



2022-2023  
Lake Mills Middle School  
PARENT-ATHLETE  
HANDBOOK

Steve Murphy – Athletic Director  
Chuck Olson - Middle School Principal

## **From Your Principal and the Athletic Director**

Thank you for making the decision to support your child(ren) in their choice to participate in the Lake Mills Middle interscholastic athletic program. In order to help you through the process, we have devised this manual which is intended to give you as much information as possible.

As you and your family enter the athletic arena, there are several points that we want to stress. It is important that all of the information needed in order for your son/daughter to be involved in interscholastic athletics is submitted to the athletics office **before** the start of the season. This will ensure that your son/daughter will have the full benefit of early season practices and an entire season of competition.

Second, if the aims, opportunities and benefits of the total educational curriculum are to be attained, close cooperation must exist between the student-athlete, his/her parents, and the school, and the community.

Third, Lake Mills strives to achieve success in all endeavors, including athletics. While we strive for victory in our athletic programs, success is not always based on winning, but on being fair, loyal, dedicated, and hard-working. Our athletic staff is committed to ensuring that all students achieve success during their participation in our program.

We are pleased that you have chosen to become an integral part of our athletic family. We hope that your experience in our athletic program is a satisfying, fun-filled, exciting time that will leave your family with many pleasant memories for years to come.

Cale Vogel  
High School Principal

Chuck Olson  
Middle School Principal

Steve Murphy  
Athletic Director

**LAKE MILLS SCHOOLS  
ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

**VISION STATEMENT**

It is the vision of Lake Mills Area School District Athletic programs to create a positive environment for student-athletes, the school, and community while developing teams and participants reflecting a deep sense of commitment and a competitive spirit with a winning attitude exemplifying character.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Lake Mills Area School District Athletic programs will offer athletes positive and rewarding experiences while building strong character with a healthy balance of commitment to quality facilities, coaching, and competitive teams creating an environment strong in school pride, family involvement, and community support.

**STUDENT-ATHLETE GOALS**

Each student-athlete will:

- Grow in self-esteem through belonging and participation.
- Develop a sense of confidence, stretching personal accomplishments.
- Build positive, life-time memories from athletic experiences.
- Develop a sense of pride in self, school, and community.
- Learn the value of sportsmanship, self-discipline, and team responsibility.
- Learn to engage competitively while growing physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.
- Come to understand and practice a level of commitment necessary for a lifetime of success.

**COACH GOALS**

Each coach will:

- Train and educate all athletes.
- Communicate expectations and goals clearly and appropriately to athletes.
- Accept accountability for team performance and conduct.
- Implement well-organized plans aimed at the overall success of the athletes and the program.
- Serve as a role model by practicing good sportsmanship and self-discipline.
- Communicate regularly with athletes and parents.
- Encourage community and parent involvement.
- Make decisions that are in the best interest of the program
- Provide opportunities that challenge each athlete to reach their full potential.

**PARENT GOALS**

Each parent of a student-athlete will:

- Serve as a positive role model in the practice of good sportsmanship at events, in the community, and home.
- Focus on and communicate positive aspects and accomplishments.
- Model productive behaviors supporting athletes and coaches.
- Demonstrate visible pride through regular attendance at events, encouraging involvement by family and friends, and engaging in groups and activities supporting athletics
- Maintain positive communication with coaches while respecting their need to effectively prepare their team.
- Provide guidance and encouragement for the student-athlete while maintaining realistic assessments and expectations.

**COMMUNITY GOALS**

Community members will:

- Recognize and celebrate positive accomplishments of athletic programs.

Demonstrate visible pride in athletic programs through attendance, participation at events, and financial support.

Model good sportsmanship and maintain a positive attitude.

Maintain realistic expectations for athletic programs.

## INTRODUCTION

Some information regarding WIAA rules and Regulations is included in this manual. Parents/Students may access the entire WIAA Handbook on their website at [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org).

Conference rules pertain mainly to schedules and regulations of sports governed by the conference. Special areas such as sportsmanship may also have rules that are generated by a group of high school principals representing each school in the conference.

Specific rules for students participating in the interscholastic athletic program at Lake Mills Middle School are included in this Parent/Athlete Handbook. It should be noted that **the Athletic Code is in effect for twelve months of the calendar year and governs the behavior of students whether school is in session or not, and at both in-school events and events not sponsored by the school.**

Coaches are responsible for establishing rules and procedures for teams under their jurisdiction. While rules and safety procedures may be reiterated orally on a regular basis, information that is needed by athletes on an ongoing basis will be distributed in writing to all athletes.

## ATHLETIC CODE

Students participating in athletics are expected to:

- a. Conduct themselves in a manner which reflects positively on themselves, their family, the team, and the Lake Mills community.
- b. Reflect a neat image in terms of dress and grooming which shows team and school pride. Coaches may determine the mode of dress required on the days of contests in which the athlete is participating.
- c. Comply with all school rules as established by the administration of Lake Mills Middle School, and all team and athletic rules as established by their coaches and the athletic director.
- d. Respect the rights and property of others.
- e. Assume full financial responsibility for any school property which is lost, damaged or stolen through negligence.
- f. Refrain from the use, possession, sale or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or any other illegal or illicit substances of any kind at all times, and not attend or be present at gatherings in which these items are present (please see **Special Conditions #2, on page 7**)
- g. Refrain from any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of the school, conference and the WIAA, including, but not limited to, criminal behavior.
- h. Refrain from conduct unbecoming an athlete which could include any conduct not already included, and determined by the Athletic Director or the Administration to fall within this category. Examples include behavior such as repeated *profanity*, repeated refusal to follow school rules, insubordination to staff and coaches, fighting and skipping classes.
- i. Refrain from violations of Wisconsin laws regarding:
  - a. Hazing (Wis. Stat. 948.51)
  - b. Harassment (P.I. 9.02)
  - c. Discrimination (Wis. Stat. 118.13)

## ATHLETIC CODE VIOLATIONS

**NOTE:** *The Athletic Code is in effect for twelve months of the calendar year and governs the behavior of students whether school is in session or not, and at both in-school events and events not sponsored by the school.*

Consequences for violations of the Athletic Code will apply to all sports in which the student is involved. Falsification of information given during an investigation, or falsification of any records under investigation, or used to obtain eligibility, **will subject the student-athlete to a double penalty (i.e., 25% up to 50% suspension)**

Parent(s)/guardians(s) will be contacted immediately by the Athletic Director or Principal upon verification that a violation has taken place.

### A. Main Athletic Code Violations

#### 1. Conduct Unbecoming of an Athlete--(See h and i above)

- a. *Consequences for any questionable conduct will be determined by the Athletic Director and/or the Principal, and could include a warning being issued up to event suspension.*
2. *Use, possession, sale, or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or any other illegal or illicit substances; or not leaving a gathering (within 15 minutes) where the aforementioned are present in a timely matter. For these violations, the following sequence of consequences will be used:*
3. *No violations of a Wisconsin state statute, with the exception of a traffic violation are permitted.  
A student athlete receiving a citation would at minimum receive a 25% of the season suspension similar to the possession/use of alcohol, etc.*

#### First Offense (rule 2 & 3 above)

Suspension for twenty-five percent (25%) of the current season's contests (**the WIAA maximum number of games of the level of the athlete will be used**) to be completed within the current season, or to be extended into the successive season if the entire suspension is not served within the season during which the offense occurs.

If the offense occurs when the athlete is not currently competing in season, the consequence will be extended to the next season in which the athlete participates.

A written notification will be sent to the parents and student detailing the offense, the consequences, any special conditions, and the effective dates of suspension from athletics.

Referral to the AODA Coordinator for an initial evaluation if the infraction involves alcohol, tobacco, drugs or any other controlled substances. Failure to undergo the evaluation and carry out the resulting recommendations satisfactorily could result in additional penalties.

\*Middle School – The student will miss two games.

#### Second Offense (rule 2 & 3)

Suspension for fifty percent (50%) of the current season's contests (**the WIAA maximum number of games of the level of the athlete will be used**) to be completed within the current season, or to be extended into the successive season if the entire suspension is not served within the season during which the offense occurs.

If the offense occurs when the athlete is not currently competing in season, the consequence will be extended to the next season in which the athlete participates.

A written notification will be sent to the parents and student detailing the offense, the consequences, any special conditions, and the effective dates of suspension from athletics.

### **Third Offense (rule 2 & 3)**

The offending student-athlete will be suspended from all participation in athletics for a period of twelve months from the date of the offense.

### **Fourth Offense (rule 2 & 3)**

The offending student-athlete's participation in the Lake Mills Middle School interscholastic athletic program will be forfeited for the remainder of his/her enrollment at Lake Mills Middle School.

### **Special Conditions**

The courts have ruled that participation in athletics is a privilege, and not a right; therefore, student-athletes are often held to a higher standard than other students by virtue of the fact that they are highly visible representatives of Lake Mills whose negative behavior could adversely impact the image of our school.

**Presence at Gatherings where alcohol or drugs are present**--If a student-athlete attends a gathering (**exception would be family gatherings or graduations**) where any substances or items prohibited by the Athletic Code are present, s/he must depart immediately or, if necessary, make arrangements to **depart entirely from the premises** no later than 15 minutes of his/her arrival at the gathering, and must refrain from violating the Athletic Code while still at the gathering. Failure to comply with these provisions will be considered a violation of the Athletic Code.

Students may elect to self-refer in instances regarding AODA issues at any time; however, self-referral will not eliminate the consequences of any violations of the Athletic Code regarding alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other controlled substances.

Violations of the Athletic Code are cumulative during the student's entire enrollment at Lake Mills. All Athletic Code violations will be addressed by the Athletic Director with the assistance of the coach, teachers and Lake Mills High School administrators when needed. In cases where there is a violation which could fall within the category of "conduct unbecoming," the Athletic Director will investigate, gather all pertinent information, and determine the appropriate consequences which could range from a warning to event suspension.

Violations of the Athletic Code could lead to additional penalties being assessed by the WIAA, the school, or law enforcement personnel.

### **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must be in school on the day of a contest or practice, and not be truant during any part of a class or study hall in order to participate in that day's practice or event. Students absent the morning of a contest or practice must attend afternoon classes in order to participate in that day's practices or contests.

*Athletes must be in attendance in the morning on the day following a contest, unless an absence is excused by the administration, per usual school rules. A first offense will lead to a warning for the athlete; a second offense will cause the athlete to miss the next practice.*

If an absence, regardless of length, is due to a medical/dental appointment, the funeral of a family member or a close friend, or a court date, ***the student may participate in that day's practice or event only when a written excuse from the medical or dental provider's office, the parent/guardian in case of a funeral, or the court system in cases of a court appearance, is brought to the Attendance Office and the Athletic Director upon return to the school.***

An excused absence from school is also considered to be an excused absence from practice.

## EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Student-athletes are responsible for the safe-keeping and maintenance of all school-issued uniforms and equipment, and must return all uniforms and equipment, with only signs of reasonable wear, to the school at the conclusion of the season. Since all student-athletes are issued a specific uniform and/or piece of equipment, there is no substitution of equipment allowed; neither may student-athletes exchange uniforms.

***Failure to return school-issued uniforms and equipment at the end of the season will render the student-athlete immediately ineligible until the missing items are returned, or the school is reimbursed the actual replacement cost of the item(s).***

While the securing of personal valuables is the responsibility of the student-athlete, nevertheless, theft of athletic uniforms, equipment, or of personal items from student-athlete lockers will be treated as a serious breach of the Athletic Code and will result in disciplinary action as delineated under “Violations of the Athletic Code.”

## INFORMED CONSENT

Prior to participating in interscholastic athletics, it is important for the student and the parents/guardians to understand that injuries can occur. These could include minor injuries, such as bruises or abrasions. Occasionally, students incur injuries such as muscle strains, sprains, or broken limbs. Although the occurrence of catastrophic injuries is minimal, it is possible that a catastrophic injury can occur rendering the participant paralyzed in varying degrees. Death as a result of a catastrophic injury is also a possibility.

## INJURIES

Following any injury, coaches must file an Athletic Injury Report with the Athletic Director. That report is also shared with the Athletic Trainer. In the case of minor injuries not requiring the services of a physician, the Athletic Trainer and the coach will determine when the athlete is ready to return to practice and games.

If an athlete is injured during the season and is under a physician’s care, the athlete must obtain a written release from the treating physician prior to resuming active participation in practices and games.

If an athlete develops a medical condition or is injured outside the season, whether a valid physical exam form is on file at the school or not, and there is any chance that participation in athletics could heighten the seriousness of the condition or render the athlete more prone to injury, the Athletic Director reserves the right to request a written clearance from the treating physician prior to declaring the student eligible to participate in athletics.

## INSURANCE

It is suggested that all student-athletes be covered by health insurance in cases of accident or injury. **No cost of such medical conveyance or treatment will be borne by Lake Mills Middle School or any of its employees or representatives.**

## MEDICAL INFORMATION –AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE

In view of the standards established by the Federal Government under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) all parents/guardians of student-athletes will be required to sign the “Authorization for Release of Medical Information” that can be used in cases of injury or illness to an athlete. This form is printed in the appendix and must be submitted to the Athletic Director prior to participation in any practices or events.

## **OUT-OF-TOWN TRAVEL POLICIES**

All athletes are required to travel to and from out-of-town contests with the squad unless arrangements as explained in the “Transportation” section have been requested by the parent/guardian **IN ADVANCE** and have been approved by the Athletic Director.

In the event that a coach has scheduled an out-of-town tournament, parents/guardians will receive written communication from the coach detailing, at the very least, the following information: Destination; name, address, and contact information for the hotel at which the students are staying, or, if students are staying at individual residences, a list of addresses and phone numbers will be provided to parents/guardians prior to leaving the city; telephone numbers where the coach and the student-athletes can be reached.

Further, the coach will also include: behavior rules that will be in effect during travel and any overnight stays; any special disciplinary action that will be taken in cases of a breach of the rules.

## **PHYSICAL EXAM**

The WIAA requires that all students who participate in interscholastic athletics must have written evidence of current physical fitness to participate in sports as determined by a licensed physician or an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP) on file in the Athletic Office no less than every other school year. No student will be permitted to participate in PRACTICES OR GAMES in the interscholastic athletic program until this requirement is fulfilled.

Physical exams taken April 1st and thereafter are valid for the following two school years. Physical exams taken before April 1st are valid only for the remainder of the school year and the next school year.

Physical exam forms are available in the office.

## **PLAYER EVALUATION OF COACH (see samples in appendix)**

Lake Mills Middle School is committed to offering the best possible experience to all of our student-athletes. Close to the completion of the season, all student-athletes will be asked to complete a “Player Evaluation of Coach” regarding their experience during the season. ***These evaluations will not be used by the Administration as part of the formal evaluation of the coach.*** It is very important that athletes answer the questions honestly. The evaluation form is anonymous and will be conducted for every level. A copy of the evaluation form is included in the appendix.

## **REGAINING ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR FALL SPORTS**

The WIAA provides that academic ineligibility status determined at the end of the spring semester can be adjusted for students in falls sports in which the date of earliest allowed competition is before the first day that students are in class, and for students in summer baseball.

Fall Sports: the minimum eligibility period shall be the lesser of (1) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport OR (2) one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (rounded up if one-third results in a fraction).

## **SPORTSMANSHIP CODE – CAPITOL CONFERENCE**

The Capitol Conference believes that sportsmanship is important for participants and spectators alike. The following principles have been adopted by the Conference and the Lake Mills Board of Education with the understanding that all athletes are required to follow them to reflect this strong belief:

1. Spectators and participants are all guests during this educational experience and have a responsibility to uphold the ideals of good manners and sportsmanship.



2. Interscholastic competition exists for its educational value. Although winning is important, the prime objective is to appreciate the educational and athletic development of our young people.
3. Every competitor is worthy of our respect and should be treated with courtesy.
4. We recognize that game officials do their best to make quick, fair, and unbiased decisions, and should be treated with respect and authority.
5. A true competitor is humble in victory and steadfast in defeat.

## **SUSPENSION AND APPEAL PROCESS**

Decisions regarding the issuance of a suspension and the procedures for appeal are described below.

All contacts regarding suspensions of athletic eligibility will be made by the Athletic Director.

The person reporting a code violation will contact the Athletic Director to request that he notify the student-athlete and the parent/guardian regarding the violation. The Athletic Director will notify the parent/guardian within twenty-four hours regarding the alleged violation, the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension, and the effective date of the suspension. Written documentation will be kept regarding all attempted contacts and contacts made to inform both the student-athlete and the parent/guardian regarding the suspension. The student-athlete and the parent/guardian shall also receive written notice by mail within three postal days of service.

Appeals of a suspension of athletic eligibility may be appealed in writing to the Principal of Lake Mills High School within seventy-two hours after receiving written notice of the suspension from the Athletic Director. **The student-athlete will remain ineligible to participate until the appeal process has been completed.** Upon receipt of the written appeal, the Principal will contact the parent/guardian by telephone to arrange an appeal conference with the **Athletic Council (the Athletic Council shall consist of the Athletic Director and at least two head coaches)**. The appeal conference with the Athletic Council must be conducted no later than five calendar days after the Principal has received the Appeal Request in writing from the parent(s)/guardian(s).

The student-athlete, his/her parent(s)/guardians(s), the coach involved, the Principal, and members of the High School Athletic Council shall be present at the Appeal Hearing. Student-athletes may appeal a suspension decision, the length of the suspension, or present mitigating circumstances or facts to disprove the alleged violation. The student-athlete shall also have the opportunity to present written affidavits in place of oral testimony if s/he wishes to do so. The student-athlete may be represented by legal counsel or another person of his/her choice at the hearing. Witnesses will be expected to present testimony and be subject to cross-examination by the opposing party.

The Principal will notify the parents/guardians of the Council's decision by telephone within twenty-four hours of the meeting. A written decision will follow.

The decision of the Athletic Council is final.

## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

All athletes must ride the school supplied transportation with the team. Unusual circumstances invariably arise. If a parent must take their child from an event, they must see the coach to let them know of their intention to take their child. ***In these cases, parents may only take their own child, unless written permission has been granted by the parents and a school administrator in advance.***

Where parents/guardians provide transportation for their son/daughter to or from a scheduled event, the parents/guardians shall assume all resulting liability, and the school shall assume no liability.

Where parents/guardians transport students other than their own to or from a scheduled event, the parents/guardians of that student shall assume all resulting liability, and the school shall assume no liability.

Where a student transports himself/herself to or from a scheduled event, the parents/guardians of that student shall assume all resulting liability, and the school shall assume no liability.

In order to be academically eligible for athletics, a student must maintain a 1.5 grade point average (GPA) and have no failing grade(s) in the previous marking period.

Any student-athlete who falls below the 1.5 grade point average or has one failing grade in the previous quarter will immediately be declared ineligible for further participation in competitive interscholastic events for a minimum of one contest, but remains eligible to continue practicing with the team.

Following the one missed contest, an ineligible student can be reinstated if teacher reports indicate that the student is doing academic work at the 1.5 GPA level or above and currently has no failing grade. The eligibility check will be completed by the Middle School Principal/Athletic Director or his/her designee. Upon verifying with the student-athlete's teachers that academic work is satisfactory, the Middle School Principal/Athletic Director will clear the student to return to participation.

If a student-athlete whose course progress has been monitored for a previous quarter receives a passing grade for the quarter, that course shall no longer be subject to monitoring.

A student-athlete who **fails a class** will be monitored weekly for the entire next quarter, regardless of whether s/he records a passing grade in the course at some time during the quarter. **Monitoring sheets will be provided by the athletic office. The student should have the teacher(s) (of the class(es) s/he failed) sign this sheet, each week on Thursday or Friday, and return to the middle school office. This will determine eligibility for the next week.**

Student-athletes who receive incomplete grades for a course remain eligible until the incomplete time limit expires. If, when the grade is determined, the student-athlete receives an F, s/he will immediately become ineligible for a minimum of one contest.

**POLICY 833.12**  
**SPECTATOR CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP**  
**FOR ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR**  
**CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The Lake Mills Area School District recognizes the value of extracurricular/co-curricular activities in the educational process and the opportunity for students to participate in organized activities outside of the traditional classroom.

The Board believes that extracurricular/co-curricular activities should provide opportunities for students to develop discipline self-esteem and strength of character and that these qualities must be fostered in a supportive atmosphere where adults serve as role models. The Board of Education further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in all phases of the educational process as well as all segments of the community. This includes administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fans, spirit groups and the entire community.

Spectators are encouraged to attend school sponsored extracurricular/co-curricular activities as guests of the school district. Accordingly, as a condition with this permission, they must comply with the school district's rules and policies. Spectators will not be allowed to interfere with the enjoyment of the students participating, other spectators or with the performance of employees and officials supervising the extracurricular/co-curricular activity. Spectators, like the student participants, are expected to display mature behavior and sportsmanship. The failure of spectators to do so is disruptive and interferes with the District's Educational Philosophy.

It is the responsibility of the spectator to:

- Provide positive support. Use cheers that support and provide the participants with a sense of pride.
- Exercise representative behavior at all times. Behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.
- Display pride in your actions at every opportunity. Avoid actions that offend visiting teams or individual participants.
- Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of school/community affiliation.
- Gain an understanding of the rules of the game in order to be a better informed spectator.
- Treat all visiting teams in a manner in which you would expect to be treated. Openly display a respect for the opponent at all times.
- Accept the judgment of coaches and officials. The rule of good sportsmanship is to accept and abide by the decisions made by these individuals.
- Encourage other spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- Obey the instructions of school employees and supervisors of the extracurricular/co-curricular activity.
- Use appropriate language at all times while on school property.
- Follow all school, conference and WIAA rules and regulations.

To protect the rights of students to participate without intimidation, and to permit the supervisors and officials of extracurricular/co-curricular activities to perform their duties without interference. The following provisions are in effect, but not limited to:

- Abuse or demeaning verbal or physical conduct of spectators directed at participants, officials, coaches/advisors, or conduct that interferes with the administration will not be tolerated.
- The use of vulgar or obscene language directed at students, officials, coaches/advisors or at other spectators or supervisors, etc, will not be tolerated.

It is the District's intent to hold all of those in attendance accountable for their actions. Any spectator, who behaves in a manner that is not consistent with school district expectations and this policy, may be removed from the event by security personnel, school officials, or by the individual(s) in charge of the event. In addition, the individual may be denied admittance to future school events or activities for a specified period of time. This includes visitors from other schools and communities.

In the event that an individual is denied admittance to future school events, a notice of exclusion will be sent by the District Administrator on behalf of the Board of Education, to the individual involved. Due process shall be provided in accordance with school district policies and shall include the opportunity for a hearing with school officials.

The district shall also have full authority to invoke penalties or pursue legal action as consistent with school board policies, municipal, state and federal laws.

Prior to the start of the athletic season, the coach will submit a list of potential team members to the Middle School Principal/Athletic Director. The Middle School Principal/Athletic Director or his/her designee will complete an eligibility check sheet on each student-athlete and return to the coach prior to the first practice. Students will not be allowed to practice until all requirements of the eligibility check sheet have been met.

In order to be academically eligible for athletics, a student must maintain a 1.5 grade point average (GPA) and have no failing grade(s) in the previous marking period.

Any student-athlete who falls below the 1.5 grade point average or has one or more failing grades in the previous quarter will immediately be declared ineligible for further participation in competitive interscholastic events for a minimum of one contest, but remains eligible to continue practicing with the team.

Following the one missed contest, an ineligible student can be reinstated if teacher reports indicate that the student is doing academic work at the 1.5 GPA level or above and currently has no failing grade. The eligibility check will be completed by the Middle School Principal/Athletic Director or his/her designee. Upon verifying with the student-athlete's teachers that academic work is satisfactory, the Middle School Principal/Athletic Director will clear the student to return to participation.

If a student-athlete whose course progress has been monitored for a previous quarter receives a passing grade for the quarter, that course shall no longer be subject to monitoring.

A student-athlete who **fails a class** will be monitored weekly for the entire next quarter, regardless of whether s/he records a passing grade in the course at some time during the quarter. **Monitoring sheets will be provided by the athletic office. The student should have the teacher(s) (of the class[es] s/he failed) sign this sheet, each week on Thursday or Friday, and return to the Middle School office. This will determine eligibility for the next week.**

## Lake Mills Middle School Preseason Eligibility Check Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_ Student has a current physical or alternate year on file

\_\_\_\_\_ Student has no athletic code of conduct violations

\_\_\_\_\_ Student has no "F's" from the previous quarter and a minimum GPA of 1.5

\_\_\_\_\_ Student has paid the Athletic Participation Fee

\_\_\_\_\_ Student and their parent/guardian have signed and returned the last page of the Lake Mills School District Parent-Athlete Handbook

# Lake Mills Middle School Eligibility Check Sheet

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility Check for the week of: \_\_\_\_\_

Class failed in previous quarter \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher name \_\_\_\_\_

The student **is** eligible to compete in contests next week

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature

The student **is not** eligible to compete in contests next week

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher Signature

## ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LAKE MILLS

The athletic program is an integral part of our school district's educational program that provides our students with enriching and healthful experiences in which physical, mental, and social growth shall be stimulated. Participation in athletics provides opportunities and experiences that are difficult to duplicate in other school activities. These experiences are developmental in nature and consider the age-related characteristics and needs of our students as they move through the grades. The School District of Lake Mills believes the following to be true:

1. Athletics are a privilege made available to students who abide by the rules and regulations. Students involved in athletics have an obligation to present a positive image to fellow students and the general public. This includes abstaining from drugs and alcohol use and from inappropriate behaviors.
2. Athletics are secondary to academics and are made available only if the student meets the academic eligibility requirements.
3. Athletics provide an opportunity for athletes to learn the value of sportsmanship, discipline, responsibility and team work.
4. Athletics provide for physical development and a sense of accomplishment and pride in one's team and school.
5. Athletics provide an opportunity to sharpen the intellect, and to improve concentration, decision-making, leadership, perseverance and dedication.
6. The developmental needs of students necessitate different philosophies and practices at each level of athletic participation.

Participation in athletics is a **progression** from the middle school level to the high school varsity level. The emphasis at the middle school is on skill development, teamwork, strategy, sportsmanship and participation. While skill development, teamwork, strategy and sportsmanship continue to be important and are further developed at the high school level, athletics become more competitive with more of an emphasis on winning. The skill level and the developmental level of the athlete are also more important in determining how much an athlete plays and at what level (freshman, junior varsity, or varsity). While we would like to see all students that try out for a team be able to participate, the number of spots and opportunities to play may limit the number of athletes that make a team and sometimes necessitate that our coaches make cuts on the JV and Varsity levels.

Athletes in freshman programs (open only to freshman students) will all be given the opportunity to participate. This does not mean that all athletes will play an equal amount of time. Furthermore, not all members of a team may get to play in every game or contest. Playing time is still the decision of the coach.

At the junior varsity (JV) level, the progression toward varsity athletics continues with an increased emphasis on winning. Not all members of a team may get to play in every game or contest. Playing time is still the decision of the coach.

At the varsity level (athletes in grades 9-12 with the best skills in a specific program), being competitive and winning are emphasized more strongly than at any other level. It is the decision of the coach regarding who will play in each game or contest in order to give the team the best opportunity to be successful. This means that during the season some athletes at the varsity level will see considerably less playing time than others on the team. While it is a reality that some varsity athletes may not play in a game or participate in a contest, we believe that being a member of the team is still a valuable experience.

Rev. 12/14/07

## **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children.

As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### **Communication You Should Expect from the Coach**

Philosophy of the coach.

Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as all of the players on the squad.

Locations and times of all practices and contests.

Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, etc.

Criteria for awards that will be presented at the end of the season.

Discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation.

### **Communication Coaches Expect from Parents**

Concerns expressed directly to the coach.

Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Lake Mills High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches**

The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.

Ways to help your child improve.

Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you had hoped s/he would play. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and for all of the individuals involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following items, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

Playing time.

Team strategy.

Play calling.

Other student-athletes.

Decisions about who plays on which team.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These interactions are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.



**If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach, Please Follow This Procedure:**

Call to set up an appointment with the coach.

If the coach cannot be reached, please call the Lake Mills Athletic Director so that s/he may attempt to set up a time that is mutually acceptable to meet.

Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parent and coach. These types of confrontations do not promote a positive resolution to any concern.

**What to Do if a Parent/Coach Meeting Does Not Resolve the Issue**

Call and arrange an appointment with the Athletic Director to resolve the situation.

At the appointment it will be determined if further action is necessary.

Research indicates that a student involved in interscholastic athletics has a better chance for success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope that the information we have provided will promote positive communication between parents and coaches and make your experience with interscholastic athletics less stressful and more enjoyable.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION**  
**Lake Mills Middle School**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and the regulations promulgated hereunder (collectively known as "HIPAA"), I authorize health care providers of **ATHLETE NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_, **DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_, to disclose medical information regarding the injury and treatment of named individual to the following representatives of Lake Mills Middle School: Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer, Team Physician, Team Coach, and Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director for the purposes of treatment, emergency care and injury record-keeping.

Medical Information, in this context, pertains only to patient health care records regarding a specific injury and the treatment thereof. The request for medical information includes all patient health care records regarding the care, evaluation, referral or treatment including, but not limited to, any and all records, reports, correspondence, radiographic films pertaining to the care and treatment of an injury sustained by the above-named student-athlete on \_\_\_\_\_. **(SCHOOL WILL INSERT DATE OF INJURY.)** This includes all portions of my medical records which my physicians, or other health care providers, or I have specifically designated as "confidential."

I understand that my signed authorization will be kept in a locked cabinet along with all medical information received and that said information will be available only to the individuals named above.

Treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility of benefits may not be conditioned on obtaining patient's authorization.

The purpose of disclosure of medical records is to facilitate treatment of injured student-athletes. I understand that the information obtained by the use of this authorization may be subject to re-disclosure and the information obtained is therefore no longer protected by HIPAA.

This consent is revocable by the patient at any time except to the extent that the provider listed above has taken action upon it. A revocation is effective by the Health Care Provider listed above upon receipt of a written request to revoke, and a copy of the executed authorization form. A photocopy of this authorization shall be considered as valid as the original. This authorization shall remain in effect for one year from date of signing.

**This authorization specifically authorizes the health care provider named above to disclose records created at any time after the signing, regarding the specific injury, until the authorization expires one year from the date of signing.**

Due to a contract with Fort Health Care to provide a Certified Athletic Trainer to work with Lake Mills student-athletes, I hereby authorize that individuals from these programs, involved in the care and treatment of the above-named individual, also have access to the records. I understand that a confidentiality agreement, pertaining to any medical information released to them, will be signed by the individuals named in this paragraph and kept on file at Lake Mills High School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's (Patient) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

## **LAKE MILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC PERMISSION FORM**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: 20-\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Room: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mm/dd/yy

Health Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Permission to Participate**

I hereby give my permission for the above-named student to practice, compete, and represent the school in WIAA regulated interscholastic sports except any restrictions as noted on the current, effective physical examination card as completed by a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse prescriber.

### **Responsibility to Return All School-Issued Uniforms/Equipment**

I agree to be financially responsible for the safe return of all athletic uniforms and equipment issued to him/her. I understand that my son/daughter is responsible for any uniform or equipment that is assigned specifically to him/her, and agree to reimburse the school the actual replacement value of the uniforms/equipment in the event that they are lost or stolen. I understand that failure to reimburse the school in a timely fashion could affect my son/daughter's athletic eligibility.

### **Permission for Emergency Medical Care and Conveyance**

I further grant permission for my son/daughter, named above, in case of injury as a result of athletic participation, to be given emergency attention/care by the athletic trainer, the team physician or any other physician present, and to be conveyed to an emergency medical facility, if needed. I understand that all medical costs that could occur of such conveyance and subsequent treatment are the sole responsibility of the parents/guardians, and I understand that Lake Mills High School will assume no liability for the cost of said conveyance or treatment.

### **Informed Consent**

I understand that injuries could occur as a result of participation in athletics. I understand that these injuries could include minor injuries such as bruises or abrasions, muscle strains, sprains, or broken limbs. I understand that it is possible that a catastrophic injury could occur rendering my son/daughter paralyzed, and that death could also occur as a result of a catastrophic injury.

### **Insurance Waiver**

I certify that I have adequate insurance coverage on the above-named student to cover medical expenses in the event of an athletic-related accident or injury. While I am not required to have insurance on my child, I will not hold the school liable for the cost of any injuries s/he might incur. If I do not have insurance I have the option of enrolling in a school-sponsored student accident insurance plan.

### **Parent-Athlete Handbook**

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the rules set forth in the Lake Mills Parent-Athlete Handbook.

### **Signature**

By signing this form I am attesting to the fact that I understand and agree to all conditions set forth on this form and in the Parent-Athlete Handbook, that if I have not understood any information, I have sought and received an explanation, and am fully aware that I am granting permission for the above-named student to participate in the Lake Mills Athletic Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date