personnel shall be immediately suspended from all athletic programs. Upon further review, the athlete is subject to dismissal from all athletic participation for the remainder of the school semester. Second offense- the athlete will be removed from all athletic programs for one calendar year. Third offense-the athlete will be removed from all athletic programs for the remainder of their school career. Drug counseling is highly recommended for students and parents.
6. **Conduct**-Among the many goals of the Lockhart Athletic Department, "To be a champion" is at the top of the list. No doubt, Championships are accomplished by good athletes, but burning desire to be the best you can be--to accomplish this goal, all athletes are expected to set the standard of conduct on the field, in the classroom, and all school functions for the entire student body. Any athlete who is sent to ISS or Delta will be held out of all contest until your assigned probationary period is completed, as well as, complete assigned running as makeup for missed practices. If the attitude and conduct of the athlete becomes a detriment to the program, the athlete will be subjected to corrective discipline action including dismissal. If you have any involvement with law enforcement, you will be dismissed from the program until final outcome with the law (5/30/03)

WITH THIS SIGNATURE, I ACKNOWLEDGE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CODE AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY OF UPHOLDING ITS CONTENT.

Student's
Signature _____

Date _____

Parent's

Signature

Date