

**LOWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
ATHLETICS
HANDBOOK**



**ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS
PARTNERS FOR
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

**LOWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
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ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This booklet is designed to inform athletes and their parents of the philosophy, goals, rules and regulations that help continue the tradition of competition at Lowell Middle School.

Participation in middle school athletics is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of commitment, responsibility, sacrifice, and honor. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct established by the administration and approved by the Tri-Creek School Board. There may also be other rules that are specific to each sport offered at Lowell Middle School. Athletes represent their school their student body, and their community. It is the athlete's duty to conduct himself/herself in a manner that is becoming of the athlete, his or her family, Lowell Middle School, and the Tri-Creek community.

DEPARTMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

The educational philosophy of Tri-Creek School Corporation provides the basis for the intent and context of the program, the organizational structure and the existence of all curricular and extra-curricular activities a student has the opportunity to experience. Participation in athletics is an extension of the total educational experience which may help a student to realize optimum physical and intellectual growth, and develop a true understanding of self which in turn permits the development of respect and empathy for others. Tri-Creek School Corporation believes that participation in athletics contributes to the development of ideas and habits of good health, fair play, emotional control, social competence, positive moral values and all aspects of self-discipline.

Harmony between athletics and educational goals must be consistent at all times. Cooperation must be extended to all classroom teachers and academic grades must be maintained. Students who have high standards in the classroom are the students that can be relied upon to achieve his/her goals in athletics.

Regardless of which sport or activity students participate in during their education, it is the intent of Lowell Middle School that each athlete learn from these experiences. The following statements express the Mission, the Beliefs, and the Core Values of Lowell Middle School.

MISSION STATEMENT

Lowell Middle School is committed to a comprehensive athletic program that shall continually strive to achieve excellence for all involved.

THE BELIEFS

1. Athletics compliments, supports, and extends the overall learning experience.
2. Involvement in athletics provides opportunities to develop life skills such as teamwork, time management, responsibility and respect that will be instrumental in molding characters, decisions, attitudes, and talents.
3. A successful athletic program needs the cooperation and support of the parents, student body, community, and the entire Tri-Creek School Corporation.

OBJECTIVES

The program must provide for the student athlete:

1. The opportunity to learn and improve skills in a competitive sport.
2. The development of physical vigor, desirable health habits and safety.
3. The opportunity to make real friendships with squad members, opposing team members, and to visit and play in other communities.
4. A chance to observe and exemplify fair play and healthy competition.
5. The realization that athletic competition is a PRIVILEGE that carries definite responsibilities with it.
6. An association with ladies and gentlemen who exemplify well-rounded competitors in the person of athletic coaches.
7. A chance to learn that a violation of a rule of the game results in a penalty and that this same sequence follows in the game of life.
8. Assurance that the degree of success depends on the hard work, devotion to task, and enthusiasm for the game as well as the innate ability of the individual.
9. An opportunity to exercise judgment, to think quickly, to take orders, and to carry them out to the best of one's ability.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible scholastically, students must have received passing grades at the end of their last grading period in school in ALL classes.

Every student-athlete or manager is subject to this rule. Those affected may attend practices during the period of ineligibility at the coaches' discretion.

ATTENDANCE/EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Participation in any and all extracurricular activities is dependent upon good school attendance. The following rules apply for all student-athletes during their season:

1. All student athletes must report to school by 9:00.

2. All student-athletes must remain in school for the entire school day.

*Note: Doctor/dentist appointments or funerals are the only absences in which a student-athlete will be excused from the above rules. Parent notes are **not** considered excused absences. This rule may be circumvented at the discretion of administration.*

4. An athlete who misses five (5) or more consecutive days of school or athletic participation due to illness or injury must obtain written permission from a doctor to be eligible to resume participation.

CUTTING POLICY

The coaching staff is hired for their knowledge and expertise in each particular sport. It is at the discretion of each sport's coaching staff to decide who will be members of the squad. It may be necessary from time to time to cut athletes trying out for the team. Every athlete trying out for a squad will be given at least a two day tryout period in which to demonstrate his/her skills and abilities.

EQUIPMENT

Each athlete is responsible for the care and the return of all athletic equipment. Lost or damaged equipment, due to player neglect, will be paid for at a fair rate determined by school officials.

All equipment must be turned in promptly. The issue of missing items must be settled at that time.

Coaches are responsible for collecting all athletic equipment for their respective sport assignment. A student who neglects to return equipment will be ineligible for **all** athletics until he/she returns the equipment and is in good standing with the school. Any athlete losing athletic equipment will be issued a debt slip by the supervising coach. Copies of the debt slip will be on file in the **treasurer's office**.

GENERAL TEAM RULES

1. The staff for such activity has the right to determine the roster. If a student, in the staff's opinion, does not possess the necessary qualifications, the staff may dismiss said individual.

2. Each sponsor/coach will have an established list of rules to be followed and the penalty for violation. The student is expected to abide by such stated rules. The sponsor/coach is to be sure that all participants understand the rules.

“BULLYING”

Bullying is defined by the Act as “overt, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications transmitted; physical act committed; or any other behaviors committed by student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student.”

The bullying rule must apply when a student is on school grounds immediately before or during school hours, immediately after school hours or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group; off school grounds at a school activity, function or event; traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or using property or equipment provided by the school.

ILLNESS/INJURY

You are **INELIGIBLE** if you are absent five (5) or more consecutive school days due to illness or injury and do not present to your principal or designee a written verification from a licensed physician stating that you may resume participation.

The middle school will assume **no** responsibility of payment for medical treatment for an injury which was incurred during a practice or game.

If an athlete must seek professional advice and/or treatment, the physician consulted must make the final decision as to when the athlete will continue to participate in athletics. **A PARENT MAY NOT WAIVE LIABILITY.** The student-athlete must have a doctor’s release before he/she can continue to practice or participate if he/she has been out for five days or more with an injury or illness. The release may be by fax or letter directly to the school office.

INSURANCE

Due to the nature of athletic activity injury may occur. While the school provides the opportunity for such participation, the parent retains the right of denial of such participation and must carry the responsibility for providing medical care and insurance coverage for their son or daughter. Parents must have a family insurance policy to cover athletic injuries and the cost of treatment. **IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NEITHER THE LOWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL, NOR THE TRI-CREEK SCHOOL CORPORATION CARRIES ANY KIND OF MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR ATHLETIC INJURIES.**

PARENT’S AND PHYSICIAN CONSENT FORMS - Before a student may practice/tryout/participate with an athletic team, he/she must have on file in the Lowell Middle School office the IHSAA physical form which has been properly signed by a licensed physician, the athlete and his/her parents. The form must be properly completed and signed a licensed physician indicating that the student is physically able to participate. This form must be on file between May 1 and student’s first practice in preparation for athletic participation.

Classroom activities are scheduled from 8:00 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. at Lowell Middle School. Practices may begin at 3:00 p.m. at the conclusion of the regular school day. In cases of inclement weather which results in school being dismissed early, all practices are cancelled.

Athletes will not be allowed to practice if they do not attend school all day. Any exemptions must be cleared by the principal or athletic director.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

Student athletes, trainers, managers, cheerleaders, or support group members must be residents of the Tri-Creek School Corporation. This means the student must reside within the legally defined attendance areas of the Tri-Creek School Corporation and must conform with the existing legal settlement statutes as defined in Indiana Code 20-8.1-6.2-1.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION/DELAY DAYS - PROCEDURES

- A. School Cancellation
 - 1. All practices are canceled.
 - 2. Cancellation after school has started, all scheduled activities are canceled.
 - 3. When school has been closed on Friday, the decision to have activities on Saturday shall be determined by the principal.
- B. School Delays
 - 1. Morning practices are to be cancelled.

SUSPENSION

A suspension is a short-term separation from school or class for one to ten days. A suspension from school extends to the grounds as well as school sponsored activities both home and away.

WHAT YOU MUST DO BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE

The following forms are to be completed and on file in the school office before an athlete is eligible to participate with any team:

- Complete the IHSAA physical examination, signed on all required lines (athlete, parent, licensed physician)
- Meet academic eligibility requirements.

LMS EXTRA-CURRICULAR DRUG/ALCOHOL/TOBACCO POLICY

Philosophy: Lowell Middle School believes that extra-curricular participation is an important part of the middle school educational experience. Extra-curricular activities include athletics, student council, show choir, and any other school sponsored activity taking place beyond the regular school day.

Rules: As mirrored in the Tri-Creek School Corporation Handbook, the following are violations of the Lowell Middle School Extra-Curricular drug/alcohol/tobacco policy (these rules are in effect when school is in session and out of session 365 days per year): Knowingly possess, use, consume, transmit, sell, or be under the influence of a narcotic drug, prescriptive drug for which the person in possession has no prescription, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, paraphernalia, or intoxicant of any kind, or substances represented to be illicit drugs or any product that produces an altered mental physical state when used. In addition, the use of tobacco products or snuff is prohibited at all times. This includes the purchase, acceptance, or possession of tobacco.

Violations: If the Principal or designee can prove beyond reasonable suspicion that a student violated any of the above rules of conduct, the student will face the following consequences:

First Offense – The student will be suspended for the upcoming ECA “season” (Fall, Winter, or Spring). If the student is currently in an activity in season, he/she will be ineligible for the remainder of that season.

Self-reporting (first offense only) – When a student confesses to breaking a rule, a suspension of 50% of the upcoming season or the remainder of the current season (whichever is longer) will take place. Self-reporting must be made within 48 hours of the infraction and must be made to a school administrator.

Subsequent offenses - The student will be ineligible for all extra – curricular activities the remainder of their year(s) at Lowell Middle School.

Investigation Procedures: Prior to a determination of there being an actual violation of the rules, the student and his/her parents can expect the following procedure:

1. The principal or his designee is informed of the violation.
2. The principal will inform the student and his parents of the alleged violation.
3. The student and parent will have an opportunity to admit or deny the charges.
4. If the student and/or parent deny the charges, the principal will provide a summary of the evidence against the student.

5. Within 48 hours the principal will make a determination of guilt or innocence based on the greater weight of the evidence.
6. The penalty will be imposed immediately after notification is provided to the student and parents.

If a game or event is scheduled during the time before the principal makes a determination of guilt or innocence, the student will be eligible to participate.

Parental Rights Regarding Student Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents/guardians certain rights with respect to their children's education records, including directory information. Directory information means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to, the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors, and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

Unless the parent/guardian notifies the Tri-Creek School Corporation otherwise within five days after notification by receipt of the Tri-Creek School Corporation Student Handbook, consent is implied for the Tri-Creek School Corporation to release directory information.

Implied consent includes the release of student directory information or for non-directory information such as student work, for use in the following ways:

On the Tri-Creek School Corporation's web site:

The web site will use a student's first name and/or first name and last initial only. Personal information such as home address, telephone number, or names of family members will not be used. Any information that indicates the physical location of a student at a given time other than attendance at a particular school or participation in school activities will not be used.

Schoolwork may include, but is not limited to, art, written papers, class projects, and computer projects.

In material printed by the school or the Tri-Creek School Corporation or printed by publishers outside the Tri-Creek School Corporation:

Printed material may include a child's full name.

Printed material may include, but is not limited to, school directories, yearbooks, programs, brochures, newspaper articles, and print advertisements.

In videos produced and broadcast by the Tri-Creek School Corporation or produced and broadcast by news organizations and others who receive approval from the Tri-Creek School Corporation.

Contact your child's school office if you wish to deny permission for directory information on your child to be published by the Tri-Creek School Corporation or to be released to any other publisher outside the Tri-Creek School Corporation for the 2008-2009 school year. Please realize this will exclude your student from all news articles, news photos, school or corporation newsletters, videos (e.g., holiday programs), yearbook, and/or memory book.