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# LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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*SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT*

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Dear Families,

It is both an honor and a privilege to welcome you to the Levittown School District Athletic Program as your District Athletic Director. I look forward to working with our student-athletes, parents, coaches, and community to ensure a safe, competitive, and rewarding athletic experience for all.

The Levittown School District offers a comprehensive interscholastic athletic program designed to complement and enhance our district's educational mission. Participation in athletics provides student-athletes with opportunities to develop skills that extend far beyond the playing field, including leadership, sportsmanship, discipline, time management, and teamwork, while creating memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

Our program is progressive in nature, beginning at the modified middle school level and culminating at the varsity level. The Athletic Handbook has been developed to communicate the philosophy, policies, procedures, and expectations that guide our department. It contains important information for parents and student-athletes, including sport offerings, seasons of play, scheduling resources, and expectations for conduct and commitment.

We are proud members of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and Section VIII Athletics (Nassau County). All programs operate in full compliance with the standards and regulations established by these governing bodies as well as by the Levittown Board of Education.

For your convenience, up-to-date information and other resources are available on the Section VIII website at [www.secviii.org](http://www.secviii.org). You can also visit our district's Athletics webpage at [www.levittownschoools.com](http://www.levittownschoools.com) under the Department of Physical Education, Athletics, Health & Health Services for announcements, meeting dates, and program updates.

I encourage all parents and student-athletes to read the Athletic Handbook in its entirety and complete the acknowledgment form via FamilyID prior to each sports season. By choosing to participate, student-athletes accept the responsibilities, standards, and traditions that make Levittown athletics an important part of our school and community culture.

If you have any questions about our programs, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 516-434-7265. I look forward to seeing you at our events and working together to make this a successful and memorable year for our student-athletes.

Sincerely,

John Coscia  
District Athletic Director  
Levittown Public Schools

## **GOVERNING BODIES IN ATHLETICS**

Interscholastic athletics is governed by the rules, regulations, and guidelines established by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), which operates under the authority of the State Education Department (SED) and the Commissioner of Education.

The NYSPHSAA is composed of eleven sections across New York State. Nassau County, known as Section VIII (Nassau County Public High School Athletic Association), is one of these sections and a full member of NYSPHSAA. Its purpose is to establish policies that allow public high schools to administer interscholastic athletics in accordance with sound educational practices.

The NYSPHSAA and Section VIII determine many of the standards that guide public school athletic competition, including season start and end dates, the Selection/Classification program, eligibility rules, scheduling, placement, contest regulations, safety requirements, practice mandates, and postseason tournament opportunities. Section VIII also assigns officials for all contests played in Nassau County.

As a member of the Nassau County Public High School Athletic Association, the Levittown School District must comply with all state and section regulations. District policies are therefore aligned with the rules and procedures that govern athletic programs throughout Nassau County.

## APPROXIMATE START/END DATES FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SEASONS

**FALL:** JV and Varsity Football begin approximately two weeks before the first day of school. All other fall high school sports begin about one week prior to school. Seasons typically conclude in late October or early November.

**WINTER:** JV and Varsity Winter Sports begin in mid-November. Postseason play may extend through the February break, with the season ending in late February.

**SPRING:** JV and Varsity Spring Sports begin in early March. Postseason play may extend through the April break, with the season concluding in early June.

**Note: These dates are subject to change, and are determined by the NYSPHSAA and Section VIII  
HIGH SCHOOL (VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY) SPORTS PROGRAMS**

Fall	Varsity	JV
Boys Cross-Country	X	
Girls Cross-Country	X	
Boys Football	X	X
Girls Soccer	X	X
Boys Soccer	X	X
Girls Tennis	X	
Boys Volleyball	X	X
Girls Volleyball	X	X
Golf	X	
Cheerleading	X	X
Boys Badminton	X	
Girls Swimming	X	
Kickline	X	

Winter	Varsity	JV	JV9
Boys Basketball	X	X	X
Girls Basketball	X	X	
Girls Winter Track	X		
Boys Winter Track	X		
Boys Wrestling	X	X	
Boys Bowling	X		
Girls Bowling	X		
Competition Cheerleading	X		
Boys Swimming	X		
Kickline	X		

Spring	Varsity	JV	JV9
Girls Softball	X	X	
Boys Baseball	X	X	X
Girls Track & Field	X		
Boys Track & Field	X		
Girls Lacrosse	X	X	
Boys Lacrosse	X	X	
Boys Tennis	X		
Girls Badminton	X	X	
Girls Flag Football	X		

## APPROXIMATE START/END DATES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS SEASONS

FALL: First day of school through the first week in November

EARLY WINTER: Early November through late January

LATE WINTER: Late January through late March

SPRING: Late March through early June

**THE EXACT SCHEDULED START DATES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL IS DETERMINED IN THE  
SPRING OF THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR.  
CONTACT THE COACH OR THE ATHLETIC COORDINATORS FOR  
SPECIFIC DATES AT THAT TIME.**

Fall	7 and 8
Boys Badminton	1
Cheerleading	1
Cross-Country	1
Boys Football	2
Boys Soccer	2
Girls Soccer	2
Girls Tennis	1

Winter I	7 and 8
Boys Basketball	2
Girls Volleyball	2
Competition Cheerleading	1

Winter II	7 and 8
Girls Basketball	2
Wrestling	1
Boys Volleyball	1
Bowling	2

Spring	7 and 8
Girls Lacrosse	1
Boys Lacrosse	1
Boys Baseball	2
Girls Softball	2
Girls Track	1
Boys Track	1

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Interscholastic athletics in Levittown are an extension of our physical education and health program and an essential part of the district's educational mission. Athletics help students develop life skills such as dedication, responsibility, self-discipline, teamwork, work ethic, and respect. They teach students to commit to team goals, make personal sacrifices, and build pride, loyalty, leadership, and resilience.

While winning is valued, true success is measured by helping individuals and teams reach their highest potential. Competition fosters respect for those who embrace challenges and take risks, recognizing that personal growth and lifelong lessons often matter more than win-loss records.

Levittown offers a comprehensive athletic program that begins with modified sports for middle school students, continues with junior varsity, and culminates in varsity competition for highly skilled athletes.

### **Middle School Program Philosophy**

Levittown's middle school athletics introduce students to competitive sports while emphasizing fundamental skills, game rules, teamwork, healthy competition, and social-emotional development. Programs encourage physical conditioning, personal responsibility for fitness, and a positive environment suited to the maturity and abilities of younger athletes.

Although we aim to include all interested students, roster limits may be necessary due to available resources, safety considerations, facilities, or coaching staff. Regular practice sessions are essential for individual and team development, and attendance at all practices, games, and tryouts is required. Meaningful playing opportunities are provided to athletes who meet expectations for effort, attitude, sportsmanship, and team needs.

Participation requires full commitment to the school team ahead of outside leagues or travel programs. Playing time is determined by the coach, guided by Section VIII regulations. Roster spots are not guaranteed from year to year, as every season begins with new evaluations.

### **Junior Varsity Philosophy**

The junior varsity program is designed for athletes, primarily in grades 9 and 10, who have the potential to advance to the varsity level. Expectations are higher than at the modified level, with longer and more demanding practices, advanced skill requirements, and a more competitive atmosphere. Each season begins with new evaluations, and roster spots are earned through performance during tryouts.

Athletes are expected to demonstrate commitment, conditioning, skill development, work ethic, and reliability. The program emphasizes refining fundamentals, understanding team strategies, and balancing individual growth with the pursuit of victory. Playing time is not guaranteed and must be earned through performance and dedication.

The level of commitment mirrors that of varsity athletics, with practices and competitions scheduled up to six days per week, including some vacation periods. School teams take priority over outside leagues. Attendance at all practices, games, and tryouts is required, and unresolved conflicts with outside activities may result in suspension from competition.

## **Varsity Philosophy**

Varsity competition represents the highest level of interscholastic athletics and is intended for athletes who demonstrate advanced skills, a strong work ethic, and a full commitment to their sport. While rosters are generally composed of juniors and seniors, exceptional younger athletes may earn consideration. Each season begins with open tryouts, and prior participation does not guarantee a roster spot.

At the varsity level, playing time is not guaranteed and is determined by the coach with the goal of fielding the most competitive team possible. Athletes must meet rigorous practice and conditioning requirements, typically two to three hours per day, six days per week, often including vacation periods. Attendance, punctuality, and consistent effort are expected from every player, regardless of role on the team.

The primary goals of varsity athletics are to compete for league and division titles, qualify for postseason tournaments, and, in individual sports, provide opportunities to advance in championship competition. School teams always take precedence over outside leagues, and athletes who do not fulfill team commitments may face suspension from competition.

## **ATHLETIC REGISTRATION – FAMILY ID**

The Levittown Athletic Department is pleased to offer the convenience of online athletic registration through FamilyID ([www.familyid.com](http://www.familyid.com)).

All student-athletes must:

- Be registered on FamilyID for each sport season.
- Have a valid physical examination recorded on the New York State School Health Examination Form, dated within 1 calendar year of the first day of tryouts.

The physical form may be uploaded directly to your FamilyID account or submitted to the school nurse. A student-athlete cannot be cleared for tryouts until the nurse has verified both the registration and the physical examination.

FamilyID is a secure platform that provides families with a user-friendly way to register for athletics. The system also allows the Athletic Department to be more efficient, accurate, and environmentally responsible. Once entered, your information is stored in your FamilyID profile and can be reused for multiple programs or multiple children, eliminating the need to complete forms repeatedly.

## **PROCEDURES FOR TRYOUTS**

Athletes are expected to participate on the first day of tryouts and attend all subsequent sessions. Those who miss the official start date and request to join late may be denied the opportunity to try out. Exceptions may be considered for athletes with a documented medical illness or injury, provided that the coach or Director of Athletics is notified in advance.

Each season's tryout is considered independent from previous years. No roster spots are guaranteed, even for athletes who have been part of the program before. All athletes must be prepared to earn a position each year. Some students develop significantly from one season to the next and may make the team after being cut previously. Athletes can strengthen their chances by demonstrating commitment to improvement through participation in summer camps, leagues, or organized club programs. At higher levels, particularly

varsity, roster size is determined by what is needed to conduct effective practices and remain competitive in games.

**A note for seniors:** One of the most challenging situations for coaches occurs when a long-time participant is evaluated as a limited-role player in their senior year. Seniors will not be placed on junior varsity teams, as that level is intended for athlete development. At the varsity level, the best players will compete, regardless of age, as long as program expectations are met. Coaches are expected to be forthright with seniors about their anticipated role during tryouts. If a senior is offered a spot with limited playing time, they must be willing to accept that role, maintain full commitment to attendance and work ethic, and continue to support the team with a positive attitude.

If a coach determines that a senior has reached their athletic potential and is unlikely to fulfill limited-role expectations with a positive approach, the coach may choose not to offer a roster position.

## **TRYOUTS AND TEAM SELECTION**

Team selection will be held in a closed environment with only the Athletic Director, coaches and the athletes permitted. In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program while in Levittown, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as possible on each team. Time, space, facilities, equipment and other factors may place limitations on team size for any particular sport. Selections are made according to the skill level of the athletes. All positions are open for any athlete to fill on an annual basis. Choosing the members and captains of athletic teams is the sole responsibility of the coaches. At the pre-season interest meeting, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates:

- extent of try-out period (2 Day minimum)
- criteria used to select the team member
- practice and game commitment expectations of team members
- requirements for participation
- once an athlete is placed on the official BOCES roster, they may not switch teams.

## **NYSPHSAA ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROCESS (APP)**

The advanced placement process is for screening student athletes to determine their readiness to compete in inter scholastic competition by evaluating their physical maturity, fitness, and skill. The intent of this program is to provide athletes an opportunity to safely participate at an appropriate level of competition based on readiness rather than age or grade.

## **MOVING UP OR BYPASSING A MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

In order to bypass a middle school experience, the particular athlete must be a very gifted individual as determined by our high school coaching staff. In most cases, this evaluation would be based on the athlete's performance level in our middle school program as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Please be advised that it is a rare occurrence that an athlete is approved to skip the 8<sup>th</sup> grade experience to play in a high school program. In addition to athletic ability, the social and emotional maturity of each student athlete is carefully assessed along with the student's behavioral and academic profile. It is the responsibility of the parent, not the school district, to provide transportation each day.

The following are Levittown's procedures for implementing the New York State Advanced Placement Process.

1. The Varsity coach identifies an athlete to potentially be moved up. The process cannot be initiated by the parent.
2. Varsity coach sees the athlete play in person.
3. Varsity coach communicates their desire to District Athletic Director.
4. Varsity coach or District Athletic Director contacts the Middle School Athletic Coordinator.
5. Middle School Athletic Coordinator speaks with Middle School Coach and Principal to identify any potential issues that would need to be addressed relative to the particular student athlete.
6. District Athletic Director gives final confirmation to Middle School Athletic Coordinator
7. Parents are contacted by Varsity Head coach.
8. If permission is granted by parents, Varsity coach notifies District Athletic Director.
9. APP paperwork and sports application form are sent home by Middle School.
10. **APP Candidates may use either their own Physician or the School District MD for the Physical/Maturation exam, all results are final. It should also be noted that the School District MD has final approval on all medical exams, even those conducted by personal physicians.**
11. Physical Tests administered (running/swimming test may be administered at the High School).
12. APP packet sent to District Athletic Director.
13. If transportation is needed the parents are responsible for providing all transportation necessary.

It is the responsibility of the athlete and parent to make certain that the physical examination and maturity evaluation by the school physician and the athletic performance test by the authorized physical education teacher are completed by the middle of June for fall sports participation eligibility, Authorized staff members will not be available for the administration of performance tests during summer vacation. Therefore, an athlete who does not complete this process as defined above will not be eligible to participate in tryouts for a high school sport beginning in August.

*Important Notes:*

1. *The Tanner Scale will no longer be used as a determining factor for promotion to a Varsity program.*
2. *No Athlete will be moved up to a junior varsity level or varsity level if said team is making cuts.*

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

### **• Eligibility Requirement**

- o In order to participate on an interscholastic athletic team, a student must satisfy the following the eligibility rules that are established by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. An athlete must be a bona fide middle or senior high school student and must be taking at least five subjects and physical education. Students who have completed graduation requirements are not permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic program. A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. If the age of 19 years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that year in all sports. A pupil shall be eligible for senior high athletic competition in each sport during four consecutive seasons of such sport after entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and prior to graduation. An appeal for an extension of athletic eligibility can be made if the Chief School Officer can show that a student's failure to enter competition during one or more seasons of a sport was caused by illness, accident or other circumstances beyond the control of the student.

### **• Classroom and School Attendance**

- o All students must be in school for five (5) class periods in order to participate in an athletic practice or game that day. If a student leaves school sick for the day, they will not be permitted to practice or participate in that day's competition. Students who demonstrate problems with school absences or tardiness, either excused or unexcused, are subject to suspension and/or dismissal from the team. Athletes are expected to get to school on time, make a commitment to classroom attendance, and demonstrate appropriate behavior.
- o No student-athlete excused from a physical education class for medical reasons may participate in a practice scrimmage or contest on the same day. Note that Commissioners Regulations dictate that a student-athlete is ineligible if he or she is medically excused from participation in a physical education class. Any contest that an ineligible athlete participates in is deemed a forfeit.

### **• Participation**

- o In order to participate in extracurricular programs, students (Grades 7 - 12) must maintain academic standards as determined by the District.
- o In order to participate in Athletics, all students must view both the Risk Management and Anti-Hazing Videos located on the Levittown District Website. Signing the sports application form will be considered acknowledgement that each student has done so.
- o Only the coach can excuse an athlete from either practice or games. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the coach in the event it becomes necessary to miss a practice or a game. In the event of an unauthorized absence from or lateness to a game or practice, the athlete may be suspended from the team. Attending an extra help session is an excused absence.
- o During the participation in practices, meetings, events and games, all injuries must be reported immediately so that the coach/trainer can file the appropriate report. It is understood that voluntary participation in all sports requires an acceptance of risk of possible injury. Students can help make the game safer by using techniques which are legal and proper and which will not cause injury. The coaching staff is made up of professionals certified by the State who will continually and repeatedly teach techniques that are fundamental to the sport.
- o Students who do not participate in Physical Education Class on a particular day may not participate in after-school athletics on that day.

- **High School Athletic Vacation Policy**

- In order to ensure that students recognize and understand their responsibility as a member of the varsity team, parents and students are reminded that their participation requires attendance at practices and games during non-school and vacation periods.
- Therefore, student-athletes must be prepared to participate in athletic practices or games that are scheduled during the following recesses: Thanksgiving, winter (December), mid-winter (February) and spring (March and April). As a school district and members of the Nassau County Athletic Association, We are committed to preparing for and honoring the contest schedule during these non school and vacation periods. In addition to these periods, the fall sports season (High School) will commence on the Monday prior to Labor Day, with football commencing a week prior to this date. Consequently, all varsity athletes and their families are reminded to plan vacations accordingly. It is recognized that there may be situations of an emergency nature that may arise which would necessitate the missing of scheduled practices. All athletes should be expected to plan ahead and attend these practices and/or competitions if they wish to remain on the team.
- Therefore, student-athletes are expected to make a full commitment to the season, and notify the coach of any potential commitment conflicts at the start of the season, as soon as tryouts begin. A problem with commitment may impact the selection process.

- **Policies Governing Contests And Practice On Holy Day Observances**

- Athletic games and practices are mandated to be scheduled in accordance with New York State religious observance guidelines. In addition, the Levittown School District respects that their students may be required to observe a religious holy day which is not part of these guidelines and the athlete will not be penalized for non-attendance at that game/practice. It is the responsibility of the athlete to notify the coach in a timely fashion of these observed holy days.
- Note: Individual schools may compete on these dates outside of Section VIII (Nassau County), for example at the Penn Relays on Holy Thursday, if the district approves such participation.
- When teams do practice on the eve of a religious holiday, or those dates mentioned above with special permission, coaches and team members are expected to respect religious commitments and personal obligations of the family. Athletes and parents in these circumstances will be informed that the practice is optional, with no implication of any penalty for missing the practice.

- **School Sanctioned Activities And Field Trips**

- There are numerous educational opportunities for students in our school system. The athletic department supports school-sanctioned programs and trips, but also realizes that student athletes who choose to participate in school trips or school exchange programs may miss substantial amounts of practice time, which affects personal athletic goals and team goals.
- Coaches, parents, and student athletes have a responsibility to each other, and parents are expected to plan and communicate well in advance of each sports season when considering participation in school-sanctioned programs and/or trips. All attempts should be made to consider the practice and/or game schedule, and seek the advice of the coach before making commitments to plans. If an athlete's personal commitments compromise team goals, or present a conflict with respect to the standards and expectations defined for all involved in the program, the athlete should be prepared to make a choice between

his/her continued relationship with the team and their commitment to other personal goals.

## **STUDENT-ATHLETE POSSESSIONS**

- All athletes are provided with a locker for their personal use located in the physical education locker room or team room facility. Since this area is used by numbers of students throughout the course of an afternoon, and teams dismiss athletes at varying times, it is impossible to make certain that the locker room facility is secured at all times.
- Therefore, it is essential that each athlete assumes the responsibility for locking up and securing his/her books, clothing, and personal possessions prior to leaving the facility for practice and contests each day. The school district is not responsible for lost/stolen property.
- Coaches will attempt to provide adequate supervision within the facility, but athletes are expected to do their part as well. More often than not, when personal belongings are taken, the athlete has not assumed his/her responsibility to secure them in an appropriate manner. Despite our best efforts to supervise these areas, theft sometimes occurs.

## **TEAM UNIFORMS AND SCHOOL-ISSUED EQUIPMENT**

- Athletic equipment becomes more costly each year. It is the responsibility of the student- athlete to secure all school issued equipment items and uniforms in a locker that is locked during the course of a season. Please do not keep team uniforms in the locker room facility for long periods of time. They are best laundered and left at home until the day of a game. The expense of a uniform is significant, and if the athlete forgets to lock his/her locker, the athlete will be expected to pay for the school-issued athletic equipment and/or uniform.
- **Care and Maintenance of Uniforms and Equipment**
  - All athletes and parents are responsible for the cleaning and maintaining of all uniforms and equipment issued during the course of a season. Some of our most costly items may shrink, fade, or bleed color if washed in hot water. In addition, our logos, numbers, and screens may crack and peel off if temperature settings for washing and drying are too hot.
  - Therefore, do not wash uniforms in hot water and avoid drying on hot temperature settings. Please wash uniforms in cold water and hang to dry! Be sure to read tags on the cloth for washing and drying instructions, and when in doubt, speak to the coach before laundering uniforms. If the uniform needs to be replaced, the athlete will be expected to pay for the replacement item.
- **Return of School-Issued Uniforms and Equipment**
  - It is the responsibility of the athlete to personally return all school-issued equipment to his/her coach at the end of his/her season. All team uniforms and equipment are to be returned to the coach immediately after the last practice or contest where the item is needed. The athlete is not responsible for the cleaning or washing of uniforms after the last use, as all items in our inventory are sent out to a professional reconditioning and cleaning service. Turning in equipment and uniforms “on time” ensures that all items in the team inventory are available for pickup by the reconditioning company on the scheduled date set for the end of the season. Athletes should never give their school-issued equipment or uniform to others to return. Coaches keep accurate records of school-issued inventory, and if items are not returned at the end of the season, the athlete will be placed on an indebted list.
  - Athletes who owe equipment/uniforms will not be issued any other school uniform or protective equipment for another sports season until they clear their indebtedness with the Building Athletic Coordinator. If the uniform is lost, or ruined, the athlete will be held

responsible. Coaches will also be instructed to withhold the presentation of athletic awards until missing items of inventory have been returned or paid for. Building Administrators may take additional action with regard to the athlete's indebtedness as well. Underclassmen may be prevented from participating on an athletic team in subsequent seasons/years if they have not satisfied the indebted policy.

## **ATHLETIC TRANSPORTATION**

- Transportation to and from an athletic contest is part of a team commitment which ultimately builds teamwork, camaraderie, and cohesiveness. In special cases, a parent may request permission to transport his or her child from a game site. In such cases, the request must be made in writing and in advance of the contest. These requests shall be considered only as the "rare exception", and should be reserved for emergency situations.
- Athletes are expected to use transportation provided by the school "to" and "from" all athletic contests. Student athletes are expected to arrive for bus departures on time, and may not drive to the site. If a student does not make the bus, and arrives at the site without administrative approval in advance, the athlete should not expect to participate.
- Transportation to and from an athletic contest is part of a team commitment which ultimately builds teamwork, camaraderie, and cohesiveness.
- Athletes at away contests are expected to remain "on site" and under the direct supervision of the coach at all times. All students will be expected to conduct themselves appropriately when traveling with the team. All athletes are expected to return to school with the team after contests as a continuation of the team experience. Under no circumstances will a parent be allowed to take any other child home but their own. Nor will a child be permitted to leave an away site with anyone other than his/her parent. Failing to comply with transportation and supervision policies at away contests may jeopardize an athlete's team eligibility.
- Parents are expected to pick up athletes in a timely fashion. Athletes should check with the coach for the estimated time of pick up. It is not the responsibility of the coaching staff to wait for students to be picked up.

### **Transportation to Postseason Contests**

- Any athlete participating in a Regional, Intersectional, or State Championship Event must travel to the event on the transportation provided by Section VIII. Parents cannot transport their child to any postseason contest at the regional level or beyond. There is no appeal to this Section VIII regulation.
- An athlete may travel home with his/her parents provided that a written request is presented, in advance of the departure date, to the Section VIII Sports Chair Coordinator. If approval has not been given in advance, the athlete will be expected to return home from the contest with the Section VIII team.

## **PARENT-COACH RELATIONSHIP**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefit to the students. As parents, when your children become involved in sports programs, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication between coach and student athlete. The primary form of communication is between coach and player. It is the individual player's responsibility to share said information with their parents.

Parents should be advised that the Levittown Public Schools policy does not permit spectators to watch tryouts and team practices, as distractions can upset the concentration of the athletes. The gymnasium or field is considered to be part of the classroom environment. Parents who pick up their child after practice should wait until the conclusion of the practice before entering the training facility.

### **Information you should expect from your child as per the coach**

- Expectations the coach has for the players on the team.
- Schedule and location of games, including changes.
- Practice schedule.
- Team requirements, i.e., special equipment, off-season conditioning responsibilities, etc.
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
- Team rules and guidelines.

### **ATHLETE / PARENT / COACH COMMUNICATION PROCESS**

Both parenting and coaching are demanding roles. By establishing clear lines of communication and respecting each perspective, we can better support our student-athletes and maximize their opportunities for growth. It is the expectation of the Levittown Athletic Department that communication will be open, respectful, and ongoing between parents, athletes, and coaches. Parents are entitled to timely and thoughtful responses to legitimate questions regarding their child's performance, development, and/or team status.

During the season, concerns may arise. We recommend waiting 24 hours until voicing your concern then the following communication process should be followed:

1. Athlete meets with the coach to discuss the concern/issue.
2. If unresolved, the athlete and parent meet with the coach for further discussion.
3. If unresolved, the athlete, parent, and coach meet with the Athletic Director.
4. If unresolved, athlete, parent, coach, and Athletic Director meet with the Building Principal.

We strongly encourage all parents to attend contests and to model constructive support for their children and teammates. Successes and setbacks are part of athletics, and we ask parents to help us reinforce the values of perseverance, teamwork, sportsmanship, and commitment to team morale.

Please note: all practices are closed to parents. Our coaches welcome the opportunity to discuss concerns in a private, scheduled setting, but sideline or field discussions are fragmented, often incomplete, and unnecessarily public. To arrange a meeting with a coach, please contact the Athletic Office at (516) 434-7265.

## **Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With the Coach**

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

Situations may require a conference between the coach and parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. 'When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution to your concerns, contact the Building Athletic Director to set up an appointment and discuss the situation. If the situation does not meet your satisfaction, at this point contact the District Athletic Director.

## **ATHLETIC AWARD**

### Coaches Associations and County Awards

Coaches' Associations have no affiliation with the school district or Section VIII. They are independent bodies, governed by their own bylaws and officers. Postseason awards, presented by the coaches, may vary from sport to sport and year to year. The members of the County Coaches' Association determine the selection criteria for awards, pay for the awards, and fund the banquets. Neither the school, nor the Section, has any influence with regard to the selection of those individuals who receive these awards.

## **CONDUCT GUIDELINES FOR PLAYERS, COACHES AND SPECTATORS**

In conjunction with Section VIII, the Levittown School District strictly adheres to the sportsmanship policy outlined by Section VIII, which was approved in September 2024. Please take a few moments to click on the link below to read that policy carefully along with the regulations on the following page.

### [Section 8 Sportsmanship Policy](#)

#### **Addition to the Section 8 Sportsmanship Policy**

In the event a racial, ethnic, or gender slur is heard by an Administrator, Coach, Official, or Supervisor at any Section VIII competition the event will be stopped. Every effort must be made to identify the person(s) responsible for the slur. The person(s) must be immediately removed from the contest. In the event the person (s) responsible for the slur cannot be identified the responsible staff are expected to remove as many spectators as deemed necessary to ensure that the person(s) has/have been removed from the event. The ejection(s) and name(s) of the ejected must be reported to Section VIII and include carryover suspension from attendance at the next competition.



## Section VIII Sportsmanship Regulations

Type of Offense	Offender	Consequence of First Offense	Consequence of Second Offense	Appeal Amount
<b>Physical</b>	Player	Two Game Suspension	Remainder of Season Suspension	\$250 for Sportsmanship Appeal
	Coach	Remainder of Season Suspension		\$500 for Athletic Council Appeal
	Spectator	Remainder of Season Suspension		
<b>Verbal</b>	Player	Two Game Suspension	Remainder of Season Suspension	
	Coach	Two Game Suspension	Remainder of Season Suspension	
	Spectator	Three Game Suspension	Remainder of Season Suspension	
<b>**Ejection by Rule Violation</b>	Player	Subject to Specific Sport Rule		
<b>Ejection by Unsportsmanlike Behavior</b>	Player	Two Game Suspension	Remainder of Season Suspension	
	Coach	Two Game Suspension	Remainder of Season Suspension	

<b>Pre/Post Game Behavior Will Receive Additional Game(s)</b>	Spectator	Two Game Suspension	Remainder of Season Suspension	
<b>Leaving Bench Area</b>	Player	Two Game Suspension	Remainder of Season Suspension	
	Coach	One Game Suspension (Two or More Players Leave)	*Pending Review by Sportsmanship Committee	
*Pending review by Sportsmanship Committee				
**Sportsmanship Committee reserves the right to impose any additional consequences for ejections by rule violation				
**Football will abide by the NYS Policy; Sportsmanship Committee can still add additional consequence				
The Sportsmanship Committee always reserves the right to impose any additional consequence for any unsportsmanlike action				

Approved 9/26/24

**\*The consequences outlined in this chart reflect the *minimum* disciplinary expectations established by Section VIII. The Levittown School District reserves the right to impose additional consequences when warranted by the specific circumstances of an incident.**

## **Additional Expectations for Student-Athletes**

The District recognizes the valuable contribution Extra-curricular and interscholastic activities make to a student's growth and development. For many students, these activities not only provide learning activities in the social and cognitive domains but also often provide motivation for recalcitrant learners to come to school and actively participate in the academic day. To this end, the Levittown School District provides a variety of Extra-curricular activities that complement the educational and athletic development of each student. Parents/guardians and the school community need to work together to provide these activities for our children. This expectation is not meant to usurp or restrict the responsibility of parents. The Levittown School District feels very strongly that parents must monitor their own children's behavior and impose their own discipline measures beyond those consequences outlined in this document.

Extra-curricular participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team/club, to the student body, and to the community. When a participant accepts this privilege he/she must also live up to the code of conduct beyond that of the general student body, on and off school property. It is imperative that all students abide by the following:

1. Show pride and respect for their school and for their fellow students whom they represent, by being good citizens, good sports, and good students.
2. Be loyal to the school, its coaching/advisory staff and contribute to team/school spirit.
3. Condition properly so that they can safely and adequately meet the physical demands of a sport.
4. Follow training rules that are established by the school and the coach.
5. Be responsible for all equipment issued, take proper care of it and return it at the proper time.
6. Abide by and respect all decisions of officials.
7. Support all school activities to the best of their ability.

## **Prohibited Student Conduct**

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

It is expected that District personnel make every effort to have the student learn from the disciplinary experience rather than just punish the student.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate the District code of conduct will be required to accept the consequences for their actions. Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school.

All students should be prepared to accept serious consequences if school officials, teachers, and/or coaches find that school district policies pertaining to alcohol, drugs, vaping, and tobacco have been violated. Furthermore, since alcohol, drugs, vaping, and tobacco interfere with effective learning, the health and well-being of the athlete, and the goals of the individual and team, the athlete who is involved with the use of such substances must understand that they are seriously jeopardizing their status as a member of the team and risk suspension and/or expulsion from the team.

### **Hazing**

- Hazing at any age can be exceedingly harmful. Hazing at the Middle School or High School levels are particularly troubling because the developmental stages of adolescence create a situation in which students are more vulnerable to peer pressure. This is due to the tremendous need for belonging, making friends and finding approval in one's peer group.
- Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created intentionally to produce a mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.
- Subtle Hazing: Actions that are against accepted school district standards of conduct, behavior, and good taste. Any activity or attitude directed towards a student which ridicules, humiliates, or embarrasses.
- Harassment Hazing: Anything that causes mental anguish or physical discomfort to the student. Any activity which confuses, frustrates, or causes undue stress.

THE LEVITTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LEVITTOWN ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT DO NOT CONDONE ANY PRACTICE OF HAZING. THOSE WHO VIOLATE THIS POLICY WILL BE SUBJECT TO STRICT DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

*Hazing is not about “traditions” or “silly antics”.*

*It is about abuse of power and violation of human dignity.*

*Hazing is a form of abuse and victimization.*

### **In-School Suspension/Out-of-School Suspension**

- Any student who is suspended in school will not be permitted to practice or participate in any athletic event for that day. Additionally, any student suspended out of school will not be permitted to attend or participate in any practice or athletic contest. Suspension period is not over until the athlete attends the next full day of school.

## SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY

- Visiting team members, students and adult spectators are guests, to be accorded all the courtesy and consideration that a friendly, well-mannered and well-intentioned host would normally give.
- The visitors, in turn, are to act as invited guests, using the home school's facilities with care, while respecting the rules and customs of the home school.
- Officials are the proper authorities to make decisions regarding rules and their interpretation; these decisions should be accepted.
- Spectators, student-athletes and coaches must recognize that their conduct plays an important role in establishing the reputation of the school and their actions can relate directly to the team's success.

## CONCUSSIONS

A concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury that occurs when normal brain function is disrupted by a jolt, blow, or force. This impact does not need to be directly to the head; it can occur anywhere on the body if the force is transmitted to the head. Concussions result from the brain moving rapidly inside the skull, either back-and-forth or with a twisting motion.

Recovery from a concussion will vary by individual. The cornerstones of proper concussion management are avoiding re-injury and preventing overexertion until full recovery has been achieved.

All coaches, physical education teachers, and certified athletic trainers in Levittown are trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of concussions and to ensure appropriate medical evaluation.

- Any student-athlete showing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion will be immediately removed from participation and evaluated.
- If the Athletic Trainer feels the student-athlete has a possible concussion, the student-athlete will need to be seen by a healthcare provider.
- The student will not return to play the same day.
- Parents/guardians will be notified, and appropriate monitoring will be recommended.

### Return-to-Play Protocol

#### Once a student-athlete has been diagnosed with a concussion:

1. Medical clearance from the student's personal physician is required before beginning the return-to-play process.
2. No student may return to athletics or physical education classes without successfully completing the return-to-play protocol.
3. The return-to-play progression is a five-day supervised program overseen by the Levittown Trainer/School Nurse, with final clearance granted by the District Chief Medical Officer.

#### Key Principles of Return-to-Play:

- No student-athlete will return to play while symptomatic.
- Students are prohibited from returning to play on the day a concussion is suspected.
- If there is any doubt, it will be treated as a concussion: *"When in doubt, sit them out."*
- Premature return increases risk for:
  - A second concussion due to reduced tolerance.
  - Second impact syndrome, which can be life-threatening.
  - Exacerbation of symptoms and delayed recovery.
  - Increased risk of further injury due to impaired balance or judgment.

## ***ATHLETIC POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE LEVITTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT***

*THE FOLLOWING POLICIES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE LEVITTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ARE SUBJECT TO UPDATE ON A YEARLY BASIS. CLICK EACH POLICY TO VIEW THE MOST CURRENT VERSION.*

- [LEVITTOWN ATHLETICS BOARD-ADOPTED POLICIES](#)

# ***POLICIES GOVERNED EXCLUSIVELY BY NEW YORK STATE GUIDELINES***

*THE FOLLOWING POLICIES ARE GOVERNED BY NEW YORK STATE GUIDELINES AND ARE SUBJECT TO UPDATE ON A YEARLY BASIS. CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINK TO VIEW THE MOST CURRENT VERSION OF THE HANDBOOK. [NYSPHAA HANDBOOK](#)*

- **NYSPHSAA TRANSFER RULE AND ELIGIBILITY:** This eligibility policy governs transfers between private schools and public schools, or parochial schools and public schools.
- **POSTSEASON PLAY ELIGIBILITY:** This policy refers to the minimum team and individual requirements for a student/athlete to be eligible to participate in postseason play.
- **MEDICAL CLEARANCE:** This policy addresses the medical requirements that each student athlete must meet in order to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROCESS:** Commonly referred to as APP, this is a program for evaluating students who want to participate in sports at a higher level as approved by the Board of Regents.
- **MIXED COMPETITION:** Mixed competition refers to equal opportunity to participate in interschool competition, either on separate teams or in mixed competition on the same team, for male and female students.
- **COACHING CERTIFICATIONS:** All Levittown School District coaching personnel are certified in accordance with NYSPHSAA standards.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY NEW YORK STATE ON A YEARLY BASIS\*\***