

# LITTLE FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC CODE

September 2005

## INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CODE

OVERALL PHILOSOPHY – Our athletic policy is aligned with our academic philosophy. To that end we use athletics to encourage our students to become productive, responsible citizens in their community. Interscholastic athletics offer the opportunity to teach our students skills and desirable character traits in a setting apart from the traditional classroom. Our students can learn to be lifetime achievers by practicing self-discipline, loyalty, responsibility, respect for a healthy lifestyle, and commitment to team and others in a competitive setting. Our entire community of students, parents, coaches, teachers and administrators will work together to produce in our students an appreciation for those values, principles, and goals which produce a student athlete who is prepared for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

### Modified

Our purpose is to provide a broad and varied athletic program. The intention of the modified program lies in skill development, team play, sportsmanship and cooperation with game officials, opponents, teammates and coaches. By nurturing a positive atmosphere and promoting high expectations, this program should encourage respect and responsibility to self and others, thus enabling all individuals to grow to their full potential.

In accordance with NYSPHSAA Modified Program Rules, page 10, “To administer the program in such a manner that participants are properly examined, approved, equipped, insured, selected, classified, instructed, and supervised so that as safe a program as is possible is conducted.” As such it may be necessary to limit the number of participants on a team.

### JV & Varsity

Students are encouraged to participate in athletics during their years in attendance at Little Falls High School. It is a privilege granted to everyone eligible, and as such, there are expectations upon each student as stipulated in the athletic code.

The purpose of the interscholastic athletic program is to be competitive with other schools in the league. Coaches will prepare the team to be successful on the field and the court by teaching the skills which enable the players to perform to the best of their ability, and instill in players a commitment of responsibility to conduct themselves as a team. Sportsmanship and appropriate conduct in competition will be expected of players, coaches and spectators.

### PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) Parents should be knowledgeable of the rules and regulations their child has committed to as a student athlete community member and must know the consequences of any violation of the rules and regulations and assist in their enforcement.
- 2) Parents should be supportive and encourage their son/daughter to demonstrate appropriate behavior while representing Little Falls as a student athlete.
- 3) Parents should hold their child accountable for his/her actions and help guide him/her in making proper decisions regarding all drugs, performance enhancement substances, alcohol, tobacco, and any illegal substance.
- 4) Parents should be knowledgeable of individual team rules and expectations and address concerns regarding their child or their child's program to the coach at a time mutually agreeable to both parties.

- 5) Parents should be knowledgeable spectators, know the rules of the game and be role models for good sportsmanship. They should cheer our successes, encourage our efforts, respect our opponents, and be understanding in our defeats.
- 6) The officials and coaches assigned to our athletic contests are well trained, and each of them performs a necessary and difficult task. We could not run an organized interscholastic athletic program without them. Even when a parent may disagree with an official's or coach's decision during a contest, they should remember that these individuals deserve respect, and they should be aware that any harassment, verbal or otherwise will NOT be tolerated.
- 7) Parents who exhibit poor sportsmanship or become confrontational may be denied the privilege to attend future contests or activities.

#### PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY

1. Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right, extended to all students. In accepting this privilege, our student athletes must assume certain responsibilities. We expect student athletes to show their appreciation by their appearance and their conduct. Only those students capable of assuming these responsibilities will be permitted to share this privilege.
2. Equipment: If any equipment is lost or damaged through the student athlete's negligence, he/she must pay for its replacement.
3. Injuries: All injuries must be reported to your coach immediately and to the school nurse ASAP!
4. Attendance Requirements: A team member must be in school prior to the tardy bell for the morning school session in order to be eligible to practice or compete in interscholastic sports for that day. Illness, oversleeping, illegal absence and truancy exclude a student from practicing or playing on that day. Examples of acceptable excuses are dental/doctor appointments, funerals and college visitations.
5. Academics: A student athlete is eligible to play if s/he is a bonafide student of Little Falls High School and meets the requirements of the "Extracurricular Eligibility Code."
6. Citizenship: Good behavior is expected during contests, or in the school or community. Rude or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated on or off the field or at a practice. Any insubordinate or disorderly behavior that endangers the health, safety, rights, or property of others is prohibited. Student athletes engaging in such activities are subject to suspension, and the case will be referred to the principal and director of athletics for further action. The coach may, also, decide that the athletes participation be limited based on his/her conduct. If the student-athlete is arrested then s/he will be suspended until a positive resolution is reached.
  - a) On trips, a student must dress neatly and conservatively in appropriate attire as directed by the coach.
  - b) A student athlete may be released from a team by the coach with mutual consent with no loss of future playing time.
  - c) A student athlete shall not use, consume, possess, buy, sell or give away illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, performance enhancing substances or any controlled substance NOR be present where such illegal activities are. A legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student athlete's own use by his/her physician is permissible.
  - d) A student athlete shall conduct him/her self in an appropriate and acceptable manner at all times. Bullying, harassment, hazing, and threats of violence will not be tolerated. Any student found to be in violation, will be subject to disciplinary measures.

## VIOLATIONS

- If a student athlete "quits" the sport, s/he will become ineligible for the remainder of that sport season and twenty percent of the next sport season they participates.
- Any student athlete who steals personal or school equipment will be suspended from a team. The case will be referred to the principal and director of athletics for further action.
- Students who violate the ban on alcohol, drugs, and tobacco will be ineligible for their sport or activity for 2 weeks or 20% of the season. Further violations of this provision may result in a student being declared ineligible for the co-curricular activities for up to 1 year.

- The building principal may declare a student ineligible at anytime for disciplinary reasons.
- If the student-athlete is arrested then s/he will be suspended until a positive resolution is reached.
- Bullying, harassment, hazing, and threats of violence will not be tolerated. Any student found to be in violation, will be subject to disciplinary measures.

#### Appeal Procedure for Athletic Code Violations:

1. The parent or guardian must request the hearing within 24 hours of notification of ineligibility. The parent or guardian must attend the hearing.
2. The hearing must be convened within 72 hours of the request.
3. The hearing committee will consist of:
  - a. Building administrator or designee (hearing officer)
  - b. Advisor/Coach (directly involved with the activity/ activities), Athletic Director.
  - c. Teachers may be involved on an as need basis or upon the request of any involved party.
4. Process: The hearing officer will preside over the meeting. The student and/or parent will have the opportunity to present their case. Following the hearing, the panel will discuss the evidence and make a determination. Consensus will be used and if not reached, the student will remain ineligible.

## BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAM

THE TEAM – In general, any student may try out for any sport offered in the program, providing s/he meets the required NYSPHSAA eligibility regulations.

**NO CANDIDATE MAY PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICE SESSIONS WITHOUT A PHYSICAL, MEDICAL UPDATE, EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM AND A PARENTAL APPROVAL SLIP SIGNED BY EITHER PARENT OR GUARDIAN, DENOTING THAT THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN IS FULLY AWARE OF AND WILLING TO ABIDE BY THE LITTLE FALLS ATHLETIC CODE.**

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

A student attends school to gain academic success and it is important that time consuming activities supplement, but not interfere with, classroom achievement.

Eligibility pertains to all co-curricular activities, including; but not restricted to:

Athletics, Clubs, and curricular organizations such as FBLA, Language Club, Drama, Student Gov. and others. Student eligibility will be based on Academic Performance (including a waiver for exceptional effort in the event of a failing GPA) and school citizenship, as described below.

Academic Performance: Overall GPA in a course based upon class work, homework, projects and participation. A waiver may be granted in those cases where, in the teacher's judgment, the student is failing, but is putting forth their best effort. Any waiver is subject to review and/or revision by the building principal.

School/Community Citizenship: Students/Student Athletes will be expected to:

- ❖ Attend school and be on time to school and class. Students must be in school on time for attendance on the day of an event. Events include contest, practice, field trips, conferences, productions, etc. Any students not in attendance will be ineligible that day. The building principal may approve an absence at his/her discretion.
- ❖ Exhibit diligent effort and attentiveness in all classes.
- ❖ Use appropriate language in the presence of their peers and staff members.
- ❖ Treat members of the school community with respect and have respect for the buildings, campus and the property of others.
- ❖ Abide by all school policies as described in the Student Handbook and established by the Board of Education.
- ❖ Abstain from the use and/or possession of all controlled substances (drug, alcohol, etc), tobacco on or off campus and never be in possession of any object that could be considered a weapon.
- ❖ Be prepared for class (writing utensils, notebooks, textbooks, etc.)

#### Eligibility Determination

1. An eligibility period lasts for two weeks.
  2. Teachers will complete Eligibility Forms and assign an unsatisfactory "U" to any student who has not met the Academic or Citizenship criteria. The eligibility of the student will be determined as follows:
    - ❖ Two or less U's. The student is eligible for all school activities during that eligibility period. The coach/advisor will be notified of unsatisfactory marks received.
    - ❖ Three U's. A letter explaining probation will be sent home. The student will be on probation for the eligibility period but will remain eligible for participation. If, after being on probation for two weeks, the student receives less than 3 U's s/he will be taken off probation. If they again receive 3 or more U's, s/he will remain ineligible until they receive less than 3 U's.
    - ❖ Four U's. The student is ineligible for the eligibility period. A letter explaining ineligibility will be sent home. Students who are deemed ineligible are expected to attend and participate in practices for the two week period.
- \*\* At the Modified Level – Two consecutive ineligible periods would result in dismissal from the team. \*\***

In addition to these eligibility ratings, the building principal may declare a student ineligible at anytime for disciplinary reasons.

#### Process / Procedure:

1. The faculty's completed forms are returned to the main office by the end of classes on Friday.
2. The eligibility list will be distributed on Monday. Eligibility runs Monday to Monday.