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# LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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Dear Parents and Student-Athletes:

Welcome to the Levittown School District Interscholastic Athletic Program.

Parents and student-athletes are encouraged to carefully read the entire Athletic Handbook. This booklet contains information that will be important throughout each sports season. The handbook is progressive in nature, giving parents and athletes the philosophy and expectations of our interscholastic program, beginning with the modified middle school program, and culminating with the varsity-level experience.

The guide provides a complete listing of all programs offered at each level, and the season of placement for each sport as it pertains to the middle school, with four sports seasons, and the high school, with three sports seasons.

For your convenience, please log on to the **SECTION VIII WEB SITE** ([www.nassauboces.org/athletics](http://www.nassauboces.org/athletics)), which provides the athletic community access to high school and modified middle school scheduling information, game times, schedules, and directions to contest sites. It is an excellent source of information for all those involved in interscholastic athletics. Additionally, please visit the school district web site ([www.levittownschoools.com](http://www.levittownschoools.com)) and log onto the Department of Physical Education, Athletics, Health & Health Services, for the latest information regarding athletics, upcoming meeting dates, and other pertinent information.

If you have any questions regarding our interscholastic athletic program, please contact me at 434-7265

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Keith Snyder', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. Keith Snyder  
Director of Physical Education and Athletics

## GOVERNING BODIES IN ATHLETICS

Interscholastic Athletics is governed by rules, regulations, and guidelines as established by the **New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA)**, which is directly responsible to the **State Education Department (SED)** and the **Commissioner of Education**.

The NYSPHSAA is comprised of eleven sections or chapters in the state of New York. Nassau County, which is referred to as **Section VIII (Nassau County Public High School Athletic Association)**, is a member of the NYSPHSAA. The purpose of this organization is to formulate and adopt policies that will enable public high schools to administer and govern interscholastic athletics in accordance with sound educational practices.

The NYSPHSAA and Section VIII establish many rules, regulations, and policies that govern public school interscholastic athletic competition, including season start and end dates, the Selection/Classification program, eligibility, schedules, placement, contest rules, safety policies, practice mandates, and post-season tournament opportunities. Section VIII is also responsible for scheduling of officials for all contests played in Nassau County.

The Levittown School District, as a member of the Nassau County Public High School Athletic Association, is obligated to comply with State and section regulations. Therefore, our district policies must align with the policies that govern Nassau County public school athletic programs.

## APPROXIMATE START/END DATES FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SEASONS

**FALL:** JV/Varsity Football Teams begin two weeks before the start of school. All other fall high school sports begin one week prior to school. The season concludes in late October early November.

**WINTER:** JV/Varsity Winter Sports begin in the middle of November. (Post season play includes the February break) The season concludes in late February.

**SPRING:** JV/Varsity Spring Sports begin in early March (Includes April break) The season concludes early June.

**Note: These dates are subject to change, and are determined by the NYSPHSAA and Section VIII HIGH SCHOOL (VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY) SPORTS PROGRAMS**

Fall	Varsity	JV
Boys Cross-Country	X	
Girls Cross-Country	X	
Boys Football	X	X
Girls Soccer	X	X
Boys Soccer	X	X
Girls Tennis	X	
Boys Volleyball	X	X
Girls Volleyball	X	X
Golf	X	
Cheerleading	X	X
Boys Badminton	X	
Girls Swimming	X	
Kickline	X	

Winter	Varsity	JV	JV9
Boys Basketball	X	X	X
Girls Basketball	X	X	
Girls Winter Track	X		
Boys Winter Track	X		
Boys Wrestling	X	X	
Boys Bowling	X		
Girls Bowling	X		
Competition Cheerleading	X		
Boys Swimming	X		
Kickline	X		

Spring	Varsity	JV	JV9
Girls Softball	X	X	
Boys Baseball	X	X	X
Girls Track & Field	X		
Boys Track & Field	X		
Girls Lacrosse	X	X	
Boys Lacrosse	X	X	
Boys Tennis	X		
Girls Badminton	X	X	
Girls Flag Football	X		

**APPROXIMATE START AND END DATES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS SEASONS**

- FALL: First day of school through the first week in November
- EARLY WINTER: Early November through late January
- LATE WINTER: Late January through late March
- SPRING: Late March through early June

**THE EXACT SCHEDULED START DATES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL IS DETERMINED IN THE SPRING OF THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR. CONTACT THE COACH OR THE ATHLETIC COORDINATORS FOR SPECIFIC DATES AT THAT TIME.**

<b>Fall</b>	<b>7 and 8</b>
Boys Football	2
Girls Soccer	2
Boys Soccer	2
Boys/Girls Cross-Country	1
Badminton	1
Cheerleading	1

<b>Winter I</b>	<b>7 and 8</b>
Boys Basketball	2
Girls Volleyball	2
Competition Cheerleading	1

<b>Winter II</b>	<b>7 and 8</b>
Girls Basketball	2
Wrestling	1
Boys Volleyball	1
Bowling	2

<b>Spring</b>	<b>7 and 8</b>
Girls Lacrosse	1
Boys Lacrosse	1
Boys Baseball	2
Girls Softball	2
Girls Track	1
Boys Track	1
Girls Tennis	1

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Interscholastic athletics in the Levittown School District is an outgrowth of our physical education and health program, and therefore is an integral part of the district's total educational program. The interscholastic competitive environment provides an opportunity for our participants to learn positive life skills, values, and ethics in a climate that demands dedication, responsibility, self-discipline, cooperation, positive work ethic, and respect for others. This program provides an opportunity for all students to share their common interests, celebrate their differences, and appreciate physical competition as a lifelong process.

All students involved in the program must show a personal commitment to the goals of the team, and make the personal sacrifices necessary in order to achieve success. Making such a commitment to excellence nurtures a sense of pride, loyalty, and leadership qualities in an athlete, enabling the individual to become more resilient and better prepared to face life's challenges. This unique experience enables students to achieve their full potential as athletes and citizens.

The nature of athletic competition is to strive for victory. However, the number of victories is only one measure of success. Ultimately, the real challenge is guiding the individual and team to reach their full potential. This is the true measure of achievement. The competitive athletic environment is one that demands respect and applause for those who rise to the challenge and accept the risk of defeat. Those who are successful in life are those who have learned to embrace challenge and take personal risks. Dedication and self-sacrifice on the athletic field do not always result in victory over the opponent. However, if an athlete strives to reach his/her full potential with passion and perseverance, personal victories that last a lifetime will be the end reward, although the win-lose record may not always meet expectations.

The Levittown interscholastic athletic program offers a wide variety of individual and team sports. The experience begins with a modified four sport season program provided for middle school seventh and eighth grade students, progressing to a three sport season for high school students, which includes opportunities for participation in junior varsity programs and culminates with a varsity-level experience for the elite athlete.

### **Middle School Program Philosophy**

Middle school programs offer an introduction to competitive athletics. Sport activities offered are determined by the existence of leagues, student interest, facility availability, financial resources, and the relationship to the high school program. At this point, the focus is on learning basic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, social and emotional growth, and healthy competition. The emphasis is to provide an opportunity for children through physical participation in a positive competitive environment to learn about their capabilities, and appreciate human physical potential. Athletes are introduced to the benefits of physical conditioning and encouraged to become responsible for maintaining an appropriate fitness level. The middle school program allows for game rules and requirements of play to be adapted, matching the competitive abilities of young inexperienced middle school athletes who have not yet reached emotional, social, physiological, or physical maturity.

### **Middle School Program Philosophy (continued)**

While we would like to provide an opportunity for every athlete who expresses interest in a program, this is not always possible. While we try to avoid cuts at the middle school level, certain factors exist that must be dealt with by imposing a limitation on the number of student participants. If the number of students trying out for a team creates a situation that is difficult to manage, poses a safety problem, or is problematic because of facility consideration, reducing team size may be necessary. Ultimately, the number of teams and size of the squad in any sport will be determined by the availability of:

- 1) Financial resources
- 2) Qualified coaches
- 3) Suitable indoor or outdoor facilities
- 4) A safe environment

In order for the desired development of the adolescent athlete and team to occur, practice sessions are vital. The NYSPHSAA and Section VIII have established sport specific practice guidelines, which govern the number of practices that each individual and team must have in order to be eligible for competition. There are also established guidelines that govern the number of contests allowed, and in certain sports, mandate days of rest between scheduled contests.

Coaches expect athletes to regularly attend all practices as scheduled, lasting between one and one half to two hours in duration, in preparation for the six to twelve contests that are scheduled against opponents from other school districts. Occasionally, practices or contests will be scheduled on Saturdays and vacation dates. In an effort to eliminate potential conflicts, athletes must attend all practices and games in their entirety. Missing or arriving late to either of these events for attendance of extra-curricular clubs or activities will be considered an unexcused absence or will not be tolerated. Opportunities for meaningful contest participation for each team member will exist over the course of a season, providing that the athlete meets program expectations. Athletes in all programs, regardless of level, are expected to be committed and give a full effort to practice sessions, maintain a positive and cooperative attitude, and show a willingness to meet the team's needs with respect to position and role. Every athlete is expected to demonstrate respect for others and promote positive sportsmanship. In addition, the athlete must have enough skill and physical maturity to safely participate in the competitive climate. **Playing time is determined by the coach of each team and is governed by section VIII requirements.**

Tryouts will take place for all teams. It is essential that all student-athletes attend and be committed during the tryout period. Attendance and commitment during the tryout period is mandatory to be considered for a roster slot. In addition, tryouts will take place for each team yearly. No position on the team is guaranteed due to the fact that the child may have already played on that team during the previous season. Each season and year brings a fresh start for all student-athletes!

**Please keep in mind that school teams take priority over travel and/or other outside leagues/teams. A commitment is expected to the school team over all else. Should a student athlete chose to attend a travel team contest which prevents them from fulfilling their commitment to the school team; they risk being suspended from games and/or the season.**

## **Junior Varsity Program Philosophy**

The junior varsity program is intended for those who display the potential for continued development into productive varsity-level players. Teams are comprised of mostly ninth-and tenth-grade athletes. In certain situations, juniors may be allowed to participate on a junior varsity squad. This circumstance, however, is more the exception than the rule.

At this point in the athlete's development, the level of expectation increases substantially. The high school sports season (three seasons per year) is longer than the middle school sports season (four seasons per year). Practice sessions at this level are longer and more intense, and skill requirements for participation in contests are greater. The atmosphere is more competitive, and in many cases athletes who were able to meet demands of play at the modified program will not be able to meet expectations of participation at the junior varsity level. **Athletes must be prepared for a competitive tryout situation, and should not assume that they will automatically make the team because they were involved in the program at the modified level.** Each season is treated as a new year, and tryouts are conducted accordingly.

Skill, conditioning, work ethic, and reliability are essential factors in an athlete's quest to move to the varsity level. At this level, athletes are expected to be committed to the program and continued self-development. To this end, increased emphasis is placed on physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills, elements and strategies of team play, and social and emotional development. Junior varsity programs work towards achieving a balance between continued team and player development, in addition to the quest for victory. The outcome of the contest does become a consideration at this level.

The realization that practice sessions are important is a premise that is vital to a successful junior varsity program and player. For team members, meaningful contest participation will exist over the course of a season, providing the athlete meets program expectations. **Playing time is never guaranteed. Athletes are expected to compete for a position and earn their position in the starting lineup.**

The time commitment of a participant involved in a junior varsity program is similar to that at the varsity level. Athletes and parents should be prepared for a six-day-a-week commitment for games and practices. *While practices are not held on certain religious holy days, the athlete will be expected to make a full commitment to scheduled team practices during vacation periods.* With the goal of becoming a varsity athlete clearly in sight, a high level of dedication and commitment is expected at the junior varsity level.

Tryouts will take place for all teams. It is essential that all student-athletes attend and be committed during the tryout period. Attendance and commitment during the tryout period is mandatory to be considered for a roster slot. In addition, tryouts will take place for each team yearly. No position on the team is guaranteed due to the fact that the child may have already played on that team during the previous season. Each season and year brings a fresh start for all student-athletes!

**Please keep in mind that school teams take priority over travel and/or other outside leagues/teams. A commitment is expected to the school team over all else. Should a student athlete chose to attend a travel team contest which prevents them from fulfilling their commitment to the school team; they risk being suspended from games and/or the season.**

## Varsity Program Philosophy

Varsity competition is the culminating experience for each sport's program. It is an experience provided for the elite athlete, since it is the most demanding and competitive. Although junior and senior athletes dominate varsity team rosters, gifted eighth, ninth- and tenth-grade athletes are eligible for varsity-level play.

The Advanced Placement Process occurs more frequently in those sports commonly classified as "individual" sports, such as tennis, golf, bowling, and swimming, etc. Prior participation in the program does not guarantee an athlete a spot on the roster, even if the athlete was a member of the varsity squad the preceding year.

Squad size is limited in many sports at the varsity level, although several sports will accommodate more numbers in practice and in competitive situations. However, even in those sports where cuts are not made in a given year, athletes must still understand that opportunities to participate may be denied unless they meet program expectations, especially with respect to start dates, attendance and commitment. While contest participation over the course of a season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time at the varsity level is never guaranteed, since the outcome of the contest becomes an important consideration at this level. **"Playing time is nonnegotiable" and is left to the discretion of the coach.**

A sound attitude and advanced level of skill are prerequisites for varsity play. Athletes will be expected to practice 2 to 3 hours per day, six days per week, **with commitment often extended into vacation periods** for all sports seasons. While practices are rarely held on religious holy days and Sundays, the dedication and commitment needed to conduct a successful varsity program should be taken seriously. The expectation is the same for the starting player as it is for the limited-role player, as every athlete involved on the team has a role in preparing the team for a demanding competitive schedule.

A primary goal of a varsity team is to win a league or division title, and/or qualify for postseason play in sectional, regional or state competition. In individual sports (cross-country, tennis, wrestling, golf, swimming and track), opportunities are presented to dedicated team members to represent the district in individual championship competitions at the league, division, county, and state levels.

Tryouts will take place for all teams. It is essential that all student-athletes attend and be committed during the tryout period. Attendance and commitment during the tryout period is mandatory to be considered for a roster slot. In addition, tryouts will take place for each team yearly. No position on the team is guaranteed due to the fact that the child may have already played on that team during the previous season. Each season and year brings a fresh start for all student-athletes

**Please keep in mind that school teams take priority over travel and/or other outside leagues/teams. A commitment is expected to the school team over all else. Should a student athlete chose to attend a travel team contest which prevents them from fulfilling their commitment to the school team; they risk being suspended from games and/or the season.**

## PROCEDURES FOR TRYOUTS

Athletes are expected to participate on the first day, and all other dates of tryouts. Athletes who miss the official start date and express a late interest in tryouts may be denied the opportunity to participate in the program. Exception to this policy may be considered for those athletes that have a documented medical illness or an injury. Consideration will only be given to those who notify the coach or Director of Athletics in advance of tryouts.

As mentioned previously in this guide, commitment is vital to the success of all involved. There is undoubtedly a sacrifice to be made, not only on the part of the athlete, but on the family as well. Athletes and parents are expected to make certain that personal plans and work schedules are adjusted in order to avoid conflicts with tryout dates, practices, and contests.

Each year is viewed as independent of another with respect to tryouts, and therefore, the tryout is open to all interested students. Athletes who were involved with the program the year before are not “guaranteed” a place on the team roster in the next season. All athletes should be prepared to “compete” for membership every year. Some students mature from one year to the next, and may be included on the team after having been cut the year before. Athletes may gain a potential advantage when they make a visible commitment to the program and improve significantly after having been involved in summer camps, summer league play, or community and organized club programs out of season. As the level progresses to the varsity level, the size of a team becomes more a function of those needed to conduct an effective and meaningful practice and to play the contest.

**A note for seniors:** One of the most difficult situations coaches face is the dilemma of the senior who has been in the program for years, and now is viewed as a limited-role player. Seniors will not be accommodated with a junior varsity experience, as this is considered a developmental program. At the varsity level, the best will play, regardless of age, as long as program expectations are met. Coaches are encouraged to be honest with seniors, and if it is clear to the coach during tryouts that the role of the senior will be limited, that information will be communicated. The senior presented with the opportunity to remain in the program with a limited role must be prepared to accept this role, and still meet all expectations of the program with respect to attendance and work ethic, while still showing support for the team. This is a difficult challenge, and the senior must be willing to meet this challenge with a positive attitude if he or she wishes to remain a member of the team. If a coach feels that the senior has reached the limits of his or her potential, and the athlete is incapable of adjusting to limited-role expectations with a positive attitude, the coach may not provide the senior with the option of staying on the team.

## **NYSPHSAA ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROCESS (APP)**

The advanced placement process is for screening student athletes to determine their readiness to compete in inter scholastic competition by evaluating their physical maturity, fitness, and skill. The intent of this program is to provide athletes an opportunity to safely participate at an appropriate level of competition based on readiness rather than age or grade.

### **MOVING UP OR BYPASSING A MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

In order to bypass a middle school experience, the particular athlete must be a very gifted individual as determined by our high school coaching staff. In most cases, this evaluation would be based on the athlete's performance level in our middle school program as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Please be advised that it is a rare occurrence that an athlete is approved to skip the 8<sup>th</sup> grade experience to play in a high school program. In addition to athletic ability, the social and emotional maturity of each student athlete is carefully assessed along with the student's behavioral and academic profile. It is the responsibility of the parent, not the school district, to provide transportation each day.

The following are Levittown's procedures for implementing the New York State Advanced Placement Process.

1. The Varsity coach identifies an athlete to potentially be moved up. The process cannot be initiated by the parent.
2. Varsity coach sees the athlete play in person.
3. Varsity coach communicates their desire to High School Athletic Director.
4. Varsity coach or High School Athletic Director contacts the Middle School Athletic Director.
5. Middle School Athletic Director speaks with Middle School Coach and Principal to identify any potential issues that would need to be addressed relative to the particular student athlete.
6. High School Athletic Director gives final confirmation to Middle School Athletic Director
7. Parents are contacted by Varsity Head coach.
8. If permission is granted by parents, Varsity coach notifies Middle School Athletic Director.
9. APP paperwork and sports application form are sent home by Middle School.
10. **APP Candidates may use either their own Physician or the School District Medical Director (MD) for the Physical/Maturation exam. If parents choose to have the School District MD conduct the exam, those results are final. It should also be noted that the School District MD has final approval on all medical exams, even those conducted by personal physicians.**
11. Physical Tests administered (running/swimming test may be administered at the High School).
12. APP packet sent to District Athletic Director.
13. If transportation is needed the parents are responsible for providing all transportation necessary.

It is the responsibility of the athlete and parent to make certain that the physical examination and maturity evaluation by the school physician and the athletic performance test by the authorized physical education teacher are completed by the middle of June for fall sports participation eligibility, Authorized staff members will not be available for the administration of performance tests during summer vacation. Therefore, an athlete who does not complete this process as defined above will not be eligible to participate in tryouts for a high school sport beginning in August.

**\*\*\*NO ATHLETE WILL BE MOVED UP TO A JUNIOR VARSITY TEAM  
IF SAID TEAM IS MAKING CUTS\*\*\***

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

- **Classroom and School Attendance**

- No student athlete may participate in a practice, scrimmage or contest on a day when the student was absent from school unless a school administrator grants special permission for the absence.
- No student athlete excused from a physical education class for medical reasons may participate in a practice scrimmage or contest on that same day. Note that Commissioners Regulations dictate that a student athlete is ineligible if he or she is medically excused from participation in a physical education class. **Any contest that an ineligible athlete participates in is deemed forfeit.**
- In order for a student to participate in extra-curricular activities, the student must be in attendance at school for at least half the day. Students who demonstrate problems with school absences or tardiness, either excused or unexcused, are subject to suspension and/or dismissal from the team. Athletes are expected to get to school on time, make a commitment to classroom attendance, and demonstrate appropriate behavior.

- **Eligibility**

- Extra-curricular activities are open to all students of the Levittown School District. No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against, under any educational program, or activity, or service, in this District, on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, creed or religion, marital status, age, or disability.

- **Participation**

- In order to participate in extracurricular programs, students (Grades 7 - 12) must maintain academic standards as determined by the District.
- In order to participate in Athletics, all students must view both the Risk Management and Anti-Hazing Videos located on the Levittown District Website. Signing the sports application form will be considered acknowledgement that each student has done so.
- Only the coach can excuse an athlete from either practice or games. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach in the event it becomes necessary to miss a practice or a game. In the event of an unauthorized absence from or lateness to a game or practice, the athlete may be suspended from the team. Attending an extra help session is an excused absence.
- During the participation in practices, meetings, events and games, all injuries must be reported immediately so that the coach/trainer can file the appropriate report. It is understood that voluntary participation in all sports requires an acceptance of risk of possible injury. Students can help make the game safer by using techniques which are legal and proper and which will not cause injury. The coaching staff is made up of professionals certified by the State who will continually and repeatedly teach techniques that are fundamental to the sport.
- Students who do not participate in Physical Education Class on a particular day may not participate in after-school athletics on that day.

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- **High School Athletic Vacation Policy**

- In order to ensure that students recognize and understand their responsibility as a member of the varsity team, parents and students are reminded that their participation requires attendance at practices and games during non school and vacation periods.
- Therefore, student-athletes must be prepared to participate in athletic practices or games that are scheduled during the following recesses: Thanksgiving, winter (December), mid-winter (February) and spring (March and April). As a school district and members of the Nassau County Athletic Association, We are committed to preparing for and honoring the contest schedule during these non school and vacation periods. In addition to these periods, the fall sports season (High School) will commence on the Monday prior to Labor Day, with football commencing a week prior to this date. Consequently, all varsity athletes and their families are reminded to plan vacations accordingly. It is recognized that there may be situations of an emergency nature that may arise which would necessitate the missing of scheduled practices. All athletes should be expected to plan ahead and attend these practices and/or competitions if they wish to remain on the team.
- Therefore, student-athletes are expected to make a full commitment to the season, and notify the coach of any potential commitment conflicts at the start of the season, as soon as tryouts begin. A problem with commitment may impact the selection process.

- **Policies Governing Contests And Practice On Holy Day Observances**

- Athletic games and practices are mandated to be scheduled in accordance with New York State religious observance guidelines. In addition, the Levittown School District respects that their students may be required to observe a religious holy day which is not part of these guidelines and the athlete will not be penalized for non-attendance at that game/practice. It is the responsibility of the athlete to notify the coach in a timely fashion of these observed holy days.
- Note: Individual schools may compete on these dates outside of Section VIII (Nassau County), for example at the Penn Relays on Holy Thursday, if the district approves such participation.
- When teams do practice on the eve of a religious holiday, or those dates mentioned above with special permission, coaches and team members are expected to respect religious commitments and personal obligations of the family. Athletes and parents in these circumstances will be informed that the practice is optional, with no implication of any penalty for missing the practice.

- **School Sanctioned Activities And Field Trips**

- There are numerous educational opportunities for students in our school system. The athletic department supports school-sanctioned programs and trips, but also realizes that student athletes who choose to participate in school trips or school exchange programs may miss substantial amounts of practice time, which affects personal athletic goals and team goals.

- Coaches, parents, and student athletes have a responsibility to each other, and parents are expected to plan and communicate well in advance of each sports season when considering participation in school-sanctioned programs and/or trips. All attempts should be made to consider the practice and/or game schedule, and seek the advice of the coach before making commitments to plans. If an athlete's personal commitments compromise team goals, or present a conflict with respect to the standards and expectations defined for all involved in the program, the athlete should be prepared to make a choice between his/her continued relationship with the team and their commitment to other personal goals.
- **STUDENT-ATHLETE POSSESSIONS**
    - All athletes are provided with a locker for their personal use located in the physical education locker room or team room facility. Since this area is used by numbers of students throughout the course of an afternoon, and teams dismiss athletes at varying times, it is impossible to make certain that the locker room facility is secured at all times.
    - Therefore, it is essential that each athlete assumes the responsibility for locking up and securing his/her books, clothing, and personal possessions prior to leaving the facility for practice and contests each day. The school district is not responsible for lost/stolen property.
    - Coaches will attempt to provide adequate supervision within the facility, but athletes are expected to do their part as well. More often than not, when personal belongings are taken, the athlete has not assumed his/her responsibility to secure them in an appropriate manner. Despite our best efforts to supervise these areas, theft sometimes occurs.
  - **TEAM UNIFORMS AND SCHOOL-ISSUED EQUIPMENT**
    - Athletic equipment becomes more costly each year. It is the responsibility of the student- athlete to secure all school issued equipment items and uniforms in a **locker that is locked** during the course of a season. Please do not keep team uniforms in the locker room facility for long periods of time. They are best laundered and left at home until the day of a game. The expense of a uniform is significant, and if the athlete forgets to lock his/her locker, the athlete will be expected to pay for the school-issued athletic equipment and/or uniform.
    - **Care and Maintenance of Uniforms and Equipment**
      - All athletes and parents are responsible for the cleaning and maintaining of all uniforms and equipment issued during the course of a season. Some of our most costly items may shrink, fade, or bleed color if washed in hot water. In addition, our logos, numbers, and screens may crack and peel off if temperature settings for washing and drying are too hot.
      - Therefore, **do not wash uniforms in hot water and avoid drying on hot** temperature settings. Please wash uniforms in cold water and hang to dry! Be sure to read tags on the cloth for washing and drying instructions, and when in doubt, speak to the coach before laundering uniforms. If the uniform needs to be replaced, the athlete will be expected to pay for the replacement item.

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- **Return of School-Issued Uniforms and Equipment**
  - It is the responsibility of the athlete to personally return all school-issued equipment to his/her coach at the end of his/her season. All team uniforms and equipment are to be returned to the coach immediately after the last practice or contest where the item is needed. The athlete is not responsible for the cleaning or washing of uniforms after the last use, as all items in our inventory are sent out to a professional reconditioning and cleaning service. Turning in equipment and uniforms “on time” ensures that all items in the team inventory are available for pickup by the reconditioning company on the scheduled date set for the end of the season. Athletes should never give their school-issued equipment or uniform to others to return. Coaches keep accurate records of school-issued inventory, and if items are not returned at the end of the season, the athlete will be placed on an indebted list.
  - Athletes who owe equipment/uniforms will not be issued any other school uniform or protective equipment for another sports season until they clear their indebtedness with the Building Athletic Coordinator. If the uniform is lost, or ruined, the athlete will be held responsible. Coaches will also be instructed to withhold the presentation of athletic awards until missing items of inventory have been returned or paid for. Building Administrators may take additional action with regard to the athlete’s indebtedness as well. Underclassmen may be prevented from participating on an athletic team in subsequent seasons/years if they have not satisfied the indebted policy.

## **ATHLETIC TRANSPORTATION**

- Transportation to and from an athletic contest is part of a team commitment which ultimately builds teamwork, camaraderie, and cohesiveness. In special cases, a parent may request permission to transport his or her child from a game site. In such cases, the request must be made in writing and in advance of the contest. These requests shall be considered only as the “rare exception”, and should be reserved for emergency situations.
- Athletes are expected to use transportation provided by the school “to” and “from” all athletic contests. Student athletes are expected to arrive for bus departures on time, and may not drive to the site. If a student does not make the bus, and arrives at the site without administrative approval in advance, the athlete should not expect to participate.
- Transportation to and from an athletic contest is part of a team commitment which ultimately builds teamwork, camaraderie, and cohesiveness.
- Athletes at away contests are expected to remain “on site” and *under the direct supervision of the coach* at all times. All students will be expected to conduct themselves appropriately when traveling with the team. All athletes are expected to return to school with the team after contests as a continuation of the team experience. Under no circumstances will a parent be allowed to take any other child home but their own. Nor will a child be permitted to leave an away site with anyone other than his/her parent. Failing to comply with transportation and supervision policies at away contests may jeopardize an athlete’s team eligibility
- Parents are expected to pick up athletes in a timely fashion. Athletes should check with the coach for the estimated time of pick up. It is not the responsibility of the coaching staff to wait for students to be picked up.

### **Transportation to Postseason Contests**

- Any athlete participating in a Regional, Intersectional, or State Championship Event **must travel to the event on the transportation provided by Section VIII. Parents cannot transport their child to any postseason contest at the regional level or beyond. There is no appeal to this Section VIII regulation.**

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- An athlete may travel home with his/her parents provided that a written request is presented, in advance of the departure date, to the Section VIII Sports Chair Coordinator. If approval has not been given in advance, the athlete will be expected to return home from the contest with the Section VIII team

## **PARENT-COACH RELATIONSHIP**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefit to the students. As parents, when your children become involved in sports programs, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication between coach and student athlete. The primary form of communication is between coach and player. It is the individual player's responsibility to share said information with their parents.

Parents should be advised that the Levittown Public Schools policy does not permit spectators to watch tryouts and team practices, as distractions can upset the concentration of the athletes. The gymnasium or field is considered to be part of the classroom environment. Parents who pick up their child after practice should wait until the conclusion of the practice before entering the training facility.

### Information you should expect from your child as per the coach

- Expectations the coach has for the players on the team.
- Schedule and location of games, including changes.
- Practice schedule.
- Team requirements, i.e., special equipment, off-season conditioning responsibilities, etc.
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
- Team rules and guidelines.

### Communication Coaches Expect From Athletes

- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Prompt reporting of injuries.

Any questions of concerns you have relative to your child's athletic experience should be directed in the following order:

1. Coach
2. Building Athletic Director
3. District Athletic Director

**\*\*\*Any communication that occurs out of this order will be redirected to the appropriate person\*\*\***

### Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With the Coaches

- Treatment of your child — mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you desire. However, coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be in the best interests of the team and all students involved. Certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With the Coach

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

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

## Procedures to Follow To Discuss Concerns With The Coach

- Contact the coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Director to ask for assistance in setting up the meeting.
- **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.** These can be emotional times for the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Please take into consideration the coach's responsibilities at this time, as the coach is responsible for the supervision and safety of all athletes involved in the program, before, during and after the activity.

If meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution to your concerns, contact the Building Athletic Director to set up an appointment and discuss the situation. If the situation does not meet your satisfaction, at this point contact the District Athletic Director.

## **ATHLETIC AWARD**

### Coaches Associations and County Awards

Coaches' Associations have no affiliation with the school district or Section VIII. They are independent bodies, governed by their own bylaws and officers. Postseason awards, presented by the coaches, may vary from sport to sport and year to year. The members of the County Coaches' Association determine the selection criteria for awards, pay for the awards, and fund the banquets. Neither the school, nor the Section, has any influence with regard to the selection of those individuals who receive these awards.

## **GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS**

The following is a suggested "code of conduct" for parents:

- Remain seated in spectator areas during competition.
- Do not yell instructions or criticisms to the children.
- Make no derogatory comments to players, your child's coach, other parents or fans, officials, or administrators.
- Be willing to let the coach be responsible for your child during the duration of the contest.
- Provide unconditional love, acceptance and emotional support regardless of the game's outcome.

## **CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

### **Levittown School District Code of Conduct: Extra-Curricular and Athletic Participation**

The District recognizes the valuable contribution Extra-curricular and interscholastic activities make to a student's growth and development. For many students, these activities not only provide learning activities in the social and cognitive domains but also often provide motivation for recalcitrant learners to come to school and actively participate in the academic day. To this end, the Levittown School District provides a variety of Extra-curricular activities that complement the educational and athletic development of each student. Parents/guardians and the school community need to work together to provide these activities for our children. This expectation is not meant to usurp or restrict the responsibility of parents. The Levittown School District feels very strongly that parents must monitor their own children's behavior and impose their own discipline measures beyond those consequences outlined in this document.

Extra-curricular participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team/club, to the student body, and to the community. When a participant accepts this privilege he/she must also live up to the code of conduct beyond that of the general student body, on and off school property. It is imperative that all students abide by the following:

1. Show pride and respect for their school and for their fellow students whom they represent, by being good citizens, good sports, and good students.
2. Be loyal to the school, its coaching/advisory staff and contribute to team/school spirit.
3. Condition properly so that they can safely and adequately meet the physical demands of a sport.
4. Follow training rules that are established by the school and the coach.
5. Be responsible for all equipment issued, take proper care of it and return it at the proper time.
6. Abide by and respect all decisions of officials.
7. Support all school activities to the best of their ability.

### **Prohibited Student Conduct**

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

It is expected that District personnel make every effort to have the student learn from the disciplinary experience rather than just punish the student.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate the District code of conduct will be required to accept the consequences for their actions. Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school.

All students should be prepared to accept serious consequences if school officials, teachers, and/or coaches find that school district policies pertaining to alcohol, drugs, vaping, and tobacco have been violated. Furthermore, since alcohol, drugs, vaping, and tobacco interfere with effective learning, the health and well-being of the athlete, and the goals of the individual and team, the athlete who is involved with the use of such substances must understand that they are seriously jeopardizing their status as a member of the team and risk suspension and/or expulsion from the team.

## **HAZING**

- Hazing at any age can be exceedingly harmful. Hazing at the Middle School or High School levels are particularly troubling because the developmental stages of adolescence create a situation in which students are more vulnerable to peer pressure. This is due to the tremendous need for belonging, making friends and finding approval in one's peer group.
- Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created intentionally to produce a mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.
- **SUBTLE HAZING**: Actions that are against accepted school district standards of conduct, behavior, and good taste. Any activity or attitude directed towards a student which ridicules, humiliates, or embarrasses.
- **HARASSMENT HAZING**: Anything that causes mental anguish or physical discomfort to the student. Any activity which confuses, frustrates, or causes undue stress.

THE LEVITTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LEVITTOWN ATHLETIC  
DEPARTMENT DO NOT CONDONE ANY PRACTICE OF HAZING.  
THOSE WHO VIOLATE THIS POLICY WILL BE SUBJECT TO STRICT  
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

*Hazing is not about "traditions" or "silly antics".  
It is about abuse of power and violation of human dignity.  
Hazing is a form of abuse and victimization.*

## **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION/OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

- Any student who is suspended in school will not be permitted to practice or participate in any athletic event for that day. Additionally, any student suspended out of school will not be permitted to attend or participate in any practice or athletic contest. Suspension period is not over until the athlete attends the next full day of school.

## SECTION VIII SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

- *Spectators* are an important part of the game and shall conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
- *Spectators* shall at all times respect officials, coaches, players, and District supervisors, and extend all courtesies to them. While wholesome cheering is encouraged, taunting, foul and abusive language, inflammatory remarks and disrespectful signs and behavior are not acceptable. Faculty supervised pep bands are permitted during dead-ball time, however, spectator noise makers or sound devices are prohibited.
- *Spectators* shall observe and obey the rules and regulations of the school concerning tobacco, smoking, food and soft drink consumption, use of lavatory facilities and the parking of cars.
- New York State law prohibits smoking and alcoholic beverages of any kind on school property. The law further prohibits any person under the influence of alcohol to be on school property.
- *Spectators* shall respect and obey all school officials, supervisors, security and police at all athletic contests.
- **Violators of this code are subject to removal from the event, and could potentially lose the right to attend future events.**

## SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY

- Visiting team members, students and adult spectators are guests, to be accorded all the courtesy and consideration that a friendly, well-mannered and well-intentioned host would normally give.
- The visitors, in turn, are to act as invited guests, using the home school's facilities with care, while respecting the rules and customs of the home school.
- Officials are the proper authorities to make decisions regarding rules and their interpretation; these decisions should be accepted.
- Spectators, student-athletes and coaches must recognize that their conduct plays an important role in establishing the reputation of the school and their actions can relate directly to the team's success.

## NYSPHSAA/SECTION VIII MISCONDUCT RULE

Any member of the squad ruled out of a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, or for a flagrant foul shall not participate in that sport in the next previously scheduled contest with a member school or in NYSPHSAA tournament play. In individual sports, a multi-day contest is considered to be a contest. The contest in which the athlete was disqualified must count in the total maximum number of contests permitted. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season of participation.

Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass, or intimidate an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the section not to exceed one year from the date of the offense.

**NOTE:** Members of the squad includes player(s), manager, scorekeeper, timers, and statisticians

# ***ATHELETIC POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE LEVITTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT***

*THE FOLLOWING POLICIES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE LEVITTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ARE SUBJECT TO UPDATE ON A YEARLY BASIS. CLICK EACH POLICY TO VIEW THE MOST CURRENT VERSION.*

- **[RETURN TO PLAY AFTER INJURY/CONCUSSION](#)**: A student athlete under treatment by a private physician must have written permission from his/her physician in order to return to active status in the sports program.
- **[TRANSPORTATION](#)**: In accordance with District policy #5720, athletes are expected to use transportation provided by the school “to” and “from” all athletic contests.
- **EMERGENCY PLAN**: Please be advised that Levittown School District has a comprehensive emergency plan that has been developed for each individual school. Please click on the appropriate school link to view.
  - [Division Avenue High School](#)
  - [MacArthur High School](#)
  - [Salk Middle School](#)
  - [Wisdom Lane Middle School](#)
- **[LEVITTOWN ATHLETICS BOARD-ADOPTED POLICIES](#)**

# ***POLICIES GOVERNED EXCLUSIVELY BY NEW YORK STATE GUIDELINES***

*THE FOLLOWING POLICIES ARE GOVERNED BY NEW YORK STATE GUIDELINES AND ARE SUBJECT TO UPDATE ON A YEARLY BASIS. CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINK TO VIEW THE MOST CURRENT VERSION OF THE HANDBOOK. [NYS PHAA HANDBOOK](#)*

- **NYS PHSAA TRANSFER RULE AND ELIGIBILITY:** This eligibility policy governs transfers between private schools and public schools, or parochial schools and public schools.
- **POSTSEASON PLAY ELIGIBILITY:** This policy refers to the minimum team and individual requirements for a student/athlete to be eligible to participate in postseason play.
- **MEDICAL CLEARANCE:** This policy addresses the medical requirements that each student athlete must meet in order to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROCESS:** Commonly referred to as APP, this is a program for evaluating students who want to participate in sports at a higher level as approved by the Board of Regents.
- **MIXED COMPETITION:** Mixed competition refers to equal opportunity to participate in interschool competition, either on separate teams or in mixed competition on the same team, for male and female students.
- **COACHING CERTIFICATIONS:** All Levittown School District coaching personnel are certified in accordance with NYSPHSAA standards.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY NEW YORK STATE ON A YEARLY BASIS\*\***