

**Lockport Township High School
District 205**

*Code of Conduct
for
Athletics and Activities*



Home of the Porters

Revised June 2017

Statement of Philosophy

Positive Experiences

Welcome to Lockport Township High School - one of the best extra-curricular programs in the state. Enjoy every minute of your experience and consider how you will impact LTHS extra-curricular teams and organizations during your involvement. While you are here remember our mantra — “good things happen to good people who work hard!”

Extra-Curricular activities at LTHS provide students with opportunities for success and to experience personal growth which will aid in the transition to adulthood.

Sportsmanship

Successful achievement does not occur by chance or by skill alone. There is another ingredient which cannot be measured, but is readily recognized by every parent, fan, sponsor, coach, or participant. It is a positive “ATTITUDE.”

When a team or individual takes the position against an opponent this attitude is prevalent. This reflects the school’s commitment, desire, determination, leadership...it reflects CHARACTER. These qualities create an ATTITUDE that produces championship performances and unforgettable memories for all concerned and ensures success in life outside of sports and after high school.



The IHSA and LTHS believe that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential.

This code of conduct applies to all parents/fans involved in athletics and activities.

1. Parents/Fans will promote academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being above desires and pressure to win.
2. Parents/Fans will teach, enforce, advocate, model, and promote the development of good character to include:
 - Trustworthiness
 - Respect
 - Responsibility
 - Fairness
 - Caring
 - Citizenship
3. Parents/Fans will respect participants, officials, opponents, and all other involved.
4. Parents/Fans will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. Parents/Fans will model appropriate behavior at all times.



I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be forbidden from attending contests, performances, or meeting/practices if I violate any of its provisions.

We salute our students, parents, and fans who have demonstrated this positive ATTITUDE. Learning to win and lose in a proper manner is an important life lesson to learn at LTHS.

Extra-Curriculars are a Privilege

Participation in student activities and athletics is considered an extension of, but separate from, the regular school program. While the regular program is a right afforded to each student, participation in athletics and activities is a privilege. This privilege asks students to meet certain expectations beyond those found in the traditional classroom setting. Since participation is a privilege, the school has the authority to suspend or revoke this privilege for those who do not conduct themselves in a responsible manner as determined by LTHS. Nothing in this handbook or Code of Conduct is intended, nor shall it be construed, as creating any right, contractual or otherwise, to participate in student activities or athletics, or to any procedure or process in connection with any suspension or revocation of the privilege of participating in student activities or athletics.

Expectations and Responsibilities

Participation in extra-curriculars carries with it certain responsibilities. Students owe it to themselves and their teams to strive for the best possible educational experiences while at LTHS. Educational and extra-curricular experiences prepare students for future endeavors. All students involved in extra-curriculars are expected to abide by all school rules and regulations as outlined in the Porter Planner Student Handbook and current IHSA Athletic Eligibility Rules and Regulations (also in the Porter Planner). Compliance is required year round and regardless of whether the particular sport or activity is in season or not.

Team Concept

Spirit and unity begin and end with each individual. Students should be proud and happy about school and team accomplishments. Championships are built around students who are unselfish toward their teammates in and out of school. It is imperative that the participants and parents support the team concept by putting the team before self-interests. LTHS has achieved numerous state titles and many top four finishes because students, parents, coaches, sponsors, teachers, administration, and community members have all been united toward achieving team goals. We need to continue this sense of unity and solidarity to maintain the level of success we have enjoyed. How will you answer the following questions: “Can the team count on me?” and “Are my actions supporting the coach and the team?” A team meeting for both parent and athlete shall be held in order to review and explain specific sport team rules, regulations, and guidelines.

Attendance

Students shall attend school daily and adhere to the specific attendance requirements for each activity/sport. We firmly believe that for students to attain their fullest potential, daily practice is essential. Non-attendance may result in suspension from contests and/or dismissal from the team. Additionally, students shall NOT be allowed to participate in contests or practices unless they have attended at least a half a day of school (4 periods); however, in rare cases the administration reserves the right to make an exception depending on circumstances. This policy does not include weekends or days when school is not in session.

Academics

- It is an Illinois statute that students meet academic requirements in order to be eligible for IHSA competition (No Pass, No Play). All students participating in IHSA at LTHS must be passing five classes (2.5 credits including P.E.). Initial eligibility shall be checked at the beginning of the semester. Any student who did NOT pass five classes shall be ruled ineligible for the entire next semester.
- At the end of each semester grading period the final eligibility will be determined by the outcome of the student’s final semester grade. All students participating in IHSA at LTHS must be passing five classes (2.5 credits including P.E.).

- Additionally, weekly grade checks shall take place during the season. Participants must pass five classes each week to be eligible to compete. Those NOT passing five classes shall be suspended for the entire following week. Thus, the grade report on Thursday shall be applied to the following Monday-Saturday playing schedule. Participants who are ineligible due to academics shall be expected to practice and follow all team rules as per each Head Coach/Sponsor.
- All students must: complete assignments on time, do quality work, seek help immediately from the instructor or a classmate when having difficulty, inform a coach if seeking help after school, schedule home study time and stick to it.
- Parents are encouraged to check homework, require and review the Porter Planner with your student, review progress reports and check grades and attendance on-line at lths.org., dialogue with teachers, attend conferences, and sign up for Parent Portal at www.lths.org.
- Students participating in IHSA competition are strongly encouraged to take 6 classes each semester.
- NCAA Clearinghouse:
 - As a prospective college student-athlete at a Division I or II institution, you have certain responsibilities to attend to before you may participate. Information concerning who needs to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse and what documents should be submitted can be found in **The Guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes** <http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/CBSA17.pdf>

ATTENTION: All prospective student-athletes intending to enroll in an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time on or after August 1, 2007, must complete the NCAA Amateurism Certification questionnaire. The LTHS Guidance department has all materials you need to get started. See your counselor or the following web site. <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

Removal from a Team

Athletes who quit or are removed from a team are not allowed to participate in another sport during the same season. The exception would be the student who is advised by the coach to participate in another sport because of lack of aptitude for the current placement.

Transportation

All athletes are expected to use district transportation to and from events. This is an excellent time for coaches and players to communicate informally and build team cohesiveness that is a vital part of the athletic experience. Should there be an emergency; an athlete may be released only to their parent/guardian. Athletes shall never be released to someone other than a parent without prior written permission. Activity buses shall run each day. Coaches shall make every effort to end practices so that students can use the activity buses. Check with coaches for exceptions to these times.

Communication

Good communication is paramount for a successful experience. **Mandatory parent meetings** are held at the beginning of each sport season so that the coach may review rules, expectations, and other team rules and guidelines. The coach shall also provide contact information and provide the best method to reach him/her.

- We have also launched the LTHS Athletic Web Site at <http://il.8to18.com/lockport> You can also access the site through the school web page at www.lths.org Here you will find all essential information such as schedules, scores, stories, mandatory forms, cancellations, postponements, changes, articles of interest, character education, and much more. We encourage your feedback in order to improve the site. Call or e-mail the Athletic Office with suggestions.

- As with everything we do, we believe in the primacy of “teachable moments.” When students are having an issue, we need to seize this opportunity to teach life skills to resolve conflict. We expect students and parents to follow a path to positive communication when dealing with issues.
 1. Student contacts the coach;
 2. Student contacts the Head Coach;
 3. Parent contacts the coach;
 4. Parent contacts the Athletic/Activities Director;
 5. Parent contacts Principal.

If these steps are followed, concerns shall be heard by the appropriate person in the proper venue and resolution will follow.

Medical Concerns

- Our first priority at LTHS is the safety of our athletes. We take precautions to ensure that safety. The Athletic Department and coaching staff understand that sports related injuries occur. **If an athlete is injured, he/she must report to an athletic trainer!** We have certified athletic trainers on staff who can effectively deal with injuries.
- Should an athlete see a physician, he/she must have a **WRITTEN RELEASE signed by that physician** allowing the athlete to resume participation. If a student is excused from P.E. for medical reasons, he/she may not participate in athletics until released by a physician.
- Athletic participation has **inherent dangers and risk**. Even when competition and practice is within the rules of the sport and athletes are following the instruction of the coach, catastrophic injuries may still occur. These injuries may include, but are not limited to: serious head, neck or spinal injuries, complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, or death. Serious injury to any of the internal organs, bones, ligaments, muscles; tendons or other aspects of the musculoskeletal system are possible. The injuries that may occur may affect an athlete’s future ability to: 1. participate in athletic programs and recreational activities, 2. engage in other business or social activities, 3. earn a living. To attempt to avoid the possibility of injury, athletes should follow the instructions of the coach and athletic trainer at all times regarding techniques, training and team rules; always participate within the rules of the sport.
- An IHSA **pre-participation physical examination is mandatory** for all students wishing to participate in athletic programs at LTHS. Incoming freshman may use their school physical to satisfy this requirement. Physicals must be renewed each year in order to participate.

Concussion Management Guidelines

During the 2015-2016 school year, the Concussion Oversight Team was developed. The team established protocols and guidelines to be in compliance with policy 7:305. We are in compliance with IHSA legislation which requires IHSA member schools to adopt a policy regarding student-athlete concussions and head injuries that is in compliance with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the IHSA. Information on the school’s concussion and head injury policy must be a part of any agreement, contract, code, or other written instrument that a school requires a student athlete and his or her parents or guardian to sign before participating in practice or interscholastic competition.

A student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from participation or competition at that time.

A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury cannot return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a licensed athletic trainer. If not cleared to return to that contest, a student

athlete cannot return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a licensed athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

IHSA Random Drug Testing

The IHSA conducts a random drug testing program for those items which appear on its banned substance list. Students and parents must sign a consent form in order to participate in IHSA activities. A complete review of the program shall be given as part of the mandatory parent meeting each athletic season.

Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct

Application

1. This code shall apply year round to all students who participate in extra-curricular athletics and activities; it is not a seasonal code.
2. Violations are accumulated throughout a student's career at LTHS; thus the number of violations carryover from year to year as the student progresses from freshman to senior status.
3. Students who violate the code must serve the penalties as outlined herein and/or complete prescribed programs as outlined prior to re-entry into extra-curricular activities.
4. When suspended from an activity/sport, students must continue to practice, unless they are prohibited from attending practice as part of their disciplinary action, and are required to follow all rules and regulations for the sport/activity if they intend to rejoin the team/squad.
5. Students who are serving a code violation consequence must complete their suspension during the season and finish the season in good standing. This means the suspension, even a partially served suspension, will not be declared complete if the student quits the team/activity before the end of the season.
6. The student must serve the suspension for all extra-curricular athletics and activities they are currently participating in.
7. If a code suspension cannot be served completely during the current activity and sport, the remaining portion of the suspension shall continue to the next activity and sport season in which the student participates.
8. Failure to sign the Code of Conduct does not exclude a student from being held accountable for the rules and regulations of this policy. Those choosing not to sign the Code shall not be allowed to participate until a signed document is on file.

The Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct cannot anticipate every circumstance that may occur and, therefore, the District reserves the right to revise, supplement, deviate from or rescind any provision or portion of the Code from time to time as it deems appropriate in its sole and absolute discretion. The District will endeavor to post the most current version of the Code on the athletic web site and also make copies available in the Athletic Office. It is the responsibility of the student/family to check for updates and be aware of revisions regardless of the sport season in which they are active.

Violations

The following rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property; before, during or after school hours; and apply year round regardless of whether the student's sport or activity is in season or not:

1. Students shall not possess, actively seek, solicit, sell, or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs/controlled substances, look-alike drugs, steroids or other illegal performance enhancing drugs/supplements, or possess drug related paraphernalia.

2. Students shall not attend or host a party primarily attended by students or for the benefit of students at which alcohol, tobacco, or any controlled substances are provided or at which the use of any such substances is permitted.
3. Theft, possession of stolen property, or destruction of property.
4. Hazing acts, initiations, or bullying (as defined by the LTHS Porter Planner Student Handbook)
5. Serious acts which are determined by the Administration to be detrimental to the individual, the coach, the team, or the school.
6. Acts which violate the LTHS Porter Planner Student Handbook.

THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES APPLY TO ALL APPROVED ATHLETIC TEAMS AND THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Speech, Scholastic Bowl, Group Interpretation, Chess, Band, Skills USA, Math Team, ROTC Drill Team, Color Guard, Winter Guard, Fall Play, Spring Musical, Winter One Acts, Madrigals, Orchestris, Step, Pep Band, Jazz Band, Musical Orchestra, and all extra-curricular choirs.

Consequences

The following consequences are guidelines which will be followed by the coaches, Athletic Director, Activities Director, or the Administration. Should such person or persons determine that the violation or violations committed are sufficiently serious to warrant such, any step may be omitted and any more serious consequence, up to and including permanent removal from athletics/activities, may be imposed. Code does not apply to events, activities or requirements that are part of course expectations.

First Offense: The student shall lose eligibility for the next interscholastic contest or public performances totaling ¼ of the total schedule. In cases of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, an assessment program* MUST be completed and, when recommended, completion of a substance abuse prevention program. Programs must be approved by the Director of Athletics, Director of Activities, or Principal and all costs incurred are the responsibility of the student and his/her family.

Second Offense: The student shall lose eligibility for the next interscholastic contests or public performances the equivalent of one full season. The exact amount shall depend upon the activity in which the student has or shall be participating.

Third Offense: The student shall be permanently suspended from participation in extra-curricular activities for the remainder of their high school career. The student may appeal the Principal in writing for reinstatement after one calendar year.

THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Art National Honor Society, National Honor Society, Freshman/Sophomore/Junior/Senior Class Officers, Foreign Language National Honor Society, Student Government, Art Club, Auto Club, Best Buddies, BETA, Computer Club, E-FACS, FEA, Gay Straight Alliance, Great Books, Interact Club, International Club, Literary Magazine, Porter Press, SADD, Science Club, Sign Language, Ski/Snowboard Club, Snowball, Special Olympics, Video Club, Yearbook, and other approved or probationary clubs.

Consequences

The following consequences are guidelines which will be followed by the sponsors, Activities Director, or the Administration. Should such person or persons determine that the violation or violations committed are sufficiently serious to warrant such, any step may be omitted and any more serious consequence, up to and

including permanent removal from athletics/activities, may be imposed. Code does not apply to events, activities or requirements that are part of course expectations.

First Offense: Student will be suspended for 1/4th of the meetings, activities and or events for that activity. In cases of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs, an assessment program* MUST be completed and, when recommended, completion of a substance abuse prevention program. Programs must be approved by the Director of Activities, or Principal and all costs incurred are the responsibility of the student and his/her family.

Second Offense: The student shall lose eligibility for the equivalent of one school year. The exact amount shall depend upon the activity in which the student has or shall be participating.

Third Offense: The student shall be permanently suspended from participation in extra-curricular activities for the remainder of their high school career. The student may appeal the Principal in writing for reinstatement after one calendar year.

*Programs must be approved by the Athletic Director, Activities Director, or Principal and all costs incurred are the responsibility of the student and his/her family. The assessment must occur within 10 business days of notification of the violation. If a program is recommended by the assessor, students are responsible for submitting written proof of registration within that 10 day period. Students may participate in contests/performances while completing the prevention program. Written notification of completion of the program must be presented to the administration within 30 business days of the initial notification of the violation.

Social Media

The LTHS Administration feels obligated to warn students and parents about the dangers of social media. Misusing social media in any capacity could prove to be potentially very damaging and can have the following effects:

- Identity theft
- The site can show up in background checks when seeking employment
- Information and pictures posted on the web may never be deleted
- The site allows access by sexual predators and cyber stalkers.

Therefore, if a student is found to have violated the LTHS Code of Conduct outlined above, by inappropriate use of social media, those students shall be dealt with accordingly. Be very careful and remember that today's technology make it very easy to be caught off guard. Make good choices! Parents, please be diligent in monitoring social media activity.