

Laker Athletic Code



July, 2016

Laker Athletic Code

Introduction

We are pleased you have decided to become a part of the Laker Athletic Program and hope your association with it will be rewarding.

We, at Lakers, with your help and cooperation, are continuously striving to upgrade the atmosphere and standards under which the program is implemented. One has to always be mindful that communication is the key to the achievement of this goal.

As a step toward better communication, this code has been prepared to acquaint you with the policies and guidelines necessary to participate in the Laker Athletic Program.

We suggest you review this code carefully. It has been changed slightly this year. If there are any questions now or in the future, you are encouraged to consult with your Laker Coach or Athletic Director.

After reviewing this code, each Laker Athlete and his or her parent or legal guardian will be asked to sign an acknowledgement indicating you have done so. This acknowledgement will become a permanent part of your school record.

No one will be able to participate in any Laker Athletic practice or contest until the signed acknowledgement is on file for each sport of participation.

The Laker Athletic Code applies to all Laker Junior High and Senior High athletic teams. The Laker Athletic Code also applies to all Laker Cheerleading Squads & Laker Clubs and their members who are considered to be Laker Athletes and supportive of the entire Laker Athletic Program.

A student is considered to have year-round eligibility status as a Laker Athlete commencing with his/her first practice session in any school-sponsored sport and ending upon graduation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LAKER ATHLETIC COMMUNITY

The Laker Student-Athlete Commitment

The Laker Athlete is a school leader and representative at all times. This means both on and off the field or floor of competition. With these responsibilities come certain privileges and certain obligations. The Laker Athlete:

1. Must maintain conduct of the highest standard at all times.
2. Must comply with all rules and guidelines contained in the Laker Athletic Code.
3. Must comply with all training rules and guidelines as set down by individual coaches for their respective teams.
4. Is encouraged to support other Laker Athletic teams and members and to attend all Laker School activities whenever possible.
5. Must maintain academic standards and adhere to the eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.
6. *Take care of all school issued equipment during the season. Return all equipment*

and uniforms at the end of the season in a timely manner.

Student-Athlete Commitment

Being a member of a Laker High School athletic team carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities.

Responsibilities to Yourself

It is important that you progressively mature and develop positive strength of character. You owe it to yourself to gain the greatest possible good from your high school athletic experiences within the guidelines of the team and school. Your academic studies and your participation in other student activities as well as in sports help prepare you for your life as an adult.

Responsibilities to Your School and Community

EPBP Laker Schools can only maintain its position of being an outstanding school if you participate to the maximum of your ability. By doing so, you contribute to the reputation of your school in a constructive way.

You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of our school district and other school districts judge our school partially by your conduct, attitude and athletic ability, both on and off the competition venue. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.

Responsibilities to Others

When you join a team, you bear a heavy responsibility to your fellow team members and coaches. When you have lived up to all the training rules, when you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, when you have played with focus and intensity, you can increase your self-respect as a result of your contribution to the team. You can be justly proud when younger students follow your positive example. Don't let them down. Be a good role model.

Over the years, there have been many successes in Laker athletics. Our teams have achieved many league and tournament championships. Individuals have set records and won all-state and all-conference honors. We have also received many awards for our sportsmanship. Such tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned. We desire to win, but only with honor to our athletes, our school and our community.

We wish you great success as you participate in high school athletics!

The Laker Parent Commitment

Information contained in this document is presented to you as your son and/or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics. Your interest in this phase of school life is encouraged.

It can be very difficult to be a parent of a student athlete. There may be times of frustration for both your child and you as a parent. Frustrations could be caused by a variety of reasons ranging from injury, coaching decisions or unmet expectations.

If you wish to speak with a coach about a concern, please use established lines of communication outlined in Communication/Resolution of Conflict of this document. By doing so, the likelihood of a resolution of concerns in a positive manner is enhanced.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice that requires self-discipline. Good conduct and training habits are necessary. Failure to comply with the expectations outlined regarding behavior in the Laker High School Student Handbook, the Laker High School Athletic Handbook, and other related documents will result in progressing disciplinary procedures. We recommend that parents and students spend time reading and discussing the information presented in this and related documents.

Behavior and Sportsmanship Expectations of All Persons

It is the expectations of EPBP Laker Schools that participants and spectators exhibit appropriate decorum. Positive support of individual players and the team is encouraged. Negative behavior that detracts from the positive experience athletics can provide is not acceptable.

Participants and spectators exhibiting disruptive and/or negative behavior may be removed from the premises by the school personnel or police. Persons exhibiting repeated negative behavior may be restricted from further attendance at school events.

MHSAA Rules & Policies

Laker Athletes will follow all MHSAA rules, policies, and regulations that are listed in the MHSAA Handbook. In some cases the Laker Athletic Code will supersede the MHSAA policy.

Semester Eligibility

An Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker Schools student must meet the following two semester requirements to participate in Laker Athletics.

Laker Athletic Code
Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA)

Laker Athletic Code Requirements

A student must pass 6 out of 6 (High School) or 7 out of 7 (Junior High) in order to be eligible to participate in Laker Athletics. If the student does not pass 6/6 or 7/7, the student will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic sports until the first official progress report of the next semester (approximately 4-5 weeks).

If deemed ineligible, the student must attend daily after –school tutoring for a minimum of 30 minutes per day for a minimum of 16 sessions. While ineligible, the student must continue to practice with his/her team. If the student is passing all classes at the first progress report of the next semester, he/she will regain semester eligibility and return to weekly eligibility standards. If the student has not met eligibility by the first progress report, it can be achieved any time after the progress report by fulfilling the same requirements.

MHSAA Requirements

This previous policy is effective only after the MHSAA requirements of passing 66% of all classes have been met. If a student does not pass 66% of their credit load they are ineligible for the next academic semester.

The student **can not** regain Laker athletic eligibility with successful completion of approved credit recovery through correspondence, on-line courses, or summer school courses. The student may achieve **MHSAA eligibility requirements** by successful completion of approved

credit recovery through correspondence, on-line courses, or summer school courses.

Weekly Eligibility

1. Weekly Eligibility is required for all students athletes. In order for a student to be eligible to participate in his/her sport, the student must have a D or higher in 6 of 6 classes (HS) 7 of 7 classes (JH) on a weekly basis. Cumulative student grades will be monitored in all 6 (HS) or 7 (JH) of the student's classes every week.
2. If a student has a D- or lower in any class during a school week of a sport season, it will be reported to the Athletic Director on Friday morning, no later than 9:00 A.M.
3. When the D- or lower is reported, the student will be ineligible for interscholastic competition until he/she is earning a D or above in 6 out of 6 classes (HS) or 7 out of 7 classes (JH). In this part of the eligibility requirement the student has an opportunity to remediate the problem by attending weekly after school tutoring sessions and improving the grade(s). The Athletic Director will notify the student and parent/guardian in writing. Upon receipt of the letter, the student will become ineligible beginning on the upcoming Monday. The student will remain ineligible until he/she is passing all classes.
4. **As soon as a student is passing all classes, he/she is responsible for procuring and processing the Eligible to Participate Form and obtaining signatures from the appropriate instructor(s) and coach and delivering the completed document to the Athletic Director.**
5. During the time a student is ineligible student, s/he MUST attend after school tutoring sessions in order to attend practice with the team.
6. No academically ineligible student—anyone receiving a D- or below in one or more classes—will be allowed to participate in any interscholastic contest; however s/he will be permitted to sit with the team during an athletic contest at the discretion of the coach.

Eligibility—Athletic Code Review

1. The policy committee that reviewed and wrote this policy and the Board of Education will reconvene annually to assess the policy and make any changes necessary.

Dual Sport Athlete Policy

1. An athlete may participate in more than one sport per season. He/She must declare which one is his/her primary and which one would be secondary. Whenever there is a conflict of *competition*, the athlete must attend his/her primary sport event. If there is no *competition* in his/her primary, they may attend the secondary *competition* **without punishment**. If there is a disagreement on what is punishment the athletic committee will make the final decision. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify his/her coaches of competitions that are in conflict.
 - a. Punishment, if clarification is needed, will be defined on a case by case basis by the athletic appeals committee.
2. An athlete must attend his/her primary sport practice before the secondary (unless prior arrangements are made). An athlete should not be penalized for missing a practice while competing in the secondary sport.
3. Athletes may never be put in the situation of having to choose last minute what competition they will be attending. Coaches are to work with athletes and have conflicts resolved before the day of competition. Primary is primary and secondary is secondary. Disagreements are to be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director.

The Laker Coach *Commitment*

The Laker Athletic Coach is responsible for the organization of his or her respective sport. It is in the Laker Athletic Coach's hands that the Laker Athlete is molded. This responsibility must not be taken lightly and because of this the Laker Athletic Coach:

1. Should demonstrate knowledge in the medical, legal, sociological-psychological areas and in the theory and techniques of coaching his or her respective sport.
2. Shall display coaching organizational abilities throughout all practices and contests.
3. Shall understand and abide with rules and regulations as set forth by all governing agencies of the sport.
4. Shall lead, teach and coach by example is responsible for team discipline and control.
5. Shall strive to develop the Laker Athlete in his or her charge to their highest capabilities by:
 - a. Striving for proper conditioning.
 - b. Striving for the prevention of and the care for injuries.
 - c. Encouraging the development of leadership in individuals while at the same time encouraging team performance.
6. Stressing the importance of academics and their relationship to athletics. Shall develop a positive rapport with team members, parents, and staff and provide open lines of communication with each.
7. Shall present and discuss this, the Laker Athletic Code, at a meeting prior to the first practice of his or her respective sport and submit a signed acknowledgement for each Laker Athlete to the Laker Athletic Director before that athlete may participate in a practice or contest.
8. Shall present and discuss during this same meeting any specific training rules or conduct as they relate to the specific sport and his or her individual coaching theories and methods (it is suggested this be done in writing).
9. Shall adhere to and enforce this the Laker Athletic Code as well as any rules and guidelines which might be initiated for the Laker Coaching Staff by the Laker Athletic Director.
10. Shall be responsible for the proper care, distribution and recall of all equipment relating to his or her sport.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

The following set of rules is designed to serve as a guideline. The spirit of the rules is to create a safe, healthy, and productive athletic environment in the Laker School System.

It is realized no single set of rules in isolation can cover every aspect of conduct by the Laker Athlete. Therefore, any specific cases outside these rules will be considered and weighed on an equal and fair basis using these rules as a guideline.

When a Laker Athlete persistently demonstrates he or she is unable or unwilling to conform to specific athletic regulations, and/or impinges on the rights of other individuals and/or interferes with the athletic activities of the school, suspension or expulsion from the team may result.

A coach may remove any athlete from the squad if it is determined that their conduct is detrimental to the team. If the coach takes such action, the athlete and parents/guardians will be notified by the Athletic Director within 24 hours and be provided with any documentation related to the coach's action. The athlete and guardians will have the option of an appeal hearing with a written request within three school days. This appeal will include the coach, Athletic Director, and a Board of Education representative from the Athletic Committee. The guardian(s) can bring up

to 5 witnesses whom they believe will prove beneficial at the hearing. The Athletic Director will inform parents/guardians of the appeal committee's decision in writing 2 school days.

GENERAL RULES

1. The Laker Athlete must be in school the entire day of a contest, except for weekend contests, in order to participate in that particular contest. *The only exceptions will be a medical excuse from a doctor or those excused by the Administrator. Those athletes not in attendance the day of the contest will need to self-report this to their respective coach. Failure to do this will result in a classification A-First Offense Violation.*
2. Transportation to and from all Laker Athletic contests will be by school bus or other school approved vehicle. All Laker Athletes shall ride on the designated vehicle. The only exception will be when a parent or legal guardian requests, in writing, to transport his or her child to and/or from a Laker Athletic contest or event.
3. Any Laker Athlete who is suspended or expelled from school because of non-athletic violation of student conduct will also be suspended or expelled from the Laker Athletic Program (including practices) for the same period of time.
4. Each year the Laker Athlete must have on file a physical examination form signed by a licensed physician stating he or she is physically acceptable for athletic participation in the Laker Athletic Program before he or she may take part in any practices or contests. Any specific physical restrictions must be noted.
5. The Laker Athlete and his or her parent or legal guardian will also sign the agreement stating they have received, reviewed and understand this the Laker Athletic Code.
6. Uniforms and equipment are issued to the Laker Athlete in most sports within the Laker Athletic Program. These uniforms and equipment are of the highest quality possible and the Laker Athlete is expected to use reasonable caution in their care and use. The Laker Athlete along with his or her parent or legal guardian will be held financially responsible for all assigned uniforms and equipment beginning with the day of issue. Any damaged, lost or stolen items must be paid for by the Laker Athlete and/or parent or legal guardian before replacement or additional items will be issued. The Laker Athlete is responsible for returning all uniforms and/or equipment at the end of each season. *No new equipment will be issued to an athlete until all equipment from the previous season has been returned. After 30 days the athlete's parents will be billed the replacement cost for all equipment not turned in.*
7. All Laker Athletes are cautioned to check with the Laker Athletic Director should they wish to participate in an athletic event outside the Laker Athletic Program (such as church basketball league or tournament) regarding the current Michigan High School Athletic Association State Rules. Failure to do so could affect an athlete's eligibility in the future.
Laker Athletes are also cautioned they must not accept any award for athletic performance other than a trophy, medal, plaque, cup banner, picture or ring. The value of said item may not exceed \$25.00. Money, merchandise, etc. cannot be accepted for participating in or for officiating an athletic contest. Failure to comply with this rule may also affect your status as an amateur athlete and could prevent your future participation.

SPECIFIC RULES

Specific rules are divided into A and B classifications depending upon the nature and corresponding punishment for the violation.

Situations not specifically listed will be treated under the classification to which they most nearly correspond.

All suspensions or expulsions will begin upon notification to the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian by the Laker Athletic Director.

A-CLASSIFICATION RULES

1. Fighting and Physical Violence - the act of physical violence to another person, except in self defense.
2. Obscenity - the use of abusive, profane or obscene language in written or verbal form, the possession of obscene literature or pictures, or the use of obscene gestures.
3. Threatening or Intimidating Acts - the act of verbally or by gesture threatening the well being, health or safety of any person.
4. Violation of Transportation Rule - violation of general rule #2 relating to transportation to and from Laker Athletic events.
5. Mistreatment of School or Personal Property - the act of willfully damaging or destroying property belonging to others under the value of \$50.00.
6. Improper Acquisition - the dishonest acquisition or accepting of property belonging to others valued under \$50.00. The selling or surrendering of school property valued under \$50.00 without specific authority or the falsification of records and information.
7. Any Other Unbecoming Conduct - not severe enough in nature to be considered punishable under the B-classification rules.

A-CLASSIFICATION VIOLATIONS (Reset to zero on an annual basis)

FIRST OFFENSE - *Suspended for 1 contest day.* The athlete must still practice. The athlete must practice with current team.

SECOND OFFENSE - *Suspended for 2 contest days.* The athlete must still practice. The athlete must practice with current team.

THIRD OFFENSE - *Suspended for 5 contest days.* The athlete must still practice. The athlete must practice with current team.

FOURTH OFFENSE - *Suspended for 10 contest days.* The athlete must still practice. The athlete must practice with current team.

B-CLASSIFICATION RULES (Computed on a career basis from the time a student athlete joins the athletic program)

1. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs - the use or possession of these items or any stimulant or depressant which is harmful to the athlete's physical, emotional or mental well being or enhances athletic performance
2. Stealing and Dishonesty - the dishonest acquisition or accepting of property belonging to others valued over \$50.00. The selling or surrendering of school property valued over \$50.00 without specific authority, or the falsification of records and information.
3. Vandalism - the act of willfully damaging or destroying property belonging to others exceeding the value of \$50.00.
4. Any Other Unbecoming or Immoral Conduct - severe enough to be considered punishable under the B – Classification Rules.
5. Felony conviction - *expulsion from all athletic contests for one calendar year. The athlete can apply for reinstatement after 180 days.*

B-CLASSIFICATION VIOLATIONS

FIRST OFFENSE - *Number competition dates in the season:*

(1-10) suspended 4 competition dates
(11 or more) suspended 8 competition dates.

The athlete must still practice.

SECOND OFFENSE - Suspended from competitions for 12 contests

THIRD OFFENSE—One full calendar year. Apply for reinstatement in 180 days.

If a Laker Athlete is suspended from one sport and is unable to fulfill that suspension before the end of the season, the suspension shall carry over into the athlete's next full season of competition

GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

One of the most difficult problems in the enforcement of the Laker Athletic Code arises when a Laker Athlete is not in direct violation of a rule or guideline but his or her conduct is unbecoming to himself/herself or the school.

This often occurs when the Laker Athlete is in association with others who are either directly violating the Laker Athletic Code or breaking the law.

In order to handle this situation, the Laker Athletic Code incorporates a "Guilt by Association" system.

1. When a Laker Athlete is determined to be guilty by association but not guilty of a direct violation, the athlete and his/her parents or legal guardian will be warned in a letter stating his/her actions are unbecoming to a Laker Athlete. This letter will become part of the athlete's records.
2. Additional violations of guilt by association during the athletic career of the student athlete will be considered as "A" or "B" classification offenses, depending upon the degree of severity.
3. School administration will only investigate and discipline those guilt by association offenses which take place off school property that are reported by law enforcement or court officials. Guilt by association offenses occurring on school grounds should be reported by any school personnel.
4. If a student athlete has already committed a direct offense, any guilt by association of a similar nature will result in a waiver of the warning step, and the student/athlete will advance to the next level of consequence.

ENFORCEMENT

The interpretation and enforcement of the Laker Athletic Code will be by the Laker Athletic Director and assistants.

The Laker Athletic Director will place emphasis on information supplied to him by members of the Laker administration staff, faculty and Board of Education and of course by governing law enforcement agencies. Athletes will be investigated and disciplined if there is good evidence.

The Laker Athletic Department would also like to encourage an "honesty policy" which would allow first time offenders to come forward and admit to wrongdoings for a reduced suspension. The athlete must report to the Athletic Director within 48 hours of the incident, at which time the suspension will be reviewed by a panel of administrators and/or Athletic Committee members,

and may be reduced by 50%. The intent of this policy is to give student athletes who may not otherwise be "caught by school personnel), the opportunity to turn him/herself over for appropriate disciplinary action.

If the student participates in more than one sport and is guilty of a B-Classification violation during a summer sport program, the penalty will be split between the student's next varsity sport (if different than the sport in which the violation occurred) and the next season for the sport in which the violation occurred. For example, a student who violates during a team basketball camp would serve half of his/her penalty during football/volleyball (next varsity sport), and half during the following basketball season.

COMMUNICATION/RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT

It is the goal of EPBP Laker Schools to encourage and promote effective communication among all persons. Coaches are expected to hold pre-season meetings with players and parents to outline procedures and expectations for participating on the team.

During activities such as athletics, there are times when emotions run high. It is essential that communication occurs at appropriate times and is measured in tone. The following expectations regarding communication will help enhance appropriate communication.

- A. *It is essential that coaches know of significant events in the life of a student that may affect participation in practice, games and other activities. Parents are requested to communicate such situations to the coach. Please make a contact at school by leaving a message or requesting to talk with the coach personally. A return contact will be made when appropriate.*
- B. *It is equally important that the coach keep parents informed of significant events that may happen within the activities of the program. If the student has experienced an especially frustrating situation or has a significant accomplishment, it is expected the coach will communicate with parents so that parents may have information and perspective.*
- C. *It is the expressed policy of EPBP Laker Schools that coaches are not to be confronted in negative manner by parents or players before, during or after a contest of practice.*
- D. *Parents and players should use the following procedures if concerns arise regarding a possible coach/player/parent conflict.*
 1. *The student and/or parent should contact the coach to discuss the situation.*
 2. *If the student and/or parent do not feel satisfied, they should contact the Athletic Director*
 3. *If there is not resolution to the concern of the player and/or parent after talking with the Athletic Director, the player and/or parent may request that the Athletic Director convene the Athletic Review Committee for further review.*
 4. *An Athletic Review Committee is established to review conflict situations between coaches/students/parents when an impasse appears to have developed for issues relating to a coach's decision. The Athletic Review Committee is not designed for, and will not be convened for, issues relating to High School Handbook and/or Student Athletic Handbook disciplinary rules and/or actions/decisions.*

The committee membership will consist of three coaches appointed by the Athletic Director from an off season sport.

Procedures for the Athletic Review Committee are as follows:

- a. *After consideration of a request from a parent or student, the Athletic Director, acting as chairperson, may convene the Athletic Review Committee.*

- b. *If the Athletic Review Committee is convened by the Athletic Director, the coach or coaches of the team on which the student athlete participated shall provide a written synopsis of events along with other thoughts and perspective regarding the grievance of the parent/student.*
- c. *The parent and/or student shall also be requested to provide a written statement of concerns to the Athletic Review Committee.*
- d. *The Athletic Review Committee shall review the written information from the grievant and coach/coaches.*
- e. *The Athletic Review Committee may decide to meet with the grievant or coach/coaches if the Athletic Review Committee deems it necessary.*
- f. *The Athletic Review Committee shall provide insight, perspective and assessment for the consideration of the Athletic Director.*
- g. *Athletic Director shall consider information from the committee and other sources and make a final decision.*

BOARD APPEALS

It is understood and agreed when the Laker Athlete and his or her parent or legal guardian sign the acknowledgement of this the Laker Athletic Code that they agree to abide by all rules and guidelines contained, including punishments for violations.

There may be an occasion, however, when the Laker Athlete and/or his/her parent or legal guardian either do not feel the violation took place or the punishment is not in accordance with the Laker Athletic Code.

The Laker Athletic Appeals Committee (comprised of three Board of Education members, appointed each year by the President of the Board) is established to hear such cases.

If an athlete and/or his/her parent or legal guardian feels it is necessary to appeal a decision of *the athletic review committee*, a written request must be submitted to the Superintendent within *five (5)* calendar days after the request is received.

The athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian must be present at the hearing. They may ask questions, present testimony and call any witnesses on their behalf.

The Laker Athletic Appeals Committee has the power to uphold, reverse any previous decisions. Should the Committee reverse a decision, all records regarding the situation will be removed from the athlete's file accordingly.

Suspensions or expulsions will stand and be in force during hearing proceedings or until such time as the Committee deems otherwise.

LAKER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE AGREEMENT

ATHLETE'S NAME _____ GRADE _____

Student Athlete:

I have received and read the Laker Athletic Code Book. I understand that I am expected to follow the regulations contained herein and I agree to do so.

As a participant in the athletic program, I recognize my responsibility to set an example for anyone who observes my performance. This includes school day and community activities as well as my actual participation in contests.

Student Athlete Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardian:

I am aware of the contents of the Athletic Code Book and have read the agreement which my son/daughter has signed. I agree to support the athletic policies.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

7/2016

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO YOUR COACH