

Le Mars Community School Student/Athlete Activities Handbook

The interscholastic athletics and activities are an integral part of the total school program. The Le Mars Community Schools' interscholastic athletic programs and extracurricular activities are classrooms which teach educational values such as desire, determination, discipline, respect, integrity, sacrifice, pride, dignity, responsibility, and leadership.

The Le Mars Community School District does not discriminate in its programs and activities with regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap.

Not every student is willing to make the sacrifice necessary to be a member of an athletic team or any extracurricular activity. Participants should also be good citizens willing to abide by prescribed rules and standards. Team and group membership carries with it a great deal of responsibility.

In order that standards and ideals of middle school and senior high activities will be upheld and uniformly enforced, the Le Mars Community Schools has established minimum rules, which each student/athlete/participant should read and be responsible for knowing. If you have any questions, you may contact your coach or the Activities Director (s).

General Reminders

I. **Physicals and Insurance**

Before any athlete will be allowed to start practice, they must have the following:

- 1) A recent physical examination from a doctor. Physicals are good for one year.
- 2) Have an accident insurance waiver form from the school signed by a parent or guardian, or take out accident insurance provided by the school.

II. **School Attendance**

- 1) A participant will be ineligible to practice or participate in his/her activity on days that they are absent due to illness.
- 2) Participants who are absent for any other reason are ineligible on that day, unless it has been cleared in advance with the Assistant Principal or Activities Director.
- 3) An unexcused absence from any class during a particular school day will make that person ineligible for that day.

III. **PE/SC – Extra Curricular Participation**

Students who bring medical notes excusing them from PE or SC will also be excused from participating in extracurricular activities (non-graded). In order to be reinstated in PE/SC and activities, students will need to bring a doctor's note clearing them for participation.

IV. **Make Up Work**

When an absence is due to a school activity all work due the day of the absence must be completed and turned in before you leave. Work assigned for the day following the absence; must be completed when you arrive at class the next day.

V. **Transportation**

Students representing our school at away extra-curricular activities must go and return on the assigned school vehicle that has been designated for that particular event. A student may travel with their parent(s) to and from an event only if it is cleared through the faculty sponsor or coach. In a few extenuating circumstances, a student may travel with another parent **only if it is cleared through the Administration in advance**. At no time may a student travel with another student.

VI. **Wednesday Evening Activities**

Wednesday evening is reserved for students to participate in activities other than school activities such as church related events. LeMars Community Schools will cooperate by keeping Wednesday evening free from scheduled events and practices during the academic school year. All practices will be concluded 6:00 pm. The only exception of an activity on Wednesday nights is if it is sponsored and scheduled by the Iowa High School Athletic Association and/or Iowa Girl's High School Athletic Union.

Informational Sites

Information about high school activities and athletics may be accessed through the following websites:

- 1) Iowa High School Music Association www.ihsma.org
- 2) Iowa High School Speech Association www.ihssa.org
- 3) Iowa Cheer Coaches Association www.iowacheercoaches.org
- 4) Iowa High School Athletic Association www.iahsaa.org
- 5) Iowa Girl's High School Athletic Union www.ighsau.org
- 6) Iowa Department of Education www.state.ia.us/educate
- 7) Quick Stats www.quikstatsiowa.com
- 8) Le Mars Community & Lakes Conference Activities www.lakesconference.org

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Revised 2016-2017)

The Board of Directors of the Le Mars Community School District offers a variety of voluntary activities designed to enhance the classroom education of its students. Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year, whether away from or at school. Students who wish to exercise the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities that are illegal, immoral, unhealthy, or highly inappropriate. Participation in these activities is a privilege, conditioned upon meeting the eligibility criteria established by the board, administration, and individual activity coaches and sponsors.

A Le Mars Community School Participant is regarded as a participant year-round and not simply during the season, or during the school year. Once you have elected to represent L.C.S. publicly, through athletics or other activities, and are identified and/or recognized as such, you will be expected to abide by these rules and regulations at all times until you finish school (throughout the school year and summer). The following rules pertain to all students in grades 7-12 who are participating in the Le Mars Community School activity programs. Students who choose to represent the Le Mars Community School in its extracurricular activities have availed themselves of special opportunities. They are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner both within the school setting and at other times.

Participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students who choose to participate must abide by the rules set in the code of conduct.

The Activities Director(s) shall keep records of violations of the Good Conduct Rule.

The following activities are covered by the board's policy and these rules:

Athletics, instrumental and vocal music performances, drama productions, speech contests, FFA, FHA, National Honor Society, all co-curricular clubs (e.g. Spanish Club, Science Club), all honorary and elected offices (e.g., Homecoming King/Queen/court, class officer, student government officer or representative), state contests and performance for cheerleading and drill/dance team, NASA, Quiz Bowl, or any other activity where the student represents the school (district) outside the classroom.

Academic Eligibility

To be academically eligible for an activity, students participating must:

- be enrolled students of the school in good standing
- receive credit in at least four subjects, each of one period or “hour” or the equivalent thereof, at all times
- pass all courses for which credit is awarded the previous semester

STATE SCHLORARSHIP RULES (checked at the end of each semester)

Athletic Academic Ineligibility

If at the end of any grading period a contestant is given a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the contestant is ineligible to dress for and complete in the next occurring interscholastic athletic contests and competitions in which the contestant for **30 consecutive calendar days**.

Speech and Music Academic Ineligibility

If at the end of any grading period a Participant receives a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the participant is ineligible to participate in any competitive event sanctioned by the IHSMA or any IHSMA sponsored event that is not-graded (event doesn't affect course GPA) within a period of **30 consecutive school days**. The period of ineligibility will begin with the first school day following the day grades are issued by the school district.

LCHS SCHLORARSHIP RULE

All participants shall have passed four full-time subjects at the end of the 1st and 3rd Quarters. If that student fails to pass four subjects (twenty semester hours) they will be ineligible for the 2nd and 4th Quarters.

*****Tutorial room** will be open from 8:00-4:00 for those students seeking additional help in all subject areas and /or to help organize them for the week ahead.

***Special education students or students covered by a Section 504 plan shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress, as determined by the student's team, towards the goals and objectives on the student's IEP or 504 plan.

Code 502.1.1 EXTRA-CURRICULAR GOOD CONDUCT CODE

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the policies, rules and regulations of the Le Mars Community School District and its member schools as well as in compliance with all federal, state and municipal laws. Student eligibility to participate in activities, performances or contests as representatives of the schools or school district is dependent upon the student's conduct throughout the calendar year in relation to this Code.

Violations of this Code that will impact upon participation eligibility include but are not necessarily limited to any of the following:

1. An admission, a finding of violation by school administration officials based on a preponderance of the evidence, a plea of guilty in court, or a court finding of guilty for possession, consumption, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages;
2. An admission, a finding of violation by school administration officials based on a preponderance of the evidence, a plea of guilty in court, or a court finding of guilty for the possession, use, distribution or sale of illicit drug paraphernalia, substances represented to be illicit drugs, or actual illicit drugs to include identifiable illicit drug residue;
3. An admission, a finding of violation by school administration officials based on a preponderance of the evidence, a plea of guilty in court, or a court finding of guilty for the possession, use, distribution or sale of tobacco products;
4. An admission, a plea of guilty in court, or a court finding of guilty for the commission of any crime with the exception of a citation for minor traffic law violations;

5. Infraction(s) concerning school rules to include, but not necessarily be limited to, intentional damage to school property, excessive unexcused absence, flagrant and/or repeated insubordination, harassment or assaultive behavior directed toward other students or school personnel, or other actions which significantly disrupt the educational process.

*******In the event that a student finds himself or herself in the company of others where conduct prohibited under this Code is taking place, and he or she fails to leave the vicinity as soon as is practical under the circumstances, said student shall be deemed to be in violation of this Code.**

In the event that a student transfers to the Le Mars Community Schools for any reason and school officials are, or become aware, that the student would be ineligible under his or her prior school's Code of Conduct Policy or similar policy, then the provisions of this Code of Conduct Policy shall be applied.

Penalties:

Any student who, after a hearing before the administration, is found to have violated the Good Conduct Rule, during the school year or summer, is subject to a loss of eligibility as follows:

First Offense within the Student's Middle School or High School Career:

Student will be declared ineligible for seven calendar days and a minimum of one event (public appearance).

Second Offense within the Student's Middle School or High School Career:

Student will be declared ineligible for twenty-eight calendar days and a minimum of four events (public appearances). In the instance of infractions involving alcohol, illicit drugs or assaultive behavior, a student must agree to an immediate assessment from a school-approved treatment/counseling agency and agree to follow the recommendations of the assessment counselor. All assessment and treatment shall be at no cost to the school district.

Third Offense within the Student's Middle School or High School Career:

Student will be declared ineligible for a period of twelve calendar months.

Any subsequent violations of the code will result in permanent ineligibility for as long as student attends Le Mars Community Schools.

**If violations occur in the middle of the season, the loss of eligibility will carry over to the next season until the suspension is completed. The student is ineligible for all extra-curricular activities that fall under the good conduct policy during the suspension.

The Period of Ineligibility...

- The period of ineligibility attaches immediately upon a finding of a violation if the student is eligible and currently engaged in an extracurricular activity and, if not, or if not completed during the current activity, is begun or carried over to the time the student seeks to go out for the next activity or contest.
- An ineligible student shall attend all practices or rehearsals but may neither “suit up” nor perform/participate. An ineligible student shall attend all home and away events.
- If a student drops out of an activity prior to completion of the period of ineligibility, or the completion of the season if the ineligibility is completed, the full penalty or the remainder of the penalty, at the administration’s discretion, will attach when the student next seeks to go out for an activity, subject to the 12 month rule.
- If a student violates the Good Conduct Rule while ineligible due to an earlier violation, the penalty for the subsequent offense will attach at the completion of the earlier penalty.

A student that is declared ineligible will be held out of all public performances. **Public performances or contests will be scheduled activities on the activities director calendar. Performances will not include scrimmages, practices, and rehearsals.** Final responsibility in determining what activities a student will be ineligible for and during what activities he/she may work ineligibility off will rest with the principal and/or Activities Director(s).

A student, who is involved in more than one performance per day, will be ineligible for the entire day. EX: Student is scheduled to participate in choir in AM on January 12th and also has a wrestling meet that night. Student is ineligible all day.

Any student who has been declared ineligible and has gone two years without action under this policy, and if that participant subsequently comes for disciplinary action under this policy, such action will be considered as a first offense.

Violations Occurring During Ineligibility

If a student is ineligible at the time of a violation of the Good Conduct rule, the penalty for the violation will not begin until the student regains eligibility. Example: A student academically ineligible for a quarter or semester is found to have been in possession of tobacco, a Good Conduct Rule violation. When the student is again academically eligible, then the Good Conduct penalty attaches. Example: A

student violates the Good Conduct Rule and is ruled ineligible for one week. While ineligible, the student again violates the Rule. The second penalty attaches when the first penalty is completed.

Student Seeking Help

Information received from students and/or parents who voluntarily seek help from school authorities concerning a student's use/abuse of alcohol and/or other controlled substances before being found to be using or possessing such substances by school or law officials, will be maintained in confidence and will not serve as a basis for disciplinary action. However, this does not provide immunity from disciplinary action should the student continue to use, possess, or distribute alcohol and/or other controlled substances.

NOTE: Students who voluntarily seek help for chemical use or abuse by talking confidentially with a school official, counselor, teacher or coach will not face disciplinary action. However, should students not volunteer for assistance and are then found to be involved in chemical usage, then disciplinary action will be taken. It is the district's hope that this will open the door for more young people to acknowledge their use/abuse and to take POSITIVE steps to correct the situation.

Academic Consequences

Unless the student violated the Good Conduct Rule while on school grounds or at a school event or activity off school grounds or the violation has a direct and immediate negative impact on the efficient operation of the school, there will be no academic consequences (e.g. detention, suspension, expulsion from school, or grade reduction/withholding) for the violation.

Appeals

Students under discipline will be afforded the right of procedural due process.

- A. Due Process
 1. Presentation of oral or written notice of the allegations against the student
 2. Stating the basis in fact for the charge, and
 3. Providing the student the opportunity to respond to those charges.

B. Appeals Process

1. Activities Director
2. Principal at the school where the student attends
3. Appeal panel consisting of 5 staff members. (3 to be assigned by the principal, 2 by the students) Mediator should be a person of neutral standing.

If any decision is reversed, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.

