

Lapwai High School Athletic Philosophy and Athletic Codes

Mission Statement: It is the mission of the athletic program at Lapwai High School to provide student athletes with the opportunity to represent the school while competing in a variety of sports. It is our goal that each student athlete will learn self discipline, acquire skills, develop a sportsmanship code, learn commitment to a team and develop respect for coaches, teammates, officials and opponents. Along with this student philosophy we also expect fans to exhibit the same level of respect toward players, opponents, coaches, officials and other fans.

Goals and Objectives:

1. To develop an athletic program that is an integral part of the academic program.
2. To field teams that are appropriately competitive within the Whitepine League and throughout the state.
3. To develop realistic but challenging goals for both individuals and teams.
Please remember that playing time is determined by the coaches based on participation in practice, attitude, role on the team and skill level.
4. To develop respect for teammates, coaches, opponents and officials.
5. To develop self discipline and commitment.
6. **To develop good sportsmanship-the ability to both win and lose with dignity for all involved-players, coaches and fans.**
7. To have a coordinated, community based program.

General Information:

1. Information regarding sports seasons will be disseminated at player/parent meetings prior to each season.
2. Athletes are required to ride the team bus to games. Parents may sign their athlete out with the athletic director after away games. If you wish to have another adult transport your athlete you must pre-arrange this in writing with the athletic director.
3. **Eligibility rules** are set by the **Idaho High School Activities Association** and are as follows:
 - a. Athletes must have a full class schedule, which is 7 classes per day in order to participate.
 - b. Athletes must pass 5 classes the semester prior to a sports season beginning. For sports beginning in August, September, October and November this means that they must have passed the five classes the previous spring semester. For example, If a student did not pass five classes in the spring, he or she is not eligible for basketball because practice begins in October.
 - c. All athletes must have a physical form turned in to the athletic director before practice begins during their freshman and junior years. Sophomores and seniors must complete and interim questionnaire.

In addition, Lapwai High School has further eligibility requirements for all athletes:

- a. Athletes and parents must sign a contract in order to participate. No athlete will be allowed to practice without a physical, an interim questionnaire and a signed student/parent contract.
- b. Athletes must be a member of the Lapwai High School student body and must purchase a student body card in order to participate in athletics. Transfers are at the discretion of the Idaho High School Activities Association and are handled through the athletic director and principal.
- c. Students become ineligible for athletics upon completion of the sport season in which he or she turns 20 years of age,
- d. Lapwai High School requires that students maintain a C in each class each week. Grades will be checked by the athletic director on each Friday and reported to coaches. Students become ineligible on the Monday following the grade reports. Athletes are allowed to practice with the team if they attend an after school study program and become eligible as soon as their grade reaches a C level. Athletes are not allowed to travel with the team while ineligible.
- e. Athletes may become ineligible for infractions of sportsmanship, drugs, violations of the law and violations of school policy including fighting and the violation of bus rules.
- f. In addition, athletes must have good attendance. Excessive tardiness and/or absences will result in a review of eligibility.
- g. Coaches will follow the following eligibility rules for all athletes.**
 1. Athletes must have 10 physical practices before the start of any season or game eligibility.
 2. Athletes must be in school the entire day on a game day with the exception of doctor, dentist or court appointments. Athletes will provide a note from the doctor, dentist or court to the athletic director. In case of a family emergency such as a funeral, parents will contact the athletic director. **If the contest is on a Saturday, athletes must be in school all day on Friday.**
 3. **Students need to be in school first hour the day after a game. A warning will be issued for the first violation. Further violations will result in ineligibility for the next game.**
 3. If an athlete is out for a medical problem or injury, he or she must provide the coach and athletic director with a doctor's note releasing them to participate in the sport.
 4. Athletes must have 10 physical practices before the start of any season.
 5. Athletes must attend the pre-game practice in order to be eligible to play. There are no exceptions to this rule.

4. Sportsmanship

Athletes are required by IHSAA and Lapwai High School to exhibit the highest degree of sportsmanship at all times. This includes practice, home and away games and tournaments. IHSAA requires member schools to monitor the sportsmanship behavior of their players, coaches, administrators and fans. Athletes need to remember at all times that they represent not only themselves and their team, but also Lapwai School District, their families, the community and the Nez Perce Tribe.

1. Athletes will not harass officials, coaches, other players opponents or the opponents' crowd in any manner.
2. Athletes who are ejected will sit out the next game according to IHSAA rules.
3. The coach has the right to determine the consequences for any athlete exhibiting poor sportsmanship in any form.

5. Violations

- b. Student athletes are prohibited from possessing and/or using tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs. This is a legal matter that will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency and which will result in the following:
 1. The first offense will result in a 10 day suspension from the team. The suspended athlete may not practice, travel or play during the time period of the suspension. During the 10 day suspension, athletes may not attend practice. Upon return to the team the coach will determine when the athlete returns to his or her position on the team
 2. The second offense will result in suspension from all athletic activities for the remainder of the school year.
 3. If convicted of violations of local, tribal, state or federal laws (with the exception of traffic and fish and game violations) athletes will be suspended from the team for a ten day period for the first violation. The second violation will result in a suspension for the remainder of the school year.
 4. If a violation is reported to have happened during off school time and there is no physical evidence, the athlete and parents will meet with the principal, athletic director and coach who will determine if a violation has occurred and will make the appropriate determination concerning punishment.
 5. Lapwai School District does random drug testing for 10% of each team several times during each sports season. In order to participate in athletics, students and parents must sign and notarize a permission form. Testing is managed by the district drug and alcohol coordinator.

Travel: At times Lapwai High School teams travel to tournaments and state and district competitions. Athletes are expected to represent Lapwai High School in the best manner possible. All school, athletic code and team rules apply when traveling. In addition:

- a. The school will provide each athlete \$20.00 each day to assist with meal costs.
- b. Lodging will be arranged by the athletic department.
- c. Athletes must ride the team bus to any athletic contest.
- d. Athletes may check out with parents only after a contest. If there is a circumstance that necessitates riding home with someone who is not a parent or legal guardian, it must be pre-approved with the athletic director and a note must accompany the athlete.

Appeals Process:

Any appeals concerning this policy should be directed first to the Athletic Director who will organize an informal hearing with the principal and the coach. At this time the athlete/parents may present their appeal. The Athletic Director, Principal and Coach will determine if there are reasonable grounds to deny the appeal. The Athlete/Parents may then appeal to the superintendent.