

**NEW LEXINGTON
CITY SCHOOLS**



**PARENT/STUDENT
ATHLETIC CONTRACT
2016-17**

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PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY

Each athlete must meet the following Ohio High School Athletic Association and New Lexington City Schools Board of Education requirements to be eligible for participations in the New Lexington Athletic Department programs:

1. Each athlete must provide the athletic department with the Student Participation/Physical Exam form prior to any practice or competition. This form must be signed by the parent (guardian) and physician who certifies that the student is physically able to participate. Only one physical examination is required per calendar year.
2. Each athlete must be enrolled in the school insurance program or have an insurance waiver signed by the parent or guardian before practice or competition is permitted.
3. Each athlete must provide the athletic department with an Emergency Medical Authorization form prior to any practice or competition. This form will be carried by the coaches at all practices and competitions to use in the event that emergency medical services need to be rendered to any athlete. Many emergency rooms will not treat an injury without parental consent. This form, in most cases, enables medical personnel to treat the individual on the form with signed parental (guardian) consent.
4. Each athlete must meet the Ohio High School Athletic Association and New Lexington City Schools' eligibility requirements, including the following grade mandates:
 - a. Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. For example:
 - 1st nine weeks based on previous year's 4th nine weeks grades. (NOTE: 1st quarter 7th graders eligibility will be based on meeting O.H.S.A.A. requirements).
 - 2nd nine weeks based on 1st nine weeks grades.
 - 3rd nine weeks based on 2nd nine weeks grades.
 - 4th nine weeks based on 3rd nine weeks grades.

Semester average and yearly average have no effect on eligibility.
 - b. Grades 9-12: You must be currently enrolled in school and must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one credit courses or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.

- c. Grades 7-8: You must be currently enrolled in school and must have received passing grades in a minimum of five courses or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.
 - d. High School students with a nine week G.P.A. of less than 1.0 will be ineligible for the next nine week grading period.
 - f. Eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the 5th school day of the next grading period.
 - g. Summer school grades earned, may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.
5. To be eligible for participation in interscholastic contests, a student shall be enrolled in a school by the 15th calendar day of the credit grading period (quarter, trimester, and semester). Enrollment shall be continuous after a student has officially enrolled in a school until the student is officially withdrawn.

After a student completes the eighth grade, the student shall be eligible for a period not to exceed 8 semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

A student shall become eligible for high school athletics when the student attains the 15th birthday before August 1st, or when the student attains 9th grade standing.

A student must be in attendance one-half day of school to participate that evening. Advisors and coaches may establish additional rules. These are to be distributed to the participants in advance of the implementation of the rule(s). Under special circumstances the Principal has the right to permit participation.

- 6. Students who participate in extracurricular activities must maintain their good behavior and academic achievement throughout the season.
- 7. Each athlete must determine if he/she will be able to meet the commitments of time, expense, and transportation, for the duration of the season. Work and/or vacation are not acceptable reasons for missing practice and/or games.
- 8. Each athlete must be individually responsible for all equipment issued to him/her. It is to be worn only at practice sessions or scheduled games involving that particular sport. A player may not try out for another sport nor receive any awards until he or she has returned all equipment or paid for the same.
- 9. Each athlete must conduct himself/herself in such a manner that he/she will create a positive reflection upon himself/herself, teammates, student body, and the New Lexington City Schools. Extracurricular activities are a privilege, not a right. If in the opinion of the coach/advisor, athletic director or principal, a situation occurs that

has an unfavorable reflection on the team and/or athletic program or causes concern for the safety and protection of the student athlete, participation in the extracurricular activity may be restricted.

10. Each athlete must uphold the traditions of sportsmanship and fair play and congratulate the opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
11. No students are permitted in the practice area or school groups more than 30 minutes before or after scheduled practice times.
12. Each athlete is to respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Never argue or make gestures indicating dislike for a decision.
13. Once an athlete signs this contract for a particular sport, he/she may not participate in another sport for the remainder of that season, unless it is done before the first contest and has permission from both coaches and the athletic director. A season is defined as lasting from the first day of mandatory practice through the banquet. An athlete coming out for a sport must do so before the first contest unless he/she is new and enrolled after the first contest. A student wishing to join a team after the season is in progress, may do so only after receiving permission from the head coach, the athletic director or the appropriate building principal.
14. Each athlete is responsible to police the locker areas after every practice and game (this duty may be assigned by the coach each week). Each athlete must turn in all equipment and complete obligations from previous sport(s)/season(s) before they can compete in an event in the following sport(s)/season(s).
15. In the event that an athlete voluntarily quits or is removed from an extracurricular team or activity, the coach must immediately notify both the athletic director and principal. This athlete shall not be reinstated without the expressed approval of the head coach, athletic director and the building principal.

TRAINING RULES

The Athletic Department believes that athletes are persons who have strong influence, both within the community and the student body. Student athletes are under constant scrutiny and have the responsibility of demonstrating good leadership to those with whom they come in contact. Also, since good physical conditioning is a requirement for successful participation, all athletes are directed to be aware of the following Athletic Department training rules.

Any student suspended from school or denied participation for a sport shall be declared ineligible for the period of the suspension or denial. Suspensions, including Friday, shall render a student ineligible for competition over the weekend or until the return to regular classes. An athlete's ineligibility due to suspension from school or denial of participation over the holiday period, shall be administered in such a way that the length of the ineligibility period and the number of contests affected is equitable to such ineligibility over a weekend period. Students that have received out-of-school suspension or out-of-school alternative placement are not permitted to attend practice and/or games. Students that have received in-school restriction are eligible to attend practice and/or games during term of the consequence.

While a student is under denial of participation, he/she must attend practices and meetings. He/She will sit on the bench with the team at games but will not be permitted to wear team uniform while denial of participation is in effect.

These results are established for all athletes, including cheerleaders, student trainers, and managers. Training rules are in effect for the athlete throughout the year, including summer months, when school is not in session. School sponsored athletic participation continues during this time (i.e., summer baseball, summer basketball, open gym, weightlifting, and conditioning); thus, students must continually adhere to the training rules.

An athlete must comply with the following training rules (during in season and off season). The following offenses are prohibited:

1. Conduct inappropriate for a student/athlete

All student athletes are expected to abide by the rules and regulations as stated in the New Lexington City Schools' Student Code of Conduct, as adopted by the New Lexington City Schools Board of Education. Consequences may vary based on the situation and will be determined by the coach, athletic director and principal.

- 2. Alcohol and/or Illegal Drugs and Tobacco Self-Referral Procedures.** A self referral shall be defined as: The athlete or parent coming forward with information about a violation before notification by the coach or if asked the athlete admits to the rule violations within 72 hours of the infraction. (This usually happens when there are rumors but little or no evidence at that time.) A self referral may only be used for a first offense violation during high school eligibility.

- a. Alcohol and/or Illegal Drugs - For the first infraction during a school year in a self-referral case, the student shall be denied the privilege of participation in 10% of total contests. The student must also enroll in a rehabilitation program approved by New Lexington City Schools. Failure to enroll and successfully complete a rehabilitation program approved by New Lexington City Schools will result in the student being suspended from the date of infraction for all extracurricular activities until the beginning of that sport season the following school year as defined by the O.H.S.A.A.
- b. Tobacco – The student must show evidence of enrollment and successful completion of a anti-tobacco program in a self-referral case.
- c. Following one self-referral, the policies listed below will be implemented.

3. Alcohol and/or Illegal Drugs

- a. For the first infraction during a one-year period, the student shall be denied the privilege of participation in 20% of total contests for that sports season. The student must also enroll in a rehabilitation program. Failure to enroll and successfully complete a rehabilitation program approved by New Lexington City Schools will result in the student being suspended from the date of infraction for all extracurricular activities until the beginning of that sport season the following school year as defined by the O.H.S.A.A.
- b. For the second infraction during a **one-year period**, the student will be suspended from the date of infraction for all extracurricular activities until the beginning of that sport season the following school year, as defined by the O.H.S.A.A.
- c. For the third infraction during a one-year period, the student will be suspended from all extracurricular activities for two years from the date of the infraction.

4. Tobacco

- a. For the first infraction during a one year period, the student shall be denied the privilege of participation in 10% of total contests, for that sports season.
- b. For the second infraction during a one year period, the student shall be denied the privilege of participation in the next 20% of total contests.
- c. For the third infraction during a one year period, the student will be suspended from the date of infraction for all extracurricular activities until the beginning of that sport season the following school year, as defined by the O.H.S.A.A.

5. In Season and Off Season Offenses – Not covered in 1-4 of Training Rules

All students who participate in interscholastic athletics at any time must not be involved in violation of criminal law and/or delinquent activity. All violations are **cumulative** while a student is enrolled at New Lexington Middle School or New Lexington High School. If the punishment occurs during the 8th grade year and is not fulfilled, the punishment will be completed in their freshman year. Once a student enters the 9th grade they will start with the first violation for all infractions.

Grades 7-8

First Violation – Denied participation for 20% of total contests.

Second Violation – Removal from sport for the remainder of the season.

Third Violation – Removed from athletics for one year from date of infraction.

Grades 9-12

First Violation – Denied participation for 20% of total contests.

Second Violation – Removal from sport for the remainder of the season.

Third Violation – Removed from athletics for one year from date of infraction.

DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION POLICY

1. A coach is advised to use internal discipline such as benching, work detail, etc., when an athlete is receptive to correction without the need for further disciplinary action.
2. A coach may remove an athlete for 24 hours according to the emergency removal clause of the Ohio Revised Code. This may occur when the athlete is a continuous danger to property, other people, or an ongoing threat to the coaching process.
3. If an athlete is removed formally by the coach, athletic director or principal, the athlete and parents must be notified immediately in writing. The coach must attempt to reach the parents by phone.
4. Denial of participation will be recommended by the head coach when violations of the Athletic Policy Manual occur. Due process procedures will be followed.
5. Assuming the dismissal was not completed during the previous season, the dismissal will be completed the next season in which the athlete participates. The athlete must finish the season in which the dismissal is completed, in good standing, for the denial of participation to be fulfilled.
6. If denial of participation is unable to be completed within the season, the uncompleted percentage will carry over to the next season. (Example: 5% carry over equals one half of a football contest.)

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE

If a student athlete violates this contract and is consequently denied participation, the following due process procedures must be followed.

1. Notify the athletic director of your intentions prior to taking action. If this cannot be done, notify the athletic director as soon as possible.
2. At the earliest possible time, the coach and athletic director will meet to review the situation(s).
3. When it appears that a student has violated a stipulated rule, the coach shall present the athlete, in writing, a notice of the intended punishment (copy to athletic director). The athlete is to sign the copy showing he/she has received the paper. The notice shall list the reasons for denial and a statement informing the student of his/her rights to a hearing.
4. The athlete has 24 hours after being informed by the coach of the athlete's denial of participation to request an appeal. This request must be made to the athletic director or building principal.
5. A hearing will be convened within 5 days of the request to appeal. The date of the hearing/appeal will be set by the Athletic Director.
6. The coach's decision to deny participation will stand until the Principal has received a recommendation from the appeals committee.
7. The athlete has the right to appeal the decision of the coach. The process will be handled by a hearing of four members of the Athletic Council, to be made up in the following order:
 - a. Athletic Director
 - b. One member picked by the Principal
 - c. One member picked by the Coach
 - d. One member picked by the Athlete – this member must not have coached the athlete
8. The athlete will have the opportunity to be heard by the Board of Appeals, not to exceed twenty minutes. The coach whose decision is being appealed will have the same opportunity to be heard by the Board of Appeals, not to exceed twenty minutes. Both parties may submit their arguments in writing.
9. If an appeal is heard, its findings and recommendations are to be made to the building Principal. The Principal then makes the final decision.
10. The Principal will inform the athlete of the final decision within a reasonable amount of time after the hearing.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The principal, athletic director, and guidance counselor, will determine who is eligible for the following grading period with the help of the faculty.
2. The coach should warn those athletes of their eligibility requirements and, when possible, assist the students in arranging tutoring or other means to improve their grades. Head coaches are responsible for monitoring the academic progress of athletes on their teams during their season and out of season. At a minimum, grades will be checked at interim time and at the end of each quarter.
3. The athletic director and/or head coach will contact the parents of any athlete who is ruled ineligible or dismissed from a team.
4. Before a student's name is placed on the eligibility sheet, the athletic director must have on file the following:
 - a. physical card
 - b. insurance statement
 - c. student/parent/guardian contract signed by the parents and student athlete

NOTICE OF DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION

Date

Student

Parent/Guardian/Custodian

Address

This letter is to notify you officially that your son/daughter has been denied participation in _____ (sport/group) for _____ (length of time or contests).

The denial of participation will be from _____ to _____. The incident which caused this denial of participation has been discussed with your son/ daughter. This action was taken for the following reason(s): _____.

During this denial of participation, your son/daughter must observe practices and meetings, but may not participate. He/She will sit on the bench with the team at games but will not be permitted to wear team uniform while denial of participation is in effect.

You may appeal this decision to the Principal/Athletic Director within 24 hours.

Your son/daughter can participate again on _____ and needs to report to the Coach before said participation.

Should there be any further questions or concerns regarding this situation, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Coach/Advisor

Student

Principal

Athletic Director

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Carefully evaluate the future commitments of your son/daughter in regards to time, cost, and transportation before granting permission for his/her participation.
2. Parents to understand the training rules and procedures to be followed by the athlete. After their inspection of the rules, they are to sign and return the following agreement slip to the Athletic Department Office prior to your child's participation.
3. Sign a Medical Insurance Waiver Card (if school insurance is not purchased), Physical Examination Card, and an Emergency Medical Card, and return these documents to the Athletic Department Office prior to your child's participation. Also notify the office of any change in information on these documents.
4. Please schedule doctor, dental, and all other outside appointments so as to not conflict with practice or games times.
5. Take an honest interest in your son's/daughter's participation in athletics. Make an effort not to put unreasonable pressure on them.
6. Help enforce all training rules.
7. If you have a problem or complaint, try to resolve the situation with the coach first before approaching the Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent or School Board. Try to make phone calls of a non-emergency nature during school hours and/or reasonable hours.
8. Support the athletic program with your attendance at various athletic events and by being active in the New Lexington City Schools' Athletic Booster Organization which meets monthly on school grounds.
9. Realize that work and vacations are not acceptable reasons for your child to miss practice or games. All players need to be present all of the time in order to have a successfully team program.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

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

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the

others position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow is:

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. The New Lexington High School telephone number is 342-3528 and the Middle School Number is 342-4128.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director at 342-3528. He/She will set up the meeting with you.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided here makes both you and your child's experience with the New Lexington Athletic Program less stressful and more enjoyable.

New Lexington City School District Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Policy

The Board of Education recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational process and the values that young people develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside the traditional classroom. If the full benefit of athletics as educational tools is to be utilized, educational institutions must immediately concern themselves with player, coach and spectator sportsmanship.

Participants and responsible adults involved in Board approved extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom. The Board further encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in all phases of the educational process and in all segments of the community, including administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents, fan, spirit groups, and support/booster groups.

Ethical considerations are as follows:

1. Recognize the official as a person of integrity and qualification, and respect the decision accordingly.
2. Refrain from creating the disturbances which would be detrimental to the flow of the game and/or to the safety of the participants involved.
3. Refrain from harassment, profane language or ostentatious behavior in respect to players, coaches and spectators.
4. Become familiar with the rules of the game in order to enjoy it more and to understand the decisions made by the officials.
5. Exhibit respect for the local policies and regulations regarding the use of athletic facilities.
6. Exhibit team loyalties and support without negative action toward the opponents, officials or spectators.

Any person who feels he or she can support these rules of ethics is welcome at any athletic contest supervised by and from the New Lexington City School District.

COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE
ATHLETE/PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT

The Athletic Policy and OHSAA Powerpoint must be reviewed on this website before signing the agreement (The Athletic downloads are on the bottom right hand side):
<http://www.nlpanthers.org/Athletics.aspx>

To request a hard copy of this policy, contact the high school office at 740-342-3528.

I have read the New Lexington City Schools Athletic Contract and the O.H.S.A.A. Athletic Eligibility Bulletin. I fully understand and agree to abide by the rules and regulations contained within said contract.

Student Name _____	Signature _____
	Date _____
Parent Name _____	Signature _____
(Father)	Date _____
Parent Name _____	Signature _____
(Mother)	Date _____
Guardian Name _____	Signature _____
	Date _____

****A signed contract slip between the athlete and parent/guardian stating that they have read, understand, and will abide by these rules and regulations, must be on file in the Athletic Department Office prior to the initial practice session for the athlete.****