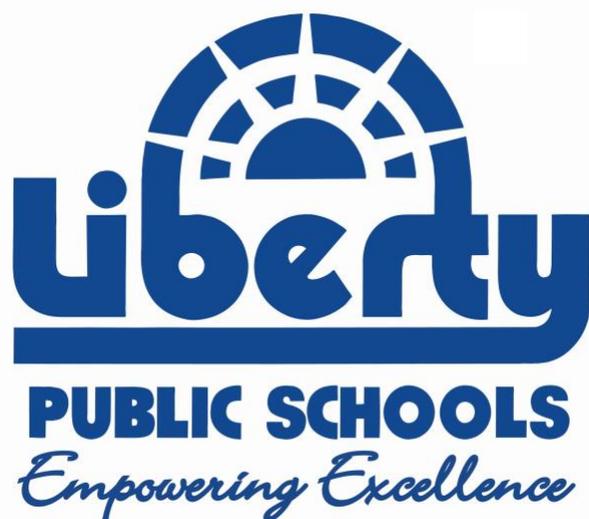


**Liberty Public Schools  
High School  
Athletic / Activities Handbook**



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## ***PHILOSOPHY***

We believe that interscholastic activities shall supplement the secondary curricular program, and as such become a vital part of a student's total educational experience. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to make maximum use of his/her education.

Student participation in any part of our activities is a privilege not a right. This privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community and to the student himself. This participation will help to develop the student physically, mentally, socially and emotionally.

## ***MISSION***

We believe the mission of the Liberty Public School's co-curricular program is to provide opportunities and experiences for all students to develop the following skills:

- Respect for self and others
- Ability to take positive risks
- Appreciation of one's talents and weaknesses
- Recognition of the value of physical, academic, and aesthetic pursuits
- Understanding of teamwork and sharing of common goals which contribute to the good of the whole
- Realization of the importance of life skills
- Awareness of the diversity in one's own and others' cultural backgrounds

We also believe that by the student's involvement in activities, he/she will have built the self-worth and integrity necessary to be able to cope with future successes and failures. To meet this end, the student must have also gained the qualities of realistic goal setting, of positive interdependence, and of moral judgment.

Activities in our program create an avenue of enrichment, entertainment, and proud association for parents and community. Through well-directed activities, we strive to enable students to contribute responsibly and ethically within society, now and in the future.

## ***GOALS***

### **INSTRUCTIONAL PROCESS**

- To teach the students to motivate themselves for excellence.
- To teach fundamental, social, emotional, and academic skills.
- To create opportunities for students to develop self-esteem.
- To effectively evaluate performance.
- To model appropriate behaviors.
- To develop teamwork and loyalty.
- To teach fundamental knowledge of activity.
- To share effective coaching methods.

- To teach responsibility, respect for others and property by developing teamwork and loyalty.

#### PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- To promote involvement in activities and communicate effectively with parents, students, community, and media.
- To create high expectations for achievement in high school programs.
- To promote high standards of academic performance.
- To offer multi-levels of opportunity.
- To encourage student participation.
- To utilize staff and resources effectively.
- To develop effective practice, rehearsal, and schedules to maximize use of time.
- To encourage all participants to support other activities.
- To develop programs for care of injuries and promote overall wellbeing.

#### INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- To promote a positive relationship among team members.
- To develop positive leadership qualities in students.
- To promote appreciation for and acceptance of the differences of others.
- To show respect for the total person on social and emotional levels.
- To promote good working relationships with the administrators.
- To promote a positive image of our programs.
- To develop an attitude of partnership, appreciation, and sportsmanship among coaches, parents, students, and community.
- To communicate with parents, community, and media regarding student programs.

#### PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- To demonstrate a commitment to professional growth.
- To follow policies and procedures of the school district.
- To assume responsibilities outside of coaching as related to school.

## **ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA)**

The Liberty School District is a member of the MSHSAA. The purpose of this organization is to promote, develop, direct, protect, and regulate amateur interscholastic athletic relationships between member schools and to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry, and good sportsmanship among contestants, schools, and communities throughout the state.

### **The Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference**

Liberty and Liberty North High Schools are members of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference which has been organized to stimulate and promote friendly rivalry and greater interest in our high school activities.

Championships in men's sports are recognized in baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, and wrestling. Championships in women's sports are recognized in softball, basketball, cross country, volleyball, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, and track and field.

### **Middle School Athletics**

Eighth grade athletic teams compete with other schools in the suburban area in basketball, cross country, football, track, and volleyball. Seventh grade athletic teams participate in cross country and wrestling.

### **The Superintendent of Schools**

The executive function is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools, who establishes the ways and means of executing efficiently all policies adopted by the Board of Education.

He recommends to the Board of Education the appointment of all personnel who are given any responsibility for handling interscholastic athletics, and he approves all policies and procedures recommended by his staff; and is, in fact, directly responsible to the School Board for the successful performance of the organization.

### **The School Principal**

The school principal is the administrative head of interscholastic athletic activities, as well as all other activities of his/her school. As administrative head of the school, he/she is directly responsible to the Superintendent of Schools, to the MSHSAA, and the Suburban Athletic Conference.

### **The Activities Director**

Under the supervision of the principal, the building athletic director plans, coordinates, promotes, and supervises the total activities program for the school.

## ***SPORTSMANSHIP***

The following policy statement from the **National Federation of State High School Associations** expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows:

*"The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized, by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity."*

One of the main goals of the athletic/activities program is to teach the concept of sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, officials, coaches, and spectators.

Good sportsmanship includes showing courtesy and kindness toward your opponent as well as fellow team members. The contest is judged by the effort of the participants and not by putting down your opponent.

Winning is exciting, but winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant is outside the spirit and interest of the contest.

All MSHSAA sanctioned events are a reflection of our community and school. The conduct of the team is extended to parents and fans before, during, and after athletic events.

## ***STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES***

As a student participant, you are in school to secure the best secondary education you are capable of achieving. Deciding to take advantage of this component plays a significant part in your total educational development. However, with this decision also comes certain responsibility, if the value of activities is to be achieved, namely:

- Striving to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including; control, honesty, cooperation, dependability, and respect for others and their abilities.
- Maintaining academic and eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and the Liberty School District.
- Learning the spirit of hard work and dedication.
- Attaining mental and physical fitness through good health habits.
- Excelling to the limits of your potential.
- Showing respect for both authority and property.
- Willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the activity program.

Athletes need to keep in mind they are in the public eye and their personal conduct always must be above reproach. Athletes have an obligation to create a favorable image and to gain the respect of their teammates, student body, and community.

### ***PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS***

Athletes must have a physical examination before he/she will be allowed to practice for any sport. Per MSHSAA by-laws, a physical is valid for two calendar years from the date of the exam.

The district athletic physical form (MSHSAA Form) must be used.

Parent permission forms, concussion materials, student agreement forms, and pre-participation history forms are included as part of the physical examination packet. Again, all required materials and signatures are needed prior to participation.

Physical examination packet will be on file in the office of the activities director for the high school athletes.

### ***INSURANCE FOR ATHLETES***

Missouri State High School Activities Association policies/bylaws require each student must be covered with athletic insurance before being allowed to practice or compete for a school team.

Parents must contact their own insurance agent to make certain they have appropriate coverage. If you currently do not have proper coverage, please contact your activities director for more information in acquiring insurance.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association, of which Liberty School District is a member, provides catastrophic insurance.

### ***CONCUSSION INFORMATION***

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) requires that all participants, as well as their guardians, receive and acknowledge receipt thereof, the concussion information provided by the school. No student will be allowed to participate until the school has acquired the appropriate signatures.

### ***PAY TO PLAY***

On January 20, 2009, the Board of Education approved a “Pay to Play” policy for all athletes playing Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) sanctioned sports.

The fee for the school year will be a one-time expense of **\$50.00** for the year per athlete. All athletes, seventh through twelfth grade, will be responsible to pay the fee. There will be a maximum of **\$100.00** per family, per year. Any student who is on “free and reduced” status will be exempt from paying the fee.

The MSHSAA activities affected by this policy are; football, softball, tennis, golf, soccer, cross country, volleyball, swim and dive, basketball, wrestling, baseball, and track.

An athlete's name will not appear on the MSHSAA eligibility roster until the fee is paid, resulting in the inability to play in contests.

### ***PROTECT YOUR ELIGIBILITY***

The MSHSAA, of which the Liberty School District is a member, is a voluntary, nonprofit, educational association of junior and senior high schools established for the purpose of working cooperatively in adopting standards for supervising and regulating interscholastic activities and contests.

One of the primary functions of the MSHSAA is to establish eligibility standards that must be met by all students to attain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities.

Eligibility is a PRIVILEGE to be granted by the school to a student, which allows that student to participate in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is NOT A STUDENT'S RIGHT BY LAW. Precedent setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted only if the student meets all standards adopted by the school, which enables the school to grant the student such a privilege.

Listed below is information to acquaint you with the major rules and regulations you must follow in order to protect your eligibility.

1. You must be a creditable school citizen. Creditable school citizens are those students whose conduct, both in and out of school, will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools.
2. Academics
  - a. You must be enrolled in courses offering 3.0 units of credit. (This is normally six courses).
  - b. You must have earned 3.0 units of credit the preceding semester.
  - c. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must not have more than one failing grade from the previous grading period to be eligible. This will be evaluated each grading period.
3. Transferring schools
  - a. Transferring school's may affect your eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities. If you have not been a member of your current school for 365 days, you MUST complete the transfer process with your activities director. This process must be complete prior to competition.
4. Participation limits
  - a. Your eligibility to participate in high school activities begins when you first enter the ninth grade and lasts for the first eight semesters that you are enrolled in high school. Your eighth semester must immediately follow your seventh semester.
  - b. If you reach the age of 19 prior to July 1, you will be ineligible for interscholastic competition the next school year.

5. Non-school competition
  - a. You may not participate in any organized non-school athletic competition and your school team **IN THE SAME SPORT** during the same season with the exception of swimming, tennis, wrestling, cross country, track, and golf (please see the activities director with these circumstances).
  - b. You may participate on a school team and a non-school team in different sports during the same season; however, you may not practice or compete in non-school organized athletic competition **ON THE SAME DAY** that you practice or compete with your school team without approval of the school administration.
  - c. Before you join any non-school team or enter any non-school competition involving athletics, check with the activities director to make certain these standards are being met.
6. You may participate in an “audition” or “tryout” for a college team only after you have completed your last season of eligibility in the sport for which you wish to tryout.
7. You may not compete in an all-star game or contest before you complete your eligibility in all high school sports.
8. Any individual receiving information concerning colleges for scholarship opportunities for our students/athletes will be distributed by the specific coaches.

**A REMINDER:** Any questions pertaining to eligibility that are not answered Above, should be brought to the attention of the activities director prior to participation in the event.

**\*\*The above list of MSHSAA policies are not all encompassing. It is the student-athletes responsibility to know all MSHSAA policies concerning participation in extra-curricular activities. Please review the MSHSAA web-site for the complete listing of policies.  
[www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)**

### ***ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY***

A student shall not be considered eligible to participate in contests while under **suspension**. This would include in-school and out-of-school suspensions. The student athlete may NOT practice while serving out-of-school suspension. The student will once again be eligible when he/she attends a full day of class. Students serving an in-school suspension will be allowed to attend practice while serving their suspension. The student will once again be eligible upon completion of the suspension. The student who is expelled or who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal. If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Furthermore, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes (or has an excused absence(s) from class) without an unexcused absence.

## ***CITIZENSHIP GUIDELINES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION***

To be eligible to participate in school activities is a privilege, not an inherent right, and therefore requires certain behaviors and attitudes. More specifically, any student who represents his or her school in activities must be a credible citizen and be judged so by proper school authority certifying the list of students for participation.

A student whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon himself/herself or his/her school is not considered a creditable citizen. His/her conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline. Students who participate in the activities, athletics, or performing arts programs, should remember the rewards, recognition, and notoriety that comes with involvement also carries a high degree of school, civic, and individual discipline and responsibility.

Besides the possibility of losing eligibility for inappropriate behavior, students involved in the extracurricular activities programs are also subject to the disciplinary consequences listed in the Student Handbook.

It is understood that citizenship eligibility cases are handled on an individual basis by the sponsor/coach/director/supervisor, principal, activities director, parents, and student. However, it is also felt that system-wide guidelines will assist in the uniform handling of such cases. Cases will be investigated when: police records are available, a district employee has first-hand knowledge, and/or there is student admission.

Students should always remember to conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect positively upon themselves, family, school, and community.

To clearly outline and define the disciplinary action, the following guidelines are provided for students.

1. **Citizenship** - Students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their school is **NOT** considered a “credible citizen”. This includes violations of public law and/or school policy.

**Violation Penalty** - A student who is under arrest for a municipal ordinance violation, misdemeanor, or felony will be suspended from competition in extracurricular activities and remain ineligible until his/her judgment is satisfied according to public law and/or school policy. **This includes violations that take place during the season and/or non-season including evenings, and weekends.** School officials may deny participation in all extracurricular activities to a student convicted or found “not innocent” of a municipal ordinance, misdemeanor, or felony.

**\*Reinstatement - Reinstatement to the activity/athletic team(s) may be granted after a review by the school administration and the sponsor/coach.**

2. **Use or possession of nicotine products, including vaping products, by athletic program participants is prohibited.**
  - A. **First Offense:** At a minimum, an athlete will be suspended for 20% of the total allowable competitions for that season.

- B. **Second Offense:** Suspension for the remainder of the season may result. Decisions regarding removal will be made by the athletic director.
3. **Use or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, narcotics, or hallucinating agents by athletic program participants is prohibited.**
- A. **First Offense:** At a minimum, the athlete will be suspended from the squad for 25% of the season. At the end of this period, following counseling by the head coach and a school administrator, a decision regarding further competition will be made.
- B. **Second Offense:** The individual will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Decisions on suspension from programs will be made by the athletic director.
- C. **Third Offense:** The individual will be suspended from all extra-curricular activities for one full calendar year (365 days). Decisions on suspension from programs will be made by the athletic director.

**\*The above consequences are a minimum. Programs have the latitude to implement additional consequences as long as they are communicated prior to the season starting.**

#### ***DUE PROCESS AND APPEALS***

Students will have the opportunity to express their side of any incident in which they may be involved. Parents/Guardians may be involved with students during the meetings. The coach/sponsor, in consultation with the activities director and school administrator, may suspend a student from activities after having given him/her the right to be heard. The suspension decision may be appealed to the principal. The principal's decision will be final. The student and/or his/her parent/guardian may appeal actions taken pursuant to this policy.

**\*Any incidents which occur that are not covered by these guidelines will be reviewed on an individual basis and decisions related to penalties will be made jointly by the school administration and coach/sponsor.**

#### ***HAZING***

Student hazing is expressly prohibited by Board of Education policy (Policy, Regulation, and Form JFCF). For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any activity, on or off school grounds, that a reasonable person believes would negatively impact the mental or physical health or safety of a student or put the student in a ridiculous, humiliating, stressful or disconcerting position for the purposes of initiation, affiliation, admission, membership or maintenance of membership in any group, class, organization, club or athletic team including, but not limited to, a grade level, student organization or school-sponsored activity.

Hazing may include those actions that subject a student to extreme mental stress including, but not limited to, sleep deprivation, physical confinement, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment or criminal activity, or other stress-inducing

activities. Hazing may also include, but is not limited to: acts of physical brutality; whipping; beating; branding; exposing to the elements; forcing consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance; forcing inhalation or ingestion of tobacco products; or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of an individual.

Hazing may occur even when all students involved are willing participants. Hazing does not occur when a student is required to audition or try out for an organization when the criteria are reasonable, approved by the district and legitimately related to the purpose of the organization.

Students found to have violated this policy will be subject to suspension/expulsion from school and suspension/exclusion from activities/athletic participation depending on the severity of the misconduct per Board Policy.

Non-students who participate or enable the hazing of students may be excluded from attendance at school activities and school athletic events. District employees, including sponsors and coaches who have knowledge of school hazing, but fail to take corrective action, will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of district employment. Any student reporting an act of hazing to a staff member shall remain anonymous. **If hazing occurs, coaches/sponsors must report the incident to school administration immediately.**

### ***CONFLICTS BETWEEN ACTIVITIES***

Students should make the best choices when participating in activities to avoid conflicts between activities. This involves good communication, decision-making skills, prioritizing, and long-range goals and aspirations. However, when a conflict arises between two school-sponsored activities, consideration should be given to the following list: (Ultimately, the decision will be made by the student with no repercussions).

1. Do everything possible to participate in both activities!
2. State/National contest/event
3. District contest/event
4. Conference contest
5. Non-Conference/Concert contest/event
6. Practice/Dress Rehearsal

### ***CARE OF EQUIPMENT***

In order to give athletes a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of their equipment, squad members are to be held accountable for the abuse or loss of it. The cooperation of all coaches is solicited in seeing that players maintain proper care of all athletic equipment.

It is the responsibility of the head coach to see that players always put away and check in their equipment after games and practices.

Any equipment lost by an athlete must be paid for by the athlete.

Any loss of equipment should be immediately reported to the head coach, rather than waiting until the end of the season.

Coaches are to inform their players not to exchange any equipment (practice or game). If it is necessary to make an adjustment, then this is to be done through the coaches.

Coaches shall make clear to the members of their squads that any member of the coaching staff, teachers, principals, or the activities director has the prerogative to command proper use of any school equipment and/or facilities at any time.

No students or athletes are to use the gyms, athletic areas, weight rooms, locker rooms, or showers unless supervised by a coach or faculty member.

ALL EQUIPMENT FROM A SPORT MUST BE TURNED IN AND/OR ALL EQUIPMENT DEBTS FROM A SPORT MUST BE PAID BEFORE AN ATHLETE WILL BE PERMITTED TO COMPETE OR PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER SPORT OR ACTIVITY.

### ***ATHLETIC AWARDS***

An athletic award is a symbol of athletic accomplishment, good sportsmanship, and observance of athletic policies. Student athletes, managers, trainers, and cheerleaders are eligible to earn awards. No student athlete may receive an award in a sport for which he/she is academically ineligible at the completion of the season or if under suspension for an athletic violation. Candidates must complete the season's play; however, this requirement may be waived in cases of physical injury. No awards will be issued to an athlete until all equipment for his/her sport is turned in to the coach.

### ***TRANSPORTATION***

All students will be transported to and from extracurricular activities using district transportation, unless prior arrangements have been made. Prior arrangements must be approved by the activities director and/or the principal.

Students will be allowed to ride with their parents to and from contests with prior approval through the activities director and/ or principal. Parents will be allowed to transport their child only.

From time to time it may be necessary for students to transport other students to an extra-curricular activity. Prior approval must be given from a coach and/or administrator when this happens.

### ***SUNDAY PRACTICE***

A team may have a practice on Sunday afternoon/evening to prepare for a Monday contest. Like all practices, if an athlete has to miss for any reason, we expect the student/athlete to communicate with the head coach should he/she need to miss practice.

### ***UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT***

A display of unsportsmanlike conduct, the use of profanity, insubordination, or other behavior unbecoming an athlete during practice or contest will result in disciplinary action. The coach has the responsibility and the authority to take action that will result in what is best for the individual, the team, and the school. Disciplinary action may range from a verbal warning, counseling, or suspension. Dismissal from the team may result after the coach has made a recommendation to the activities director and/or principal.

### ***TRAINING ROOM***

The training room is available to all athletes. Athletes are offered a wide variety of services to help meet the demands of athletic competition. If you sustain an injury, please communicate and work with our certified athletic trainers. Working closely with our trainings is the best avenue in returning to competition.

### ***SUPERVISION POLICY***

No individual student, team, or activity group shall be permitted to participate in events without being accompanied and supervised by a representative of the school faculty or administrative staff. Activity sponsors are responsible for supervision of groups while on the bus traveling to and from events, while at the events, and until the students' rides arrive. Activity may not occur without school representative supervision. This includes but is not exclusive to: practices, meetings, performances, and contests.

### ***PARENT INFORMATION***

Communications: Parent/Coach Relationship.

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, everyone is better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. As parents, when your student becomes involved in a program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student's program. Coaches and parents are expected to encourage and praise students in their attempt to improve themselves as students, athletes, and citizens. Parents can facilitate this by gaining an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the sport/activity and the expectations placed on your student.

Communication That Coaches/Staff Advisors Expect From Parents:

1. Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach/staff advisor.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts should be shared well in advance.
3. An appointment should be scheduled to discuss any specific concern in regard to a coach's/staff advisor's philosophy and/or expectations if there is ever a question.

Parents and coaches should help their students learn that success is achieved in the development of a skill and should make student-athletes feel good about themselves, regardless of the outcome of any contest. As student(s) become involved in the programs in the Liberty 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 student(s) wish. If you, as a parent, have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, being sure to follow the designated communication ladder. At these times, discussion with the coach/advisor is encouraged.

Communications You Should Expect From Your Student's Coach/Staff Advisor:

1. Philosophy of the coach/staff advisor.
2. Expectations the coach/staff advisor has for your student as well as for all the students involved in the activity.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your student be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your student's participation.
7. Requirements to earn a school letter for that activity.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches/Staff Advisors:

1. The treatment of your student mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your student improve and see more playing time.
3. Concern's about your student's behavior.

Sometimes it is very difficult to accept your student not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches/staff advisors are professionals. They 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 and should be discussed with your student's coach/staff advisor. Other things, such as those listed next, will be left to the discretion of the coach/staff advisor.

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches/Staff Advisors:

1. Team strategy.
2. Play calling.
3. Other student-athletes/participants.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/ staff advisor and the parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. Everyone involved is expected to be respectful, to recognize and show appreciation of the other's role, and to reinforce the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook. When you as a parent, or the coach/staff advisor feel a conference is necessary, we ask that both parties keep in mind our communication ladder policy which is stated below.

Communication Ladder:

**1. Athlete – Coach Meeting (Mandatory).**

If a player or his/her parent has any issue or problem with his/her sport experience, the student-athlete is expected to address the coach. Athletes are also encouraged to talk with the coach about any issue in their personal or academic lives. The district's expectations of coaches include open communication and positive relations. Coaches have been trained on communication and counseling skills.

**2. Athlete – Parent – Coach Meeting.**

If an issue has not been resolved in step one, this is the next step in the chain of communication. The guideline here is to set up an appointment at the coach's discretion. If the issue is emotional, the appointment should be scheduled at a later time so the parties involved are calm and problem solving can occur. Also, the parent or player should define the purpose of the session when the appointment is set.

Parents who try to discuss important issues with a coach as they are walking off the game or practice field would be an example of circumvention of this process.

In this step, there may be rare cases when it may be best if the athlete does not participate in the session. If either the parent or coach feels this is the case, this should be discussed when setting the appointment and purpose of the meeting.

**3. Athlete – Parent – Coach – Administrator Meeting.**

If an issue is not resolved in step two, this is the next step in the chain of communication. This step may be initiated by any party. Using the same process as above, an appointment is set and all parties define the purpose of the meeting.

Again, there may be cases where it is appropriate an athlete not be present. This is to be discussed and determined prior to the appointment.

***COMPETITIVE PROGRAM SELECTION***

1. Coaches/sponsors are hired by the school district to be responsible for establishing criteria for selection with input from their staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Selection and decisions regarding game/performance situations are the sole responsibility of this staff.
2. At times, there are limited opportunities for students due to our large school size and the competitive nature of high school athletics/activities. While this is not our desire, it is a reality. It is extremely difficult for coaches/sponsors to tell young people they will not be placed on the team/performance group for which they want to participate, or that they have not made any team/performance group at all. All students, regardless of their grade in school, should understand that these are real possibilities.

3. If selected, a student should be prepared to accept placement at any level and complete the season in good standing. Parents should also prepare themselves for this and accept the coach's/sponsor's decisions.
4. Coaches/sponsors are expected to assemble the most competitive team possible, by selecting individuals, filling positions according to need and appropriately placing students on the proper team/performance group, then defining each individual's role, based on certain criteria, including but not limited to, citizenship, sport/activity specific ability, sport/activity specific skills, ability to work together, and willingness to learn.
5. Underclass students have the same opportunity to make a varsity team/performance group as a senior does. In order to make a varsity team/performance group as a senior, a student must be willing to fulfill a role that the team/performance group needs.
6. There are many non-school teams/performance groups sponsored by different organizations through which students can gain valuable experiences by participating on these teams/performance groups. However, it is very important that students and parents understand that participation on a non-school team/performance group does not guarantee any player a place on the high school team/performance group.
7. The main goal of any level of competitive athletics/activities is to put the most talented members of any team/performance group in competition to win the contests. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to anyone. Each member of a team/performance group is valuable to the team's/performance group's overall progress. Some members may play a great deal of the time in a contest while others may not play what a parent would consider "significant playing time." Regardless of time spent in actual competition, simply by being part of a team/performance group, a student can learn many valuable lessons such as: sportsmanship, working together to meet team/performance group goals, commitment, placing team/performance group above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, and being responsible for one's own actions.

**CONFERENCE AFFILIATION**

The Liberty School District is a cooperating member of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Association of Cooperating Schools, and, as a member, is committed to adhere to the rules and regulations of the association.

Presently there are 25 member schools, which are divided into four divisions with each division based upon the population of each individual school. The division by population is as follows:

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>BLUE</b>
Blue Springs	Lee’s Summit	Belton	Grain Valley
Blue Springs South	Liberty	Ft. Osage	GrandView
Lee’s Summit North	Liberty North	North Kansas City	Kearney
Lee’s Summit West	Park Hill South	Oak Park	Platte County
Park Hill	St. Joe Central	Raytown	Raytown South
Raymore-Peculiar	Staley	Ruskin	Smithville
	Truman	William Chrisman	Winnetonka

**SPORTS BY SEASON**

**FALL**

Girls Cross Country: V, JV, 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>  
Boys Cross Country: V, JV, 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>  
Volleyball: V, JV, 9<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls Tennis: V, JV  
Boys Soccer: V, JV, C

Football: V, JV, 10<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls Golf: V, JV  
Softball: V, JV, C  
Boys Swim and Dive: V, JV

**WINTER**

Girls Basketball: V, JV, 10<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Boys Basketball: V, JV, 10<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls Swim and Dive: V, JV

Boys Wrestling: V, JV, 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>  
Girls Wrestling: V, JV, 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>

**SPRING**

Boys Golf: V, JV  
Boys Tennis: V, JV  
Baseball: V, JV, C

Boys Track: V, JV, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls Track: V, JV, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Girls Soccer: V, JV, C

**EXTRA CURRICULAR INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES**

- Academic Scholars Bowl: V, JV (MSHSAA)
- Fall Cheerleading: V, JV, 9<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> (MSHSAA)
- Winter Cheerleading: V, JV, 9<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> (MSHSAA)
- Dance Team – V, JV (MSHSAA)

### ***CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES***

Band-concert, marching band, pep band (MSHSAA)  
Choir (MSHSAA)  
Drama (MSHSAA)  
Flag Corps (MSHSAA)  
Forensics (MSHSAA)  
Speech and Debate (MSHSAA)

### ***CONTACT INFORMATION***

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LHS 9-12th Blue Jays Athletic Website  
<https://lhsathletics.lps53.org/>

Liberty North High School  
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(816)736-5501

LN 9-12th Eagles Athletic Website  
<https://lneaglepride.lps53.org/>

### **Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA):**

1 North Keene Street  
Columbia MO 65203  
573-875-4880  
[www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)