

LYNDEN CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES ACADEMIC, ATTENDANCE, ELIGIBILITY CODE

THIS IS A 365 DAY POLICY—24 HOURS A DAY—ACCUMULATIVE OVER 4 YEARS

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Lynden Christian students who participate in athletics/activities represent the school in a distinctive way. Participating in such activities is a privilege, one that is contingent not only upon meeting board and state approved academic standards, but also upon demonstrating lawful, respectful, and appropriate conduct at all times. Students are to conduct themselves in such a manner that they bring honor and respect upon God, their families, their school and themselves both on and off the field of play. Because participation is considered a privilege, the student accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities unique to the individual activity in which they participate.

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11

A central part of our Lynden Christian School mission is to help students grow and mature into perceptive and caring Christians. Hebrews 12 makes it clear that God disciplines His children in love and because of love. In the same spirit, Lynden Christian High School seeks to administer discipline rooted in Christian love, restoration, and the development of Christlike character. While our intent mirrors God’s perfect discipline, we acknowledge our human imperfection and therefore strive to apply discipline with humility, consistency, and grace for the good of each student and the wider school community.

II. SCOPE OF CODE

The rules and regulations contained in this athletic/activities code apply not only to student-athletes but also to cheerleaders, ASB participants, club members, music and drama students, and other students in supporting roles such as managers, statisticians, and similar positions. These expectations are in effect from the time of receipt through the termination of a student’s eligibility at Lynden Christian High School, including summer months and the time between seasons.

III. GENERAL RULES

A. WIAA rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting dates, use of school equipment, etc.

B. No student athlete may quit one sport and turn out for another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of the coaches.

C. Participants must travel to and from contests away from Lynden Christian High School in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions permitted are:

1. Injury to a participant which would require alternate transportation
2. After a contest, a participant may leave with their parent/guardian or another approved driver listed in Final Forms only after the parent/guardian or approved driver has personally signed the student out with the coach.
3. Approval by the Administration for permission to ride with others. This request must be in writing by the parent/guardian in advance and directed to the Athletic/Activities Director or designee
4. Approval by Athletic/Activities Director for permission to ride with others may be granted under extenuating circumstances. i.e. The school is unable to provide transportation.

D. Any display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward a teammate, opponent or official during a practice or contest will result in counseling by the coach and possible discipline or suspension.

E. Participants will not engage in delinquent behavior, unlawful acts, insubordination, inappropriate use of social media, technology, or acts of bullying/hazing/harassment/intimidation. Any offenses considered illegal in the eyes of the law (excluding minor traffic offenses) may also be in violation of the code.

F. Use of Illegal Substances

Washington Laws and Student Eligibility. School and WIAA rules and regulations are intended to discourage the use of alcohol, tobacco, legend drugs, controlled substances and paraphernalia and to encourage the use of school and community resources. A violation shall be considered a violation of the Athletic/Activities Code and shall subject the student to disciplinary actions, which may include suspension for the remainder of the season or the remainder of his/her high school career.

1. Participants agree not to use tobacco (in any form), alcohol or any un-prescribed drugs. If a student is at a location, where minors are using drugs or alcohol, the participant must immediately remove themselves. The student bears the responsibility to demonstrate they actively pursued all reasonable means to exit. Otherwise, the student is presumed to have participated in the activity in fact as well as in spirit.
2. Participants will not possess, use, provide or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, legend drugs including anabolic steroids, other drugs, controlled substances, inhalants, or other intoxicants (including, but not limited to glue, petroleum liquid or gas) unless prescribed by a medical practitioner. In addition, participants will not possess, provide, sell or purchase drug paraphernalia, including that which may be used for inhaling, "huffing," or vaping.
3. Participants will not possess or use tobacco/nicotine or vaping in any form.

G. A participant shall not engage in conduct detrimental to the team or to the school.

H. A participant shall not steal or use another person's property without permission.

I. A participant is expected to attend all scheduled practices, meetings, contests or events. If a student finds it necessary to miss any of the above, prior arrangements must be made with the coach.

J. Issued equipment belongs to Lynden Christian High School. The loss or misuse of this equipment will be the financial obligation of the participant. Until this obligation is fulfilled, the student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in further competition, take exams, or to receive awards.

K. Completion of the athletic season is required for the student to be eligible for a letter or other team or individual award. (Exception: injury which limits participation.) No awards shall be given to any student suspended for the season for an Athletic Code violation. Students who do not complete an athletic season without permission from their current season coach may face a suspension from their participation in a subsequent sport season. (This may be considered as "conduct detrimental to the team or school" (see G))

IV. PROCEDURES FOR RULE INFRACTION

All penalties for code violations are at the discretion of the Administration subject to the following suggested guidelines:

1. A student will be found in violation of Lynden Christian Athletic/Activities Code if any of the following occur:

A. The violation is observed by a staff member or law enforcement official

B. The student or parent/guardian self-reports or admits the violation

C. The violation is supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

2. First offense during high school - The participant will be suspended 20% of the total allowable contests in the season.

A. Self-Report of First Violation – Up to ten percent (10%) of the total allowable contests may be waived for a first-time violation if the student or parent/guardian voluntarily reports the violation to a coach or administrator before any investigation begins. The violation will still be recorded as a first offense.

3. Second offense during high school - The participant will be suspended 50% of the total allowable contests in the season.

4. Third offense & subsequent offense/offenses or severe offenses during high school - The participant will be suspended for a minimum of 70% of the total allowable contests in the season, up to one complete season.

5. Appeal process - *Athletic Discipline Committee (ADC)*

If a student believes the discipline, as determined by the code, has been misapplied, they may appeal to the ADC. The appeal must be a written grievance to the administration, within two (2) school business days of determination and notification of code violation. The administration will convene the ADC, and the student and their parents/guardians will have the opportunity to present their case to the ADC for consideration. The administrator who determined the violation will also be present to provide/verify information.

- a. ADC is comprised of at least: 2 non-Coaching teachers, 2 Coaches (not involved in the situation), and an Administrator.
- b. Athlete is unable to participate in contests during the appeal process. Contests missed during this time will be credited towards serving a suspension.

6. Legend drugs and controlled substances –

Penalties for the possession, use or sale of legend drugs (drugs obtained through prescription, RCW 69.41.020-050) and controlled substances (RCW 69.50) shall be as follows: (WIAA Handbook 18.26.2)

1st Violation - A participant shall be immediately ineligible for interscholastic competition in the current interscholastic sports program for the remainder of the season. Ineligibility shall continue until the next sports season in which the participant wishes to participate unless the student accesses the assistance program outlined in B (below.) An athlete who is found to be in violation of the Legend drugs and controlled substances rule shall have two options.

- a. The athlete will be ineligible for participation in contests for the remainder of that interscholastic sports season and must meet the school's requirements in order to be eligible to compete in the next interscholastic sports season. The school principal will have the final authority regarding the student's participation in further interscholastic sports programs.
- b. The athlete may choose to seek and receive help for a problem with use of legend drugs or controlled substances. Successful utilization of school and community assistance programs may allow him/her to have eligibility re-instated in that athletic season, pending recommendation by the school.

2nd Violation - A participant who again violates any provision of RCW 69.41.020 through 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of the second violation.

3rd Violation - A participant who violates for a third time RCW 69.41.020 - 69.41.050 or of RCW 69.50 shall be permanently ineligible for interscholastic competition.

7. Additional Notes

- a. Severe offenses may supersede recommended guidelines for 1st or subsequent offenses.

- b. Offenses are cumulative through a student's high school career.
- c. For offenses involving legend drugs (drugs obtained through prescription, RCW 69.41.020-050) and controlled substances (RCW 69.50) *see #6*.
- d. A student must complete the full season during which the suspension is served for the suspension to be deemed satisfied. Failure to complete that season will result in the entire suspension being carried over to the next athletic season in which the athlete participates.
- e. Students who are ineligible for competition or performances are expected to continue practicing with the team, pending approval from the coach or sponsor. During the period of ineligibility, athletes are required to remain with the team during contests and sit on the bench out of uniform. Ineligible students are not permitted to be dismissed early from school to travel with the team.
- f. Suspended athletes who desire to participate in athletics at another school—when the sport is not offered at Lynden Christian—must submit an appeal to the Athletic Discipline Committee prior to the start of that season. (IV.4) Approval is contingent upon both committee approval and the other school's agreement to offer the athlete a roster spot.
- g. If a student wishes to serve a suspension while participating in a new sport, they must submit an appeal to the Athletic Discipline Committee prior to the start of that season. (IV.4) Approval is contingent upon both committee approval and the receiving coach's agreement to offer the athlete a roster spot.
- h. Suspensions may be continued into the next sport season if not fulfilled.

V. ATTENDANCE

- a. Daily: To participate in after-school activities (i.e. a practice, contest, performance, etc.) that day, a student must have attended school the entire day. Acceptable exceptions are:
 - 1. pre-arranged excused absence on file in the office (i.e. medical/legal appointment, funeral, school sponsored events.)
 - 2. Signed statement from a doctor verifying an appointment. *Must return immediately from appointment.*
 - 3. Approval from Activities Director or Building Administration.
- b. Any suspension from school (whether in-school or out-of-school) may result in a suspension from future contests.
- c. If a student is suspended from school (whether in-school or out-of-school), they are not permitted to attend practice, participate in team activities, or be present at any event as a spectator during the suspension period. If an athlete chooses to attend an away contest as a spectator during this time, they will be prohibited from attending the next home contest, regardless of eligibility.

VI. ACADEMICS ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

Participation in athletics/activities requires successful performance in academics. The academic standards place proper emphasis on student achievement in the classroom to maintain eligibility. (*WIAA Handbook – 18.0.0*)

1. Preceding Semester

The WIAA requires that each student shall have passed the minimum number of classes in the immediately preceding semester in order to be eligible for competition during the succeeding semester beyond normal grading periods. The record at the end of the semester shall be final, except for those class-for-class replacement credits earned in a regular, accredited summer school program (*WIAA Handbook – 18.8.4 & 18.8.5*).

2. End of Semester

a. FALL – If a student has failed to meet the grade requirements of WIAA Handbook - 18.8.4 in the second semester of the previous school year:

1. LCHS requires that if a student-athlete fails one (1) class at the end of the semester they are ineligible for 10% of contests allowed for the regular season for that sport. Suspension from contests begins at the start of the next semester.

2. WIAA requirements regarding probation and academic suspension will also be followed according to 18.8.6

b. WINTER/SPRING - If a student who failed to meet the grade requirements of WIAA 18.8.4 shall be placed on suspension because the grading period ended during the same school year (i.e., second semester for a winter or spring athlete):

1. LCHS requires that if a student-athlete fails one (1) class at the end of the semester they are ineligible for 10% of contests allowed for the regular season for that sport. Suspension from contests begins at the start of the next semester.

2. WIAA requirements regarding is a student fails more than one (1) class at the end of the semester the student is suspended the first five (5) weeks of the succeeding semester (*WIAA – 18.8.6.2*)

3. During Quarter/Semester

Lynden Christian High School requires each participant to maintain passing grades in all assigned classes to remain eligible during the current quarter/semester.

a. Each participant is eligible providing they are passing all classes.

b. Academic eligibility is checked every 1-3 weeks. In order to be eligible to participate, a student must be registered, attending, and passing all classes. Eligibility for the student will be determined as follows:

1. Student-athlete receives a failing grade in any class at the end of a 1-3 week period they will be put on academic probation in that class.
 2. If the student-athlete is still failing the class after the probation period, they will be ineligible to participate in contests/performances until the Athletic/Activities Director receives a signed note, email, or verbal confirmation from the teacher that the student is passing their class.
 3. Once a student is put on probation in a class, they remain on probation for that class for the remainder of the semester.
- c. Each participant receiving a failing grade in any class at the end of the nine-week grading period while “in-season”, will be suspended from 10% of their contests and put on academic probation for the remainder of the semester for that class.
1. If a student receives a failing grade at the end of the 1st quarter and first activity involvement is winter, he/she would be on probation from the start of the winter season

Updated 9/1/2026