

# **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LADYSMITH**



## **2023-2024 Athletic Code**

(Updated July 2023)

# Athletic Code

## Philosophy

Athletics and interscholastic activities are an important part of our educational program here at the School District of Ladysmith. The competition and striving to do our best are all part of the learning and educational process. As we watch young adults perform and participate, let us strive to be good role models ourselves and support their fine efforts. The guiding principles of our athletics program are:

- PRIDE - in everything our school endeavors to accomplish and has accomplished.
- SPORTSMANSHIP - the ability to win and lose gracefully.
- COURTESY - toward teachers, fellow students, officials and community members.

Students need our support and good examples not only as they compete but on a day to day basis. We must remember the primary value of our athletic programs is the learning and growth it offers to our students.

We promote our students to join activities that interest them, to be a “doer” and not a “watcher.” There are a wide variety of groups and teams for students to select.

We also feel that being a member of a team brings responsibility. When you choose to participate in athletics, you voluntarily elect a course of self-discipline that is part of being involved with a team. The school can revoke or restrict the privilege of participation if the student fails to live up to the expectations and standards as defined in our school district’s athletic code.

## Responsibility of the Student

Participation in athletics is a privilege at the School District of Ladysmith. In order to keep this privilege, student-athletes must accept certain responsibilities. The greatest responsibility each student has is to be an asset to himself/herself, and to his/her parents/guardians, school and community. Students, and in particular, student-athletes are the most visible representatives of our school, so they are expected to be fine examples of the quality of Ladysmith students. They are expected to display high standards of social behavior and respect those in authority, including teachers, coaches, advisors, administrators, officials and other school personnel, as well as fellow participants and competitors.

## Responsibility of the Coach/Volunteers

Coaches/volunteers are some of the most influential people in the School District of Ladysmith. Their methods and results are a matter of public record and discussion each time a team performs. In most cases, the attitude, desire and spirit possessed by the group are a reflection of these same qualities in the coach/volunteers in a

program. Coaching and volunteering demands that the proper attitude and perspective be maintained.

## **Responsibility of the Parent/Guardian**

Parents/guardians are the greatest role models for a young person. The School District of Ladysmith seeks parental assistance to help develop young men and women who possess the self-discipline and motivation to make a difference in the world. The administration, faculty, staff, volunteers, and coaches ask that all parents be supportive of the programs and personnel at the School District of Ladysmith and demonstrate that support by respecting the decisions and efforts of the coaches/volunteers who work with the young people of Ladysmith. Parental assistance is also requested in enforcing this athletic code so that a fair and healthy environment will exist for all students.

While spectators, at any extracurricular event at Ladysmith or any other site, parents are expected to display sportsmanship like behavior. An individual or group who willfully interferes with or interrupts the proper order or management of a school sponsored activity by an act of violence, boisterous conduct, threatening language, or unsportsmanlike conduct toward coaches, players, volunteers or officials or disobeys board policies or administrative rules may be removed from the event and may be prohibited from further attendance for a period of up to one calendar year.

## **School Equipment**

Students are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Uniforms and gear, both practice and game, are supplied for the sole purpose of athletic participation. This equipment is not to be used for any other purpose. When the season or year is completed, all equipment is to be returned to the school within five days following the conclusion of the season. There are no exceptions to this policy. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

## **Transportation to and from Athletic Contests**

Ladysmith is responsible for transporting students to and from contests. The school is aware that unusual circumstances may arise in which a parent or guardian may wish to transport their son/daughter either to or from a contest. If this occasion does arise, it is the responsibility of the athlete to obtain a permission form from their coach, or the main office. The coach will then keep this form with them for the remainder of the season. A new form must be completed for every contest in which a parent/guardian requests their son/daughter to ride with them.

## **Athletic Injuries and Insurance**

The School District of Ladysmith does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school for sports.

Since children are particularly susceptible to accidental injuries, we encourage you to review your present health and accident insurance to determine if your coverage is adequate. If you do not feel your insurance is adequate, or if you do not have

insurance, we encourage you to review the student insurance program. All school-sponsored and supervised activities and time spent in school are covered in accordance with the terms and limitations to the policy. For students in grades 7-12, there are additional options available to cover interscholastic sports.

If you are interested in purchasing insurance for the interscholastic sports, please contact the office secretaries at LMHS for a premium form which also explains the plan and details of coverage. Please read carefully so that you understand the extent of the coverage.

## **CELL PHONE PRIVACY**

It is the practice of the School District of Ladysmith to ensure the privacy of all individuals during the time they occupy locker room facilities at school and during school sponsored events. All cell phone use is prohibited in any school locker room. If a cell phone is found the coach/volunteer has the right to confiscate the phone. If compromising photos are found to be taken with the phone, it may result in immediate removal from the extra-curricular activity.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Students who are too ill to attend school should not participate in or attend after-school activities. The following policies will apply:

1. Students who participate in athletics must be present from **12:00 pm (noon)** to the conclusion of the school day to be allowed to participate or practice in the activity that day. The principal and/or athletic director may use their discretion for any extenuating circumstances.
2. It is the policy of the School District of Ladysmith to expect any student involved in an extracurricular activity to be in school the day following an event.
3. Any student who is suspended from school may not practice or compete in an extracurricular activity during the time of their suspension.
4. Any student who is considered habitually truant from school will not be permitted to participate in any Ladysmith School Athletic programs until administration determines there has been an improvement in attendance.

## LIST OF ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Cross Country - Boys	Basketball - Boys	Baseball
Cross Country - Girls	Basketball - Girls	Golf - Boys
Football	Wrestling – Boys	Softball
Golf - Girls	Wrestling - Girls	Track - Boys
Swimming - Girls (Co-op)		Track - Girls
Volleyball		

### ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Every student who desires to participate in athletics for the School District of Ladysmith must:

1. Maintain academic standards provided in the athletic code.
2. Accept and adhere to all rule policies provided in the athletic code.
3. Behave in a manner non-detrimental to the School District of Ladysmith.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS/FORMS

1. Under the age of 19 before August 1 of the school year they wish to compete.
2. WIAA Physical or Alternate year card from a licensed physician:
  - a. This is required for students participating in interscholastic athletics.
  - b. Exams taken after April 1 are good for the following two school years.
  - c. Exams taken before April 1 are good for the remainder of the school year and following school year.
  - d. In years when a physical exam is not needed, a WIAA Alternate Year Athletic Permit Card must be turned in.
3. Athletic Code Form:
  - a. Signed annually by students and parent/guardian, which implies an understanding of all aspects of the athletic code.
4. WIAA Parent/Athlete Rules of Eligibility Form:
  - a. Indicates that both students and parents/guardians have read, understand and

agree to abide by the WIAA Rules of Eligibility.

5. Emergency Medical Form Sign-off Form:
  - a. Serves as a consent to treat in case of emergency. It also provides emergency contact information.
6. Impact Testing:
  - a. Student-athletes are required to take an online concussion baseline test every year.
7. Athletic Fee:
  - a. Student-Athletes are required to pay this prior to the first contest/game. This is a yearly fee.
8. DUAL SPORT: (Only for athletes who intend to dual sport)
  - a. Athlete must have approved paperwork prior to the start of dual season.
  - b. See addendum at the end of this document.

**The code shall be in effect while the student is enrolled in the district and includes all periods of time in which school is not in session.** If there is a withdrawal from school for academic or disciplinary reason(s), the student is not eligible for participation.

## **ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

STUDENT ATHLETES IN GRADES 5-12 MAY NOT HAVE ANY FAILURES DURING A POSTED GRADING PERIOD.

### **High School Athletic Eligibility**

1. Grading Periods:
  - a. Ladysmith is currently on a trimester schedule.
    - i. Eligibility for high school will be based on all posted grading periods (this includes mid-trimester and final trimester grade posts).
2. Fall Sports:
  - a. Eligibility for fall sports is based on grades earned in the previous spring grading period.
3. Academically ineligible:
  - a. Students who are academically ineligible are allowed to practice.
  - b. Students are not allowed to dress in uniform, but may travel with the team.
  - c. Missed School due to athletics:
    - i. Students are responsible for any work missed due to athletic activities. They are expected to make every effort to contact the instructor prior to absence
4. Incompletes:
  - a. Incompletes are viewed as an F unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by an administrator.
  - b. Students are not eligible to compete until the incomplete is made up (and grade is passing. If grade is not passing students will sit an academic failure punishment).
  - c. Grades will be immediately re-averaged upon satisfaction of the incomplete(s).

## Process for Regaining Academic Eligibility

1. A student not meeting grade standards shall be ineligible from competition for a period of 21 calendar days.
2. The 21-calendar day period begins on the first day of the earliest allowed practice for fall sports and once grades are posted for winter and spring sports.
  - a. There will be a minimum of a one-game suspension, with a maximum suspension of 25%.
3. A student may be reinstated if at the end of the ineligible period he/she is passing the failed class(es) in the current grading period and has made up all incomplete(s).
  - a. The student will then become eligible on the 22nd day.
4. If the student is not passing after the 21-day period, the student shall remain ineligible until he/she is passing the failed class(es).
5. At the end of the 21-day period of ineligibility, the student must circulate a form provided by the office among the student's teacher(s) to verify the student is passing the class(es) or making satisfactory progress.
  - a. It shall be the responsibility of the student to see his/her teacher(s) to regain eligibility.
  - b. If the student is doing passing work or making satisfactory progress, the teacher(s) will note that on the form and the student must return the form to the office.
  - c. The athletic director will notify the coach involved that the student is again eligible to participate.
  - d. The coach will **not** allow the athlete to compete until he/she gets verification from the athletic director.
6. If a **mid-trimester grade** shows a student failing, the student must show proof from the teacher that the student is passing or making progress to the teacher's satisfaction.
  - a. Once it has been confirmed that the student is passing or making satisfactory progress, the student may compete.
  - b. Incoming freshmen shall follow the middle school athletic eligibility guidelines for fall athletics.

## Middle School Athletic Eligibility

1. A participant failing one subject at the end of the trimester is ineligible to participate in athletic events for a minimum of 5 school days and 1 event.
  - a. The five-day period begins the day grades are posted.
  - b. The student will remain ineligible until a passing grade is attained or satisfactory progress is made.
2. A participant failing two or more subjects at the end of a trimester is ineligible to participate in athletic events for a minimum of 10 school days and a minimum of 2 events.
  - a. The student will remain ineligible until passing grades are attained or satisfactory progress is made.

## CONSEQUENCES OF CODE VIOLATIONS

<p>A. Use, possession, buying or selling drugs, alcohol, look-alike drugs and/or inhalants or performance enhancing substances</p> <p>B. Use, possession, buying or selling tobacco products. This includes e-cigarettes of ANY kind.</p> <p>C. Grievous offense – to include any offense that is deemed serious enough by the school administration that a penalty more severe than the codes prescribes is warranted. This may include any act in violation of any of the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes or violation of any municipal, county ordinance or laws of other jurisdictions. It is <b>not</b> necessary for a student to have been issued a citation to be considered a violation.</p> <p>D. Unacceptable use of cell phones and other technology to include, but not limited to, Facebook and other social media websites and applications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>First Offense</b> - Suspension for 25% of season/games*</li> <li>● <b>Second offense</b>–Suspension for 50% of season/games*</li> <li>● <b>Third offense</b> – Suspension from all sports for one calendar year (from the date of the infraction)</li> <li>● <b>Fourth offense</b> – Suspension from all sports for the remainder of high school care</li> </ul> <p><b>Progressive consequences:</b> First and second violations are progressive. If a student-athlete receives a first and a second violation before the consequence can be served, the consequences are combined. (E.G. 25% + 50% = 75%)</p> <p><b>Additionally</b>– Students with any violation become ineligible for All-Conference awards, including coach/school sports award for season.</p> <p><b>Homecoming:</b> any student who receives one of these violations during their HS career is not eligible for Homecoming Court.</p>
---	---

<p>A. Guilt by association (Student athlete is in attendance, but is not found to have used, possessed, or consumed alcohol, tobacco, or unauthorized drugs.) Only illegal events count. Weddings, fairs, family gatherings, and/or parties that are not “illegal” for the youth to be attending do not pertain. Students will be found guilty unless they have proof of AT LEAST one of the following acts:</p> <p>i. Proof of an attempt to leave the event in a reasonable amount of time and have proof of either a phone call or a text requesting a ride home, OR</p> <p>ii. Proof of either a phone call or a text that they attended the event only at the request of another individual to provide a safe ride home for them. (Student must not stay at activity, but leave within a reasonable amount of time.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>First offense</b> – Suspension for 10% of season/games*</li> <li>● <b>Second offense</b>–Suspension for 25% of season/games*</li> <li>● <b>Third offense</b> – Suspension for 50% of season/games*</li> <li>● <b>Fourth offense</b> – Suspension from all sports for one calendar year (from the date of the infraction)</li> </ul> <p><b>Progressive consequences:</b> First, second, and third violations are progressive. If a student-athlete receives a first, second, and/or violation before the consequences can be served, the consequences are combined. (E.G. 10% + 25% + 50%= 85%)</p> <p><b>Additionally</b>– Students with any violation become ineligible for All-Conference award for season. Students with any violation become ineligible for any coach/school sports award for season.</p>
---	---



F. Unacceptable behavior or behavior which is disruptive to or interferes with the learning environment.	May result in suspension from contest/event
G. Suspension from school	One contest/event for every occurrence
H. Cheating/Plagiarism	One contest/event for every occurrence
I. Disqualification/ejection from a contest	Suspension from interscholastic competition for no less than the next competitive event (but not less than one complete game or meet).
J. Dishonesty If it is determined that an athlete was not honest regarding participation in any of the violations mentioned above, the consequence will be doubled.	Double of the normal consequence for specific violation.

**\*\*\*INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE CONSEQUENCES\*\*\***

- **Teen Intervene Program:** Participants who experience their first code violation for Violations A or B, can have the consequence reduced by half, if they successfully participate in the Teen Intervene Program/Teen Court. Successful completion of the program will be determined by the program facilitators and administration.
- **First Offense Self Reporting:** If a student-athlete self-reports a violation within one school day or by the first day of practice, whichever comes first, the consequence will be reduced by half (e.g. 25% to 12.5%),
- **Clean Slate:** Middle School students get a clean slate when entering High School in terms of athletic code violations (provided they have no UNSERVED violations). Athletic code violations that have NOT been served in middle school will carry over to high school.

***NOTE: \*Percentage of season/games is based on originally scheduled games (per WIAA guidelines)***

## **Alleged Violations and Due Process**

1. The principal and/or athletic director will investigate all athletic code violation concerns.
2. Upon completion of the investigation, the principal and/or athletic director will determine if there has been a violation of the code.
3. The athlete and parents will be informed of the outcome of the investigation.
4. The penalty will start the day the violation is proven to have occurred.
5. If a violation of this code occurs at a time when the student is not actively participating in any activity covered by this code the penalty imposed will be served during the next complete athletic season.
6. **A student must participate in the entire season in order for the penalty to have been served.**

7. The penalty will be served during the next full season in which the student competes.

### **Appeal Process:**

1. If the athlete chooses to appeal the decision they must do so in writing within 5 school days to the principal and/or athletic director.
2. This appeal will be heard by 3 coaches appointed by the principal and/or athletic director.
3. The results of this appeal will be sent to the athletic director within 24 hours of the meeting and the athletic director will notify the student and his/her parent/guardian in writing.
4. Final appeal is to the Ladysmith Board of Education.
5. The athlete remains ineligible during all appeal procedures. If a student appeals any suspension of this code, the suspension will be stayed if a hearing is not scheduled within one day of the receipt of the appeal.
6. The student will be provided with an opportunity to testify and present other evidence on his/her behalf.

### **ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS**

1. Athletes found in violation of the code are expected to continue to practice. The athlete may not dress in uniform for competition, participate in warm-ups or competition until the suspension has been completed.
2. **SPECIAL NOTE ON WIAA TOURNAMENTS**
  - a. If an athlete has an athletic code suspension for one or more WIAA tournament competitions, there will be immediate disqualification of the athlete for the remainder of the total tournament series in that sport. The number of contests an athlete may miss, therefore, may exceed the number of contests suspended. **This is a WIAA rule.**

### **WIAA Guidelines**

The Ladysmith High School is a member of the WIAA and must follow all of the rules and guidelines of the WIAA. A copy of these guidelines is available from the Athletic Director or they can be picked up in the office. Also, you can find these guidelines on the WIAA site.

The School District of Ladysmith rules may be more restrictive than the WIAA rules and guidelines. Coaches for their individual sports may also have additional team rules and consequences which are more severe than those listed here. These rules shall be given to the parents/guardians and players after being approved by the principal and/or athletic director.

## Changes to the Athletic Code

Changes to the athletic code will be made as deemed necessary as determined by a 2/3 vote of the athletic council (which is made up of all LHS head coaches) and administration for the upcoming school year.

### School District of Ladysmith: DUAL SPORTS WAIVER

1. Student and parent must have an approved Dual Sports Waiver before the official WIAA start date of either their primary or secondary sport season to qualify for dual sport eligibility.
2. Whenever two contests are scheduled on the same day and there is a conflict, the student must participate in the sport declared by the Event Participation Matrix.
3. When only one contest is scheduled on a given day, the student must participate in the scheduled event of either the primary or secondary sport. Scheduled contests take precedence over all practices.
4. The season prior to participation, the student and parent must request and attend a meeting with the Athletic Director, primary sport coach, and secondary sport coach to specify practice schedule expectations for each sport. Written copies are to be given to the student and the athletic director along with this form. **NOTE:** the head coaches of either sport have the final say when it comes to accepting/denying each waiver.
  - a. **Fall sports=** early in the summer or before the end of the previous school year
  - b. **Winter sports=** at the start of the fall sports seasons
  - c. **Spring sports=** at the start of the winter sports season
5. Absence from practice or an athletic contest to participate in another sport or approved activity will not cause student to be penalized in any way.
6. Each coach needs to specify the criteria for lettering prior to administration approval.
7. If the student violates the co-curricular code or has an academic suspension, the penalty will pertain to both the primary and secondary sports.
8. The student must not have any co-curricular code violations in the previous twelve (12) months, up to the official WIAA start date of either their primary or secondary sport season, to be verified by the Athletic Director.

9. For a student to participate in two sports, he/she must have passed all courses in the last grading period and have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA), or better, to be verified by the 6-12 Principal.

10. The student must have attended at least ninety percent (90%) of all possible instructed days during the current school year at the time of signing this waiver, to be verified by the 6-12 Principal.

**SIGN BELOW**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Coach's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Coach's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Director's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
6-12 Principal's Signature Date

## Addendum

Primary Sport										
	Primary → Secondary ↓	Practice	Scrimmage	Non Conference Game	Conference Game	NonConference Tournament	Conference Tournament	Playoff Regional	Playoff Sectional	State
S e c o n d a r y	Practice	TBD	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary
	Scrimmage	Secondary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary
	NonConference Game	Secondary	Secondary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary
	Conference Game	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary
	NonConference Tournament	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary
	Conference Game	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Primary	Primary	Primary	Primary
S p o r t	Playoff Regional	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Primary	Primary	Primary
	Playoff Sectional	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Primary	Primary
	State	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Secondary	Primary