



## **Liberty High School**

### **Athletics Code of Conduct**

**Objective:** Student-athletes are expected to perform at a high level, both on and off the field. As ambassadors for their team(s), Liberty High School, and their community. The success and the integrity of the Liberty Athletics Program depends on it. The code of conduct outlines clear rules, norms and behavioral expectations and requirements for athletes, parents, and coaches to abide by.

**Standards of Excellence:** Liberty High School is proud of its Athletic Programs and the many contributions our student-athletes have made to build a strong sense of community and family. We expect that all students will continue to embrace the school's tradition of excellence in academics, sportsmanship, citizenship, and fair play. Students participating in sport activities represent Liberty High School in the community, district, region, state, and even the nation. The opportunity to participate in Liberty's Athletic Program is a PRIVILEGE, not a right!

To remain eligible for sport activities, student-athletes must meet the requirements and fulfill the responsibilities outlined below. These standards apply 24 hours a day for the duration of an activity season. An activity season is that span of time that commences with the first team meeting, tryouts, and runs through any preseason and regular season practices, games, and concludes with any postseason or state qualifying contest. Failure to adhere to the terms and conditions of this agreement could result in immediate removal of participation in Liberty's Athletic Programs.

#### **Address Change:**

- If at any time, a student has a change of address, the parent or student must inform the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and School Registrar immediately.
  - This includes moving from one parent or relative to another.

- Failure to do so can result in forfeiting of games and/or the season as well as fines issues by the FHSAA..

Attendance:

- Students must attend at least four (4) periods or 50% of their scheduled school day to participate in conditioning, practices, and/or games (including traveling with teams).
  - If 4 or more periods of school are missed (due to illness, religious issues, etc.), the student-athlete/team manager must contact the Head Coach immediately.
  - It is at the discretion of the Assistant Principal over Athletics and the Athletic Director to excuse an absence, granting a student eligible to participate in conditioning, practice, and/or games.
    - Students absent due to illness will not be allowed to participate in athletic activities the same day.
    - If it is discovered that a student-athlete participated in any sport activity and did not attend school for at least four (4) periods, the student can be suspended from participation in Liberty's Athletic Program. The time frame will be determined by the Head Coach and Athletic Director.
- Skipping class may result in suspension from the team. Students with repeated offenses (3 times or more skipping class) may be dismissed from the team.
- Students are expected to follow the School District Attendance Policy.
- Students that are assigned to a detention by teacher or administration; must serve the detention.
  - Detention takes precedence over team practices and games.
- Students that are in ISS or OSS are automatically suspended from conditioning, practices, and/or games (including traveling with teams). They are not allowed to be on campus for any reason while serving out of school suspension.
- If a student is sanctioned by law enforcement outside of school, he/she will not be allowed to participate in conditioning, practice, and/or games.

Academics:

- “A high school student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, at the conclusion of each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester.” - per the FHSAA
  - “All high school level courses must be counted towards the student’s cumulative GPA, including those taken before the student entered high school.” - per the FHSAA
  - “A student’s academic eligibility is determined by his/her GPA on the first day of each semester. A student’s academic eligibility cannot change during the semester. Any coursework completed throughout the semester will be calculated into the GPA at the conclusion of the semester.” - per the FHSAA
- Student-athletes must remain in good academic standing for the duration of their season. This includes:
  - On track for graduation per their guidance counselor
  - Passing all enrolled classes
  - Students not meeting the above standards will be placed in a probationary period where an individualized academic performance contract will be created by a team including the student, their parents/guardians, Head Coach, Athletic Director, guidance counselor, and Assistant Principal over Athletics.
    - Failure to follow the outlined plan may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.
- Osceola School District offers a wide variety of athletic opportunities. A student shall be eligible during the first semester of their ninth-grade year provided that it is the student’s first entry in the ninth grade, and they were regularly promoted from the eighth grade the immediate preceding year. After the first semester, all eligibility rules will apply. For a student to be eligible to participate in athletics, they must:
  - Be a registered student carrying a full credit load,
  - **Maintain an overall 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 unweighted scale.**
  - Must not turn 19 prior to July 1
  - May not have enrolled for more than 8 semesters, and
  - Have passed a pre-participation physical each year. Any athlete who has had a significant illness or injury since their last participation in a sport must be re-examined and can only return with a doctor’s note.

#### Alcohol/Illegal Drugs/Tobacco/Vaping:

- The use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, and vaping is a violation of the SDOC Student Code of Conduct and will be handled according to school board rules.
  - This rule applies 365 days per year

#### Social Media:

- Includes, but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, TikTok, etc.
  - Students utilizing social media to threaten, intimidate, harass, or entice other students, coaches, or administration, at LBHS or any school, may be subject to immediate disciplinary action up to, and including, dismissal from team by the Head Coach, Principal, and/or Athletic Director.
  - Students utilizing social media to post images depicting the use of alcohol, drugs, or suggestive behavior that is not deemed conducive to the image expected of a Liberty student-athlete/team manager, may be subject to immediate disciplinary action up to, and including, dismissal from team by the Head Coach, Principal, and/or Athletic Director.

#### Transportation:

- **If a county bus or charter bus is not made available, then all transportation to and from contests/practices is the responsibility of the legal guardians to make arrangements to and from athletic contests.**

#### Uniforms/Equipment:

- You are responsible for any and all uniforms and equipment you were assigned for the current season (including fundraising money).
  - Failure to return uniforms or equipment (including fundraising money) will result in your name being placed on a “Student-Obligation” list
    - Obligations will hinder your opportunities to attend Homecoming, Prom, and Graduation

- Damaged uniforms and equipment are the student-athletes responsibility to replace/pay for (at the Head Coach's discretion).

#### Injuries:

- Injuries must be reported to the Athletic Trainer via email by the student or parent/guardian within 48 hours.
- Must file claims through School Insurance of Florida. If an injury occurs a card will be provided for who to contact to handle your claim.
- Injured athletes are expected to attend practices and games (if possible)
- Medical documentation clearly stating athletes' diagnosis and restrictions, or clearance must be submitted to the Sports Medicine Department prior to return to participation after physician visit.

#### Practice:

- Practice schedules will be posted by the Head Coach at the beginning of the season and may vary depending on weather, field availability, playoffs schedule, etc.
  - Students are expected to attend all practices to participate in competition
  - Changes in practice schedules will be communicated through school announcements, email, team group chats, Blackboard, social media, etc.

**Sportsmanship:** A student who commits an act of malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Such acts may include, but are not limited to, profanity, striking or threatening a contest official; physical contact with opponent which is beyond the normal scope of competition; spitting on a contest official or opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest; or such acts deemed to be unacceptable conduct according to the Principal, Athletic Director, or the FHSAA.

*Coaches, student-athletes, team managers, parents, and spectators are expected to exhibit behaviors that are exemplary and exceptional at all times.* The following is a list of Sportsmanship Expectations that must be followed at all Athletic Events, home and away:

#### Student-Athlete/Team Manager:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of his/her responsibility and the privilege of representing Liberty High School and this community
- Treat coaches and teammates with respect
- Present yourself in a positive manner as a representative of Liberty High School (dress, mannerisms, language, etc.)
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and fellow players/students
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or a friend
  - Refrain from taunting, trash talking, and making any kind of derogatory remarks to opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial, and sexual nature.
  - Refrain from intimidating behavior
  - Wish opponents good luck prior to the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following the game; no matter if you win or lose.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials
- Win with humility and lose with grace. Do both with dignity and respect.
- A student-athlete who misbehaves at an athletic event or who is ejected from a contest is subject to school disciplinary action.
  - The student-athlete is required to meet with the Athletic Director BEFORE he/she is allowed to return to the team
    - The Athletic Director will schedule the meeting with the student at the earliest possible time during the next school day
  - If the ejection of a student-athlete results in a fine assessed by the FHSAA, the student-athlete is responsible for paying the fine.
    - It will not be paid for by the school or the team's internal account.

Parent/Spectator:

- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes will be made sometimes.
- Remember that a ticket to any athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.
- Remember that you are at a contest to support the team and enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.

- Signs and banners must be in good taste and should not make derogatory or challenging references to opposing teams.
- Signs and banners should never be paraded before an opposing team's bench or bleachers.
- Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to the coaches or opponents during the game.
- Learn the rules of the game so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
  - Those who fail to show respect, violate rules or are disruptive will be asked to leave the supporting event or practice. Refunds will not be issued.
  - Repeat offenders will be barred from further athletic events in that sport for the remainder of the season.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgement of game officials.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during an event as well as afterwards on or near the site of the event.

#### Awards:

- Letters:
  - To receive a **VARSITY LETTER**, a student-athlete must have completed the season in good standing (maintain eligibility)
    - Must have attended all games and practices unless excused by the Head Coach
    - Must have met the minimum requirements set by the coaches for his/her sport
- Certificates:
  - Junior Varsity & Freshman athletics will **NOT** receive letters, they will receive certificates only.
- Signing Day Parties/Celebrations:

- There will be 2 signing day parties/celebrations throughout the year (Fall & Spring). Dates will be set by the Athletic Department at the beginning of each year.
- Student-Athletes or their Head Coach must fill out the Teams Form in advance.
- Signing Events are ONLY for those students who played for Liberty High School during their SENIOR year.
- Signing Events are ONLY for those students who received a full or partial Athletic Scholarship from their post-secondary institution.

### **Consequences for violation of Department of Athletics Code of Conduct**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Violation: Suspension from the team for a time frame determined at the discretion of the Athletic Director.
- Subsequent violations: Removal from team and possibly all athletic privileges for the academic year depending on severity. If applicable, the student must complete a counseling program for substance abuse and provide documentation in order to continue in athletics the following year.
- The consequences may carry over to the next sports season the athlete plays in or even the following school year.
- Any equipment or materials issued to a student and not returned, or returned in a damaged condition, must be paid for before the student is permitted to participate in any other interscholastic athletic activity.



## **Code of Conduct/Eligibility for Participation in Interscholastic Athletics**

As a student-athlete at Liberty High School (LBHS), I will:

1. Consistently attend all classes as assigned, on time and attentively, and follow the School District of Osceola County (SDOC) Dress Code as outlined in the SDOC Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Policy.
2. Students are prohibited from the use, possession, sale of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or paraphernalia (such as vape pens, cartridges, pipes, etc.) during and out of school or as a part of school sanctioned events.
3. Students assigned out-of-school suspension are prohibited from participating in games or practices during their suspension. Students assigned in-school suspension may participate in practice but are unable to participate in contests during that time period.
4. Students with less than a 2.0 GPA in core classes and not putting forth an appropriate level of effort are prohibited from participating in interscholastic athletics until they are academically eligible.
5. A student may be suspended from team participation for improper or unsportsmanlike conduct, disrespectful behavior including but not limited to obscene language and/or gestures and insubordination. Also, in accordance with Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and SDOC policy, ALL participants are subject to possible suspension and monetary fines for unsportsmanlike conduct in all sanctioned events.
6. Use only school issued equipment/uniforms meeting standards set by National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS) guidelines, and return any/all equipment, uniforms, etc. issued to the student-athlete in good condition at the end of the season or prior to participation in another activity, whichever comes first.
7. Any student-athlete that quits a sport prior to the end of the season, must clear any obligations with that coach prior to participation in another activity and cannot participate in the next sport until previous sport season is completed, unless excused by the Athletic Director.
8. Show respect for yourself, your teammates, coaches, teachers, administration, school staff, officials, opposing student-athletes, coaches, and community members.
9. Be a role model of good character/conduct in school, at practice, games, and within the community as you are an ambassador of LBHS and a highly visible member of the student body.

10. Respect facilities and equipment at LBHS as well as other schools that we visit as a member of our athletic programs.
11. Attend all practices and events throughout the season unless excused by the Head Coach.
12. Student Athletes must attend at least a half day of school in order to participate in an Athletic Contest.

Consequences of breaking this code of conduct can range from a one game suspension to a year suspension, based on the nature of the misconduct, level of severity, and the number of times it occurs.

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Student-Athlete Printed Name & Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Printed Name & Signature

Date