
Lincoln County Board Policy

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. The athlete must earn this privilege through dedication, desire, and discipline. Without the pursuit of those, the athlete can in no way do justice to himself or the school. The athlete must discipline himself to be a good citizen and student in order to achieve athletic excellence. The Lincoln County Schools believes that a tradition of winning is established and maintained based upon these principles. In order for a determined course of action in the pursuit of athletic achievement and the character training of young persons, the following procedures must be understood and agreed between the school, the student athlete, and the parents.

- The student must meet the eligibility regulations as established by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and the specific conference of the participating school.
- Attendance:
 1. A student must have been in attendance for at least 85 percent of the previous semester at an approved high school. Any student must be in membership to be able to make up days missed while in membership (days missed while not in membership may not be made up for athletic eligibility). For a regular 90-day semester, a student may not miss more than 13.5 days and be in compliance with this rule.
 2. A student must, at the time of any game in which he or she participates, be a regularly enrolled member of the school's student body. For purposes of this policy, "regularly enrolled" is defined as enrolled for at least one half of the "minimum load" for his or her particular school.
 3. The student must be enrolled within the first 15 days and in regular attendance for the present semester to be eligible for athletics. A student whose family has moved into a school district shall immediately assume the same status in the new district as that from which he moved.
 4. A student who is not in attendance for 85% of the prior semester can file a hardship request to the Superintendent or designee. The hardship may only be submitted if the student had a doctor's note for more than half of their absences. A committee will be created to examine the request and a final decision will be given to the principal and athletic director within 10 days of the request.
- Criminal Arrest/Conviction: Any student charged with a felony, a class A1, class 1 or class 2 misdemeanor is ineligible to participate until such time as the charge is disposed of by the court by either dismissing the case or finding the student "not guilty." During the pendency of the criminal matter, the student may request a review of the evidence surrounding the charge. The request for review must be filed with the principal. A five-member committee consisting of an administrative team selected by the Superintendent or designee will conduct this review. The team will consist of administrators outside of the school in which the student attends. The committee shall determine whether there exists mitigating circumstances or other good cause to allow the student to participate in athletics while the charge is pending. The committee must render a decision within 10 days after the filing of the appeal. During the 10-day period, the student is ineligible to participate in practice or athletic events. If the student is convicted or pleads "no contest" to the felony charge, the student will be prohibited from participating in athletics. If the student is convicted or pleads no contest to a charge lesser than a felony specified in this section, the student is ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity for a minimum of one calendar year. At the end of one calendar year the student would have to be cleared to participate by the Superintendent/designee, principal, and athletic director.

In the case of a misdemeanor charge of a crime not addressed in the above section (typically a Class 3 misdemeanor), the principal, in consultation with the student's coach and athletic director, shall determine the eligibility and/or suspension of the student. A student may appeal this decision to the five-member committee as set forth above. The committee shall determine whether there exists mitigating circumstances or other good cause to allow the student to participate in athletics. If a student is convicted or pleads no contest to any charge covered by this section, the student will be ineligible to participate in athletics for a period of ninety (90) days. For the second conviction, the student shall be ineligible to participate in athletics for a period of one (1) year. For the third conviction, the student shall be ineligible to participate in athletics for the remainder of his/her high school career.

- Tobacco Use: A student in possession or use in violation of school policies will be subject to a one competition suspension and referral to SSMT.
- Controlled Substance, Narcotics, and Alcohol: A student who tests positive during a random drug test will be subject to the consequences in 3623-R/4343-R. Any athlete that is caught using or in possession of drugs or alcohol on campus will be disciplined according to policy 3623-R/4343-R under the consequences for testing positive for random drug tests. The first violation is a 90-day suspension from all athletics. The second violation is a 365-day suspension from all athletics. The third violation the student would no longer be able to participate in any athletics for the remainder of his or her career.
- Participation in Practice & Game: All team members of each sport will attend all scheduled practices, meetings and athletic events. If circumstances arise whereby the student cannot attend a practice meeting or athletic event, the coach must be notified prior to the practice, meeting, or athletic event missed by personal contact, phone call, or written statement from the parent or guardian. Any athlete who "cuts" practice, fails to appear in a game, fails to make a scheduled team or individual meetings, or intentionally fails to attend school on game days or practice days may not be allowed to suit up for any athletic event for a period of time to be determined by the coach and athletic director and may be removed from the team. All athletes are required to attend class regularly. Athletes delinquent in class attendance are subject to disciplinary action. Lack of attendance in classes may result in failure of class work, resulting in ineligibility in athletics. The student/athlete must be in attendance at school for at least a "half" day to participate in athletic events for that day. However, if the student is out of school more than half a day due to an excused absence, the student will remain eligible to participate in that day's practice and/or games. Each coach will clarify for participants team regulations regarding participation in practices and games at the beginning of the season.
- Lettering & Awards: The provisions or criteria to be met for earning a letter will be furnished to the athlete by the coach in that sport prior to the beginning of the season. In all cases, the athlete must finish the season in good standing with the team to be eligible for any letter and/award.
- Equipment: Equipment issued to an athlete is his/her responsibility for return or replacement. If the equipment is neither returned in good condition, replaced or paid for, the letter/award shall not be awarded nor any further equipment issued to the participant for any sport.
- General Behavior: The guidelines in this contract, while specific, should not be considered limiting in nature. The principal has the authority to take disciplinary action on additional unanticipated behaviors, including violation of rules in the student handbook, which may affect eligibility to participate in an event and may result in removal from the team.



**Pre-Season Athletic Packet
Spring Sports**

1. A member of a team who commits any willful action that harms or discredits other team members and diminishes the image of the team and school will be subject to removal from the team.
2. The coach and/or principal may establish additional criteria for participation and eligibility provided they are clearly communicated to the student and parent and are part of this Contract for Participation.
3. Any student suspended for violation of school rules will not be able to participate in practice or competition during the period of suspension and may be subject to additional discipline or removal from the athletic team if school rule violations are deemed discrediting to other team members and diminish the image of the team.
4. Transfers are covered under LCS policy guidelines.

Student Athlete Name _____

Student Athlete Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____



Parental Permission

I have read and reviewed the general requirements for high school athletic eligibility and I have discussed these requirements with my student-athlete. I understand that additional questions or specific circumstances should be directed to my student’s principal, athletic director, or coach.

I certify that the home address as parents shown below is my sole bona fide residence and I will notify the school principal immediately of any change in residence, since such a move may alter the eligibility status of my student-athlete. I further acknowledge I must not falsify any official eligibility information such as residency/address. The penalty for such acts will result in loss of eligibility for 365 days. All other information contained on this form is accurate and current.

I also acknowledge that there is a certain risk of injury involved with athletic participation; even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility and on rare occasions, these can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or even death. It is impossible to eliminate this risk.

In accordance with the rules of the NCHSAA, I hereby give my consent for the participation of my student-athlete named below for the following activities circled below:

Baseball	Basketball	Cheer	Cross Country
Football	Golf	Soccer	Softball
Swimming	Tennis	Track- Indoor	Track- Outdoor
Volleyball	Wrestling	Other:	Other:

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please print the following:

Name of Student-Athlete _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Parent/Guardian Address _____

Parent/Guardian City, State, Zip _____

Note: This statement should be on file in the principal’s office and is valid for one school year only.



Coach, Athlete, and Parent's Pledge

As a coach, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I know that the principles of good sportsmanship are integrity, fairness, and respect. While teaching the skills of the game, I must also teach student athletes how to win and lose graciously, and that sport is meant to be educational and fun. I know the behavior expectations of me be this school, conference, and the NCHSAA, and hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of ethical behavior, integrity, and good citizenship.

Coach Signature _____ **Date** _____

As a student athlete, I know I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of my school, my conference, and the NCHSAA and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student athlete.

Student Athlete Signature _____ **Date** _____

As a parent, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected of our school, our conference and the NCHSAA. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent of a student athlete.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

Promesa De Los Padres Del Estudiante Atleta

Como padre o madre, entiendo que soy un modelo para mis hijos. No olvidaré que los deportes escolares son una extensión del salón de clase y que ofrecen a los estudiantes oportunidades de aprendizaje. Tengo que ser respetuoso hacia los jugadores, entrenadores, espectadores y grupos de apoyo. Animaré al equipo o atletas que participen en una manera que los apoye, los motive, y les levante el ánimo. Entiendo el espíritu deportivo y de juego limpio que se espera de nuestro equipo, de nuestra conferencia y del NCHSAA. Por la presente, acepto mi responsabilidad de ser un modelo del buen espíritu deportivo que va con el hecho de ser padre o madre de un estudiante atleta.

Padre o Madre Firma _____ **Hoy** _____

Padre o Madre Firma _____ **Hoy** _____



Athletic Participation Form for _____ School Year

School _____

Athlete's Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

This is my _____ consecutive semester at _____ High School.

I entered the 9th grade in _____ of 20 _____.

Last semester, I attended _____ School and passed _____ courses.

I have also not been convicted of a felony or an act that would have been a felony if I were not classified as a juvenile.

I certify that the above information is correct, that I have read the summary of NCHSAA eligibility rules and that I agree to abide by those standards and those of my school.

I also acknowledge that there is a certain risk of injury involved with athletic participation; even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility and on rare occasions, these can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or even death. It is impossible to eliminate this risk.

Student Athlete Name _____ Date _____

Student Athlete Signature _____

Hazing Notification

Hazing or inappropriate "locker room antics" or other inappropriate actions will not be tolerated. Hazing is a Level I offense. First offense may result in 5 days OSS and removal from the team. Hazing that involves personal injury may result in long-term suspension and removal from all athletic teams. Criminal charges may also be filed.

Student Athlete Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Athletic Injury Release

I hereby authorize any medical establishment to provide emergency care to my son/daughter, (print full name) _____, in the event of an injury/illness occurring while I am not available to give my consent. Also, I give permission to the Certified Athletic Trainer acting on behalf of the school my child attends to make the decision to seek further medical assistance based on their evaluation of the injury/illness.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Emergency Contact Number 1 _____

Emergency Contact Number 2 _____

Consent for Treatment

I hereby authorize the Certified Athletic Trainer acting on behalf of the school my child attends to evaluate and treat any injury/illness that occurs as a result of my child's participation in high school athletics. This includes any and all reasonable and necessary preventative care, treatment, and rehabilitation of these injuries/illnesses.

I understand that my child must refrain from practice while injured/ill, whether or not receiving medical care. When under medical care, my child may not return to participate until their attending physician or Certified Athletic Trainer has given them permission. This may occur during or at the conclusion of medical treatment. The Certified Athletic Trainer of the school my child attends has the FINAL authority regarding participation status following injury/illness.

I understand and agree that if my child experiences an injury/illness or change in their health status, it is my responsibility to inform their Head Coach and the Certified Athletic Trainer. I also agree that my child will adhere to the established injury management guidelines, including rehabilitation and reassessment before they are released to return to full participation.

This authorization expires one (1) year from the date signed. It may be revoked at any time provided written documentation of the revocation is on file in the athletic training room.

Student Athlete Name (print) _____

Student Athlete Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



Authorization to Disclose Private Health Information

I grant permission to the Certified Athletic Trainer of the school my child attends to disclose my child’s health information (written and/or verbal), when requested to do so, for the purposes of health care treatment, payment for treatment, or for any other purpose which is permitted or required by law.

Personal Health Information includes, but is not limited to: Information involving the nature and treatment of an injury/illness, medical history, insurance coverage and copies of all hospital and medical records. This information will be released ONLY for the purposes of further treatment (referrals to specialists or other health care providers) and/or disclosure of participation status to your child’s team’s coaches for their health and safety.

This authorization expires one (1) year from the date signed. It may be revoked at any time provided written documentation of the revocation is on file in the athletic training room.

Student Athlete Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Assumption of Risk

I understand that there are certain inherent risks involved in participating in high school athletics. Even though the school my child attends takes all reasonable precautions to minimize these risks, injury and illness do sometimes occur.

I understand that my child’s participation in athletics at the school my child attends may result in injury/illness, permanent physical or mental impairment, or even death. These injuries may be minor or career or life threatening. I understand that the school my child attends cannot be held responsible for injuries or conditions caused by the actions of another athlete or my child’s own failure to follow the safety procedures established by their coaching staff, Certified Athletic Trainer, or other athletic department staff.

I understand and accept that the school my child attends and its Certified Athletic Trainer will uphold their responsibility to minimize injury risks associated with athletic participation. I acknowledge that these risks may still exist and I hereby assume responsibility for my child for any and all such risks while participating in athletics at the school my child attends. Additionally, I agree to the following:

1. I accept that the school my child attends and its personnel are not to be held responsible for any pre-existing medical conditions or any medical conditions I **fail** to disclose on my child’s health history.
2. I understand that having passed the pre-participation physical exam does not necessarily mean my child is physically qualified to participate in athletics at his/her school, but only that the evaluator did not find a medical reason to disqualify him/her at the time of the exam.

Student Athlete Name (print) _____

Student Athlete Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____