Lucas Local Schools

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Board of Education Adopted
June 16, 2026

Lucas Local Schools Athletic Department
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Welcome & Introduction

We are excited and proud that you have chosen to represent the Lucas schools and community by becoming a member of the athletic program of the Lucas Local Schools! By committing to a team, you play an integral role in the athletic program and will take part in a task inherent with scrutiny, sacrifice, dedication, selflessness, hard work and rewards. We look forward to seeing how you will add your unique talents, skills and abilities to the history and tradition of the Lucas Cubs.

To ensure that Lucas has an athletic program of which it can always be proud, the District and Athletic Department have developed rules, regulations and guidelines to help maintain the high standards of excellence expected from students involved in athletics. It is our hope that this handbook will help provide students, families and coaches with the information necessary to excel within the athletic program.

We wish each of you the best as you compete this year. ***GO CUBS!***

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Hard Work Pays Off!!

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Lucas Athletic Department Philosophy & Mission

As a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Northern 10 athletic conference, the Lucas Local School District is dedicated to excellence in both academics and athletics and believes that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the overall development of each student. As an integral part of the total educational curriculum, the Lucas Athletic Department strives to provide a nurturing environment to assist in developing lifelong learning skills, positive working relationships, self-realization and all-around growth while also developing students into productive members of the local community and the greater society. To accomplish this, the athletic staff will strive to create a program with a variety of experiences to enhance the development of positive habits and attitudes that students may carry into adulthood. The staff will promote dedication, hard work, sportsmanship, integrity and discipline to help instill a sense of pride and tradition in Lucas athletics, the school and community and to enable each student to work toward his/her ultimate potential.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES & OBJECTIVES:

- We will promote a positive image of athletics, whether on the fields of play, in school or within the community.
- We will continually strive for victory and will accept defeat with grace, knowing that we have striven to win with the utmost dedication.
- We will accept both success and failure with humility. We will treat others as we would be treated and will exhibit the admirable traits of self-control, loyalty, honesty, leadership, self-motivation, teamwork, integrity and dependability.
- We will acknowledge the personal rewards we obtain from participation, but realize that unless we give our best effort for the improvement of the team, true success will never be achieved.
- We will learn that in all situations, important life-lessons can occur. Each win or loss, contest or practice, bus ride and locker room speech is filled with opportunities that students, parent/guardians, coaches, family, friends and fans can utilize. We will endeavor to act accordingly and react to each situation in an appropriate manner.
- We will become active citizens by obtaining physical fitness and good health habits through our participation and carry these with us when our playing days are over.
- We will remember that above all, interscholastic competition is a game. As such, we will always strive to have fun and enjoy our time with friends and family!

Sportsmanship…

Make it a tradition…

Practice it for Life!

N10 Conference Sportsmanship Guidelines

6-1-1. The Northern 10 Athletic Conference condones and encourages positive cheers with good sportsmanship that build school spirit. Cheers, chants, and other like actions made in vulgar or demeaning ways to opposing teams, individual students, and/or game officials are prohibited.

6-1-2. Pep and/or marching bands are encouraged to play during pregame, halftimes, quarter breaks, and in conjunction with cheer squads.

6-1-3. Band activities may not occur in a manner to drown out opposing bands, team activities, and/or cheer squads.

6-1-4. Noisemakers and the throwing of anything onto the playing surface or into the air at indoor contests (talcum powder, confetti, etc.) are prohibited.

6-1-5. Visiting teams, schools, and/or fans are not permitted to hang or place banners/signs within the host facility. It is the responsibility of the Home administration to ensure that all Home banners/signs meet all stated sportsmanship guidelines. There is no limitation to the number of Home team banners/signs given that they meet the stated sportsmanship guidelines.

6-1-6. The use of any forms of "noise makers" are prohibited at all indoor contests.

6-1-7. Fans are not permitted on the playing surface at any time except during special functions as approved by the Home administration (parent recognition, 3-point shot, etc.).

6-1-8. All player introductions must be conducted in the same lighting conditions that would be used during the contest itself. Lights are not to be turned off or down in order to use a spotlight for player introductions. Exceptions would be a contest that begins in daylight and extends into darkness such as football.

6-1-9. Teams are to show respect for and to their opponents at all contests. Teams are not permitted to circle the opponent during warm-ups, congregate at center-court/field for chants, cheers, stretching, or the like before, during, or after the contest nor are they to engage in any activities that will incite an unsportsmanlike response from fans or opposing players.

6-1-10. The Home Athletic Director or designee shall meet with game officials, security personnel, and visiting coaches and administration prior to the game to inform them of special ceremonies, security procedures, standing/seating areas for teams, and any other related information.

Conduct & Responsibilities of Students

As a member of an athletic team, certain responsibilities must be maintained in order to build the Lucas tradition. A successful athletic program is built over generations of hard work and the dedication of many students, coaches and supporters. By joining the athletic program at Lucas, you have accepted a challenge to improve upon the efforts of these teams! It is not always easy to contribute to such an imposing task. As a Cub, you will have to say no to certain items and situations that an athlete simply cannot afford to be involved with.

A student's conduct is closely observed in many different arenas. You have assumed a leadership role as a member of an athletic squad. The student body and community will know you, witness your actions and hear your words. Those both within and outside our community will judge Lucas by your conduct and actions. You have also become a role model to both peers and younger students. On the playing surfaces, the use of profanity

and unsportsmanlike or illegal tactics must never be used. Regardless of contest results, you are expected to show respect to opponents, coaches, fans and game officials at all times.

As a student, you owe it to yourself to get the greatest good from your classroom experiences and reach your ultimate potential. Participation in athletics in an integral component in this, as it helps to broaden your strength of character, your sense of being and teaches personal responsibility. Your studies and your participation in extracurricular activities will help prepare you for the "real world." On top of maintaining academic eligibility, you must give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and school staff. Horseplay and unnecessary boisterousness are not approved habits of behavior for athletes at Lucas. ***Be the person that others want to follow!***

Conduct & Responsibilities of Parent/Guardians

To enjoy your student's participation to the fullest and make it fun and meaningful to him/her, please:

- Understand what your student wants from sports and provide support to achieve those goals.
- Encourage your student to play sports but let your student choose what and when to play.
- Set limits; make sports an enjoyable addition to your student's life!
- Show support by ensuring proper amounts of rest, nourishment and time for class work.
- Help your student keep winning & losing in perspective.
- Help your student set challenging and realistic performance goals.
- Help your student understand the many life-lessons that athletic participation provides.
- Permit the coaches to do the coaching.
- Provide the coach with information on special health conditions your student may have and make sure your student gives any necessary medications to his/her coaches before each practice and/or contest.
- Help your student be responsible by ensuring that he/she is at all practices and contests on time, with the proper equipment and supplies.
- Be a role model to your student by positively supporting the team at all times, including the content of your cheers and your conversations at the dinner table.
- Respect the decisions made by coaches and officials, even when you disagree with them.
- Realize that purchasing a ticket grants you a privilege to observe a contest and support a district team. This ticket does not provide you a right to verbally assault players, coaches, officials or other fans. This, and other generally obnoxious behavior, subjects you to ejection from the event. Additionally, administration reserves the right to remove and/or ban any parent/guardian or fan from school activities and/or grounds due to disorderly conduct.
- Be prepared to staff game concessions and game event activities (tickets, line judging, scoreboard, etc.)
- Remember that these are children playing a game. Keep it fun for them!

Conduct & Responsibilities of Coaches

The Lucas Athletic Department is committed to providing all students with the ability to compete in a variety of activities in a properly controlled, organized and educationally sound program. In an effort to enhance our students' social, mental and physical growth, coaches will:

- Set a good example for participants and fans, exemplifying high moral, ethical and sporting behavior.
- Be constantly aware that instruction takes place through modeling and structured teaching.
- Desire to win, while focusing on the health, safety, welfare, worth and dignity of the individual student.
- Be aware of the various audiences they perform in front of, including players, assistants, teachers, administrators, parents, fans, media, board of education members, etc. and will work to maintain the trust and confidence of those directly involved in the program.
- Encouraging students to be active in as many activities as they can.
- Work to discover the individual strengths, interests and aspirations of their students and make decisions based on this knowledge.
- Communicate an open and friendly willingness to listen.

- Will work with adults involved to find a suitable solution for inevitable student schedule conflicts without placing the student at the center of this conflict.
- Be prepared to respond to even the most highly pitched emotional situations in the appropriate manner. Over-reaction and impulsivity must be the exception - not the norm.
- Be highly organized and prepared for all situations. Coaches shall also be flexible and aware of the need for revision to any and all plans.
- Be committed to their craft and further their professional knowledge through attendance at clinics and training programs to further develop their leadership abilities.
- Complete all educational and training programs as mandated by the OHSAA, Ohio Department of Education and/or the Lucas Local Schools Board of Education and Athletic Department.

Levels of Competition

Varsity

The perfection of skill, playing the best overall athletes possible and winning is the emphasis at this level. While winning at all costs will never be a part of our philosophy, no apology shall be necessary when the varsity team does all it can within the bounds of ethics, integrity and sportsmanship to win each and every contest. In certain sports, cutting may be used and it is extremely likely that some players may not see action in each contest.

Junior Varsity

This level of competition begins to focus on skill refinement and winning as a team. Cutting may occur at this level in certain sports. It is possible that not every player will have the opportunity to play in every contest.

Freshman

Emphasis at the freshman level is on participation, skill development and team success. If a sports program supports a freshman squad, efforts will be made not to cut players at this level, as the future ability of these students is largely uncertain. Attempts will be made to play as many students as possible during each contest while striving for victory for the entire team.

Middle School

Emphasis at the level is on individual participation along with team success. Every attempt will be made to encourage student participation including attempts to play each student in every contest while also ensuring success for the entire team. Preferably, two teams will be created at the 7th grade and the 8th grade levels in each sport. If low numbers make the creation of two teams impossible, the combining of all 7th and 8th grade students will create a single Middle School team. Cuts will not be made at the Middle School level.

Interscholastic Competition

The Lucas Local Schools participates in the following interscholastic athletics within the governing rules, regulations, policies and guidelines of the OHSAA & the Mid-Buckeye Conference and presents awards and associated honors to participants who finish each season in good standing:
Middle School: Cheerleading (football & basketball), Cross Country (boys & girls), Football (7th & 8th grade), Volleyball (7th & 8th grade), Basketball (boys & girls, 7th & 8th grade), Wrestling, Track & Field (boys & girls)
High School: Cheerleading (football & basketball), Cross Country (boys & girls), Football, Volleyball (girls), Basketball (boys & girls), Indoor Track & Field* (boys & girls), Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Outdoor Track & Field (boys & girls) **Indoor Track & Field is a club sport. As such, students participating in this sport are not eligible for athletic awards listed within this Athletic Participation Handbook.*

Requirements for Athletic Participation

As outlined by the OHSAA and this handbook, students are prohibited from participating in any mandatory practice, scrimmage and/or contest until all of the following items have been submitted to the Athletic Office:

1. **Physical Examination Form**
2. **Residency Report**
3. **Medical Insurance Responsibility**

4. **OHSAA Eligibility Checklist**
5. **Parent/Guardian & Athlete's Final Forms Completion.**
6. **Satisfaction of OHSAA & Lucas Eligibility Requirements**
7. **Team Training Rules**

Notice of Risk of Participation

Students and parent/guardians must realize and understand the very real possibility of serious injury, ***or even death***, as a normal hazard of athletic participation. Lucas will use the following safeguards in an effort to eliminate injury to students, but cannot in any way imply a guarantee of a student's total safety once they choose to participate in athletics:

- All coaches will adhere to all rules, regulations and guidelines established by the OHSAA, Ohio Department of Education and the Lucas Local Schools in regard to required coaching certifications, including those related to training in sports-related first aid, concussion awareness, sudden cardiac arrest and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- Coaches and/or the athletic trainer (when available) will provide to students information on proper conditioning techniques, nutrition and injury prevention and rehabilitation.

Athletic Department and Board of Education Policies

To uphold the high standards of conduct and citizenship expected of all students participating in the athletic programs at Lucas, this Athletic Participation Handbook (APH) is designed to preserve the rules, regulations and guidelines necessary to ensure the health and safety of the individual student and the orderly conduct of the athletic program. Individual coaches and/or coaching staffs may supplement the rules, regulations and guidelines contained within this handbook, but they may not establish any rules, regulations, guidelines and/or expectations in contradiction of this APH. Each Head Coach will provide to each student-athlete and their family, as well as the AD, a copy of the team training rules that apply during the season and any other situation in which the student represents the school (summer camp, all-star games, etc.) in advance of the start of the season. These team training rules will include an acknowledgement form that the student-athlete and at least one parent/guardian must sign prior to participation in any mandatory practice, scrimmage and/or contest.

Athletic Department Conduct Code

The following rules, regulations and guidelines will be in effect from the moment a student (athlete, manager, statistician, etc.) begins participation in any interscholastic program within the Lucas Local Schools. **These regulations are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from August 1st through July 31st, which includes the entire school year and summer. These regulations are in effect in all settings, whether school and non-school.**

In the event that a student-athlete fails to comply with these standards and expectations, it will be interpreted by the Athletic Department as an indication that the student does not have sufficient desire to participate in the athletic program. Therefore, the student-athlete may be denied the privilege of participating until such time as he/she proves his/her desire to participate. The precise period of the denial of participation will depend on the violation, attitude and disciplinary history of the student-athlete. Repeated and/or flagrant violations may result in total denial of participation from the interscholastic athletic program. *For any student-athlete in violation of the athletic policy during the school year, but not during the season of his/her participation, disciplinary procedures will carry into the next consecutive season of participation.*

It is important to remember that if a student is fortunate enough to become a member of a Lucas sports team, this does not indicate a right to participate on the team. It is a *privilege* to be an athlete and the privilege of participation is dependent upon a student-athlete successfully upholding the rules, regulations, expectations and guidelines contained within this APH as well as those contained within individual team rules, regulations, expectations and guidelines.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

To be eligible for participation in athletics, student-athletes must maintain high standards of attendance and academic performance. For this purpose, student-athletes participating in athletics on a given school day must be present in classes from 10:00am-3:21pm. Failure to do so will result in the denial of participation in any practice, scrimmage and/or contest that day. Excused absences (field trips, doctor's appointments, funerals, etc.) ***do not*** prohibit a student-athlete from participating in athletics on a given school day.

CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY

Alcohol and/or Drugs

Student-athletes are prohibited from using, consuming, dispensing, selling, distributing, transmitting and/or possessing any form of alcohol and/or illegal narcotic and/or illegally used drug (a drug or medication used in a manner other than its intended form as prescribed by the manufacturer), counterfeit drug and/or paraphernalia.

FIRST OFFENSE

1. The student-athlete may be denied the privilege of athletic participation for a period of one (1) school year from the date of the violation.
2. The denial of participation may be reduced to one-half (½) of the school year, provided the student-athlete receives an evaluation by a certified counselor or a physician trained in chemical dependency. The student-athlete must have a drug/alcohol screening to determine the level of involvement and attend an intervention program (screening and program at parent/guardian expense). Proof of successful completion of such a program must be provided to the AD before a reduction will be approved.

SECOND OFFENSE

1. The student-athlete shall be denied the privilege of athletic participation for the remainder of his/her career.
2. The denial of participation may be reduced to a one (1) school-year period, provided the student-athlete receives a full & complete dependency assessment by a certified professional counselor and follows all recommendations of the assessor which may include out-patient counseling and education, in-patient treatment, referral to another social service agency and others. This assessment and implementation of the assessor's plan are at the expense of the parent/guardian. No reduction will be granted until after completion of both the assessment and the recommendations. Proof of successful completion of such a program must be provided to the AD before a reduction will be approved.

THIRD OFFENSE

1. The student-athlete shall be denied the privilege of athletic participation for the remainder of his/her career, without the opportunity for a reduction.

Tobacco

Student-athlete s are prohibited from using, consuming, dispensing, selling, distributing, transmitting and/or possessing any form of alcohol, tobacco and/or paraphernalia.

FIRST OFFENSE

1. The student-athlete will be denied the privilege of athletic participation for twenty-percent (20%) of the total contests in a season, plus receive any disciplinary consequences as dictated by the school discipline code. The exact number of contests to be missed will be determined by the season(s) and/or sport(s) participated in.
2. The student-athlete shall be required to attend and participate in all practice sessions during the denial of participation period. He/She shall also be required to attend all contests during the denial of participation period, but will not be permitted to wear the team uniform.

SECOND OFFENSE

1. The student-athlete shall be denied the privilege of athletic participation for the remainder of the current season and fifty-percent (50%) of the next consecutive season participated in.

2. This denial of participation may be reduced to a thirty-percent (30%) denial of participation, provided the student-athlete receives an evaluation by a certified counselor or a physician trained in chemical dependency. The student-athlete must have a drug/alcohol screening to determine the level of involvement and attend an intervention program (screening and program at parent/guardian expense). Proof of successful completion of such a program must be provided to the AD before a reduction will be approved.
3. The student-athlete shall be required to attend and participate in all practice sessions during the denial of participation period. He/She shall also be required to attend all contests during the denial of participation period, but will not be permitted to wear the team uniform.

THIRD OFFENSE

1. The student-athlete shall be denied the privilege of athletic participation for one (1) school-year from the point of the violation.
2. This denial of participation may be reduced to one-half (½) of the school year denial of participation period, provided the student receives a full & complete dependency assessment by a certified professional counselor and follows all recommendations of the assessor which may include out-patient counseling and education, in-patient treatment, referral to another social service agency and others. This assessments, and implementation of the assessor's plan, are at the expense of the parent/guardian. No reduction will be granted until after completion of both the assessment and the recommendations. Proof of successful completion of such a program must be provided to the AD before a reduction will be approved.
3. The student-athlete shall be required to attend and participate in all practice sessions during the denial of participation period. He/She shall also be required to attend all contests during the denial of participation period, but will not be permitted to wear the team uniform.

FOURTH OFFENSE

1. The student-athlete shall be denied the privilege of athletic participation for the remainder of his/her career, without the opportunity for a reduction.

COLLEGE RECRUITMENT

In the event that a college coach and/or recruiter makes personal contact with a student-athlete, the student-athlete has the obligation to notify his/her coach and the AD. Failure to inform your coach and the AD of such contact could damage future collegiate eligibility. More details on college recruitment information may be obtained online at www.ncaa.org.

CONFLICTS IN ACTIVITIES

Lucas students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities, but are warned about taking on too much for their own good. Students who choose to become active in numerous activities must recognize the potential for numerous conflicts. Students are reminded that by joining a Lucas team, they are making a commitment to the school and their classmates in regard to all practices and/or contests.

For the purpose of eliminating potential scheduling conflicts and resolving them in a positive and productive manner without the student being placed in the center of the dispute, the following guidelines are to be followed whenever a schedule conflict occurs:

- All performance activities, competitions, trips, conventions, etc. must be placed on the District calendar as soon as they are scheduled to notify all of potential conflicts.
- Curricular activities (educational field trips, performances, contests, etc.) shall take priority over athletic contests or practices. Every effort will be made to avoid these situations.
- Any formal performance (game, contest, tournament, etc.) takes priority over a practice activity.
- In-season practice activities will take priority over an "open gym" and/or conditioning activity.
- Any activity that counts toward a classroom grade will have priority.
- Priority will be given to the activity where the student is an active participant versus one where he/she is basically a spectator.

- If a schedule conflict still exists, the coach(es), advisors and/or directors involved will resolve the conflict by utilizing an equal sharing of the student-athlete's time. This can be accomplished by sharing of time on a given day or alternating days of attendance at the given activities.
- If the advising authorities can achieve no resolution, the AD and/or Principal will make a final decision.
- At no time will there by negative consequences for a student-athlete who finds him/herself in an activity conflict given that he/she has followed the directions provided by the advising authority.

CUTTING PROCEDURES

While the Athletic Department wishes to involve as many students as possible in athletics, there are times when students may be eliminated from a team for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to:

a. Optimum number of student-athletes to conduct productive practices and ensure adequate substitutes,
b. Academic eligibility of those student-athletes trying out,
c. Talent, attitude and work ethic of those trying out,
d. Number of individual student-athletes trying out,
e. Specific sport-related skills and abilities.

In a situation where it becomes necessary to eliminate potential student-athletes from participation on a team due to the above, the following are the minimum guidelines that coaches will follow when cutting:

1. Prior to the 1st day of tryouts, the coach will provide a written criterion that student-athletes will be judged upon. The list will be as specific as possible (e.g. "student-athletes must have a vertical jump of at least 16 inches" or "be able to make lay-ups with either hand").
2. Tryouts must last at least 3 full practice sessions. Student-athletes will be informed of the length of the tryout period in advance.
3. "Cut-lists" will not be used. Cut students are to be told in an individual meeting with the coach the reason(s) he/she was eliminated.
4. Provided the previous guidelines are followed, the coach's decision is final in regard to all cuts.

DRIVING & PARKING REGULATIONS

Be aware that driving to school by students is a privilege that may be suspended/revoked for various reasons. All student-driven vehicles must be registered in the office using a *Vehicle Registration Form*. Parents/guardians must realize that in every case they are responsible for what their student does & assume all responsibility for damages that result from an accident caused by or involving their student going to or from school in a private vehicle.

Driving privileges may be suspended/revoked and/or discipline administered in accordance with provisions as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Parking & Traffic Regulations

a. Students are prohibited from driving or parking on Lucas North Road during school hours, *even when excused from class due to an early departure for an athletic event*.
b. Students are prohibited from driving on Lucas North Road until after 3:30pm on school days.
c. Students (and coaches) are prohibited from entering the Elementary School parking lot until after 3:45pm on school days.
d. Students (and coaches) are prohibited from parking in front of the Middle School or along Lucas North Rd. when home volleyball or basketball contests are scheduled. These spaces are reserved for our guests.

DRESS CODE

All students shall not dress or appear in a fashion deemed inappropriate that either interferes with the student's health and welfare or that of other students, or causes disruption or directly interferes with the educational process of which athletics is a part. Any form of dress or grooming that attracts undue attention or violates the previous statement is unacceptable.

- Illustrations, names, slogans or patches on clothing and/or jewelry shall not be profane, lewd, suggestive, obscene, nor refer to sex, alcohol, tobacco, drugs or other illegal activity.
- Visible tattoos and/or other body decorations shall not be profane, lewd, suggestive, obscene, nor refer to sex, alcohol, tobacco, drugs or any other illegal activity.
- Jewelry of any type, except watches for distance runners, is prohibited.
- Brief and/or revealing clothing, items that are "see-through," low-cut, expose any amount of cleavage or expose one's midriff are prohibited. Students shall not wear extremely low-cut tank tops, halter-tops, spaghetti straps or strapless garments.
- Undergarments must not be visible at any time.
- A shirt meeting the above standards must be worn at all times when outside the locker room.
- Pants, shorts, sweats, lounge pants, etc. with writing or decoration on the buttocks is prohibited.
- Team uniform tops may not be worn to school/class unless it is done as part of a designated team activity. Sweat suits, travel suits, warm-up gear and the like may not be worn to school/class.
- Footwear must be worn at all times when outside the locker room and must not pose a safety hazard.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

As a matter of constitutional, as opposed to statutory law, a student does not have a constitutionally protected liberty or property interest in extracurricular activities. In *Glenn v. Harper*, 620 F.2d 302 (6th Cir. 1980), the District Court determined that athletes do not have a right to due process procedures (notice, hearing, etc.). However, every effort will be made by school administration to inform the student and parents/guardians of the violation and potential consequences.

When the alleged infraction becomes known, the student shall be informed of the possibility of the denial of participation and the reason(s) for such action by the Coach, Athletic Director and/or Principal. Administrators have the right to suspend the student from school and deny the privilege of athletic participation in accordance with the policies outlined in this handbook. Parents/guardians of Lucas student-athletes are given the opportunity to appeal all decisions of athletic participation directly to the Superintendent of Schools, whose decision is final. If the decision is made to appeal a denial of participation, the superintendent's office must be notified in writing within seventy-two (72) hours.

1. Any violation of the athletic policy is subject to disciplinary consequences in line with school policy, individual sport training policies and this APH.
2. Disciplinary problems in school or at school-related activities involving the student, whereby the student-athlete is suspended from the regular classroom setting, ***including placement in the Alternative Learning Center*** (ALC), will result in the denial of participation from all contests during the suspension period.
3. During placement within the ALC, the student-athlete is required to attend and participate in all practices. Failure to do so may result in ejection from the team/squad. During an out-of-school suspension, the student-athlete is prohibited from attending any practice or contest involving the team/squad, whether the event is home or away.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Student use of cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices during athletic participation will be permitted at the discretion of the individual Head Coach or OHSAA regulation. However, the use of audio/video recording capabilities is strictly prohibited from any restroom or locker facility. The District assumes no liability for lost, stolen or damaged devices.

EQUIPMENT and/or UNIFORMS

Any school equipment and/or uniforms checked out to a student-athlete are the student-athlete's and his/her parent/guardians' financial responsibility. When equipment is dispensed, each student-athlete will sign for all items received. Please note that failure to return all equipment/uniforms in good condition, including failure to return items in a clean condition, may result in fines, fees and/or penalties, denial of future participation, the withholding of grade reports, transcripts and/or athletic awards.

HAZING

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other like organization that uses or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any persons. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing ***does not*** lessen the prohibition contained herein.

No administrator, faculty member or other employee or volunteer of the District shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, shall plan, encourage or engage in any hazing. Hazing will result in suspension and/or expulsion from school and denial of athletic participation. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the involved students shall be informed of the prohibition contained within this policy and shall be required to cease all hazing activities immediately. All incidents of hazing shall be immediately reported to the Athletic Director. Those who fail to abide by this policy, including administrators, faculty members, employees, volunteers, students, etc., may be subject to disciplinary action and be liable for civil and criminal penalties in compliance with Ohio law (ORC 2307.44, 2903.31).

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Lucas Local School's policy in regard to contests and practices conducted on days when school has been canceled is outlined below. First and foremost, Lucas is concerned about the safety of its students, employees and community members. Factors that contribute to the cancellation of classes are varied and require evaluation of circumstances that may change significantly from 6:00am to 2:00pm.

When school is closed due to factors other than inclement weather, such as maintenance breakdowns or other extraordinary events, all contests and practices may be conducted as usual, provided that consideration is made for participant safety.

When school is closed due to weather-related conditions like snow or ice, the following policy will be employed:

- Practices or contests for any level below JV (9^{th}, 8^{th} or 7^{th}) will be cancelled.
- JV/Varsity activities may be conducted provided no punitive measures are taken against students whose parent/guardian(s) prohibit him/her from attending due to personal safety concerns.
    - No athletic activity of any kind will take place prior to 2:00pm.
    - A travel advisory of "Level 2" or "Level 3" will result in the automatic postponement and/or cancellation of practices or contests.
    - Head Coaches must obtain permission to conduct practice activities from the Athletic Director, Principal and/or Superintendent based on projected travel conditions during the activity time.
    - Decisions in regard to whether a scheduled contest will occur will be made as late in the day as possible in consultation with the opponent school's administration.

In the event that ***Thunder & Lightning*** is seen and/or heard at a practice or contest area, coaches and game personnel will immediately implement the ***Thirty-Minute Rule***. In accordance with the thirty-minute rule, once lightning has been recognized or thunder has been heard, all competition and/or practice activities shall be immediately suspended and student-athletes moved indoors. It is required that all activities continue to be suspended and student-athletes kept indoors until at least thirty (30) minutes following the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard before resuming any competition and/or practice activities. **NOTE: Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the thirty (30) minute count shall reset the clock, and another countdown shall begin.**

CANCELLATION OF ATHLETIC TEAMS

The Lucas Board of Education will ultimately determine whether an approved program should be cancelled with regard to the best interest of the school. Factors leading to this decision may include, but are not limited to:

1. A qualified, competent coach cannot be employed.
2. There is no available facility.
3. Number of participants drops below the participation level for three consecutive years.

Sport	Participants	Required	Immediate Cancellation
Baseball (V, JV, 9th)	12	9	8
Boys Basketball (V, JV,9th)	7	5	4
Girls Basketball (V, JV, 9th)	7	5	4
Boys' Cross Country	5	5	4
Girls Cross Country	5	5	4
Football (V, JV,)	15	11	10
Softball (V, JV)	12	9	8
Boys Track	8	7	4
Girls Track	8	7	4
Volleyball (V, JV, 9th)	8	6	4
Wrestling	8	7	4

MISSING PRACTICE

A student-athlete must always consult his/her Head Coach directly before missing practice. ***NEVER*** rely on a teammate to deliver this message for you! Missing practice(s) or contest(s) without good cause may have a negative impact on your participation. Please refer to your individual team policies for more information.

MULTI-SPORT PARTICIPATION

A student-athlete may be approved to participate in multiple sports during the same season, as determined by the AD and Head Coaches involved. In order for a student to participate in multiple sports in a season and complete the season in good standing, he/she must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The student-athlete, and his/her parent/guardian(s), will identify his/her "primary sport" prior to the start of the regular season with the Head Coaches involved.
2. As soon as a student-athlete makes it known that he/she intends to participate in multiple sports in a given season, the Head Coaches of each sport involved will meet to establish practice and contest schedules, as well as the participation expectations placed upon the student. For scheduling purposes:
    a. The "primary sport" will take precedence in all matters of conflicting practice times and any regular season contest dates.
    b. Any Conference Championship event will take precedence over a regular season contest.
    c. Any OHSAA or Northwest District Athletic Board event shall take precedence over a regular season contest.
    d. The Head Coaches involved must rectify any schedule conflicts. At no time will the student-athlete be placed in the center of the decision-making process.
3. Any unresolved schedule conflicts or issues would be forwarded to the AD for a final decision.
4. The student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian(s) will attest to their agreement with the schedule and expectations of the written multi-sport participation plan devised by the Head Coaches involved before being permitted to participate in a second activity. Failure to follow this written agreement will result in the revocation of the privilege of multi-sport participation.

NO CONTACT PERIOD - OHSAA

Any coach, paid or volunteer, in the sports of football, volleyball or basketball is prohibited from athletic or athletic-related contact with squad members (i.e., physical fitness, weight training, open gym, etc.) in the same sport for the period of time starting with the **first day after the school's last interscholastic contest and ending 28 days later**. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition. It also includes verbal contact that encourages, discusses or promotes any activity related to the sports named above.

Any coach, paid or volunteer, in the sports of basketball, baseball or softball is prohibited from any athletic or athletic-related contact with squad members (i.e., physical fitness, weight training, open gym, etc.) in the same sport for the period of time ending with **Labor Day and beginning four weeks prior to Labor Day**. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of noninterscholastic competition. It also includes verbal contact that encourages, discusses or promotes any activity related to the sports named above.

EXCEPTIONS - Examples of activities which may be conducted by a coach with athletes from his or her team sport during the mandatory no-contact period include: all-star contests, awards ceremonies, verbal contact with a senior athlete for the purpose of facilitating the college recruitment process, contact as a faculty member assigned to teach in the regular curriculum (ex.: physical education courses such as weight training, fitness, etc.), contact as a certified athletic trainer involved with athlete rehabilitation and treatment, pick up school-issued equipment, attendance at OHSAA tournaments.

NON-CONTACT PERIOD

Each summer, the Lucas Athletic Council (see page 20 for more information) has designated one full week as a 'Non-Contact Period.' This non-contact period will occur the first full week wherein the July 4th holiday falls. During this non-contact period, no mandatory or volunteer athletic activities of any kind may be scheduled. All athletic facilities will also be closed to athletic teams during this week. The specific non-contact period will be announced on the school calendar by the Athletic Director each year.

OPEN GYM REGULATIONS

The OHSAA defines open gyms as "unstructured free play supervised by a school employee who may remove participants for disciplinary reasons." In the spirit of this bylaw, Lucas may designate the sport or sports that will be played during the free play period but may not limit participation to select groups of students within the school (i.e. girls & boys may both attend an open gym for basketball). Only students may select the make-up of the teams during an open gym period. Written scorekeeping, regulation timing of games, written and/or oral personal invitations, mandatory attendance and coach-provided transportation is prohibited. A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gym program. (OHSAA 6.1) "In-Season" coaches may choose to prevent their athletes from participating in "off-season" ***team*** workouts, open gyms, shootouts, etc. of another school-sponsored team. This policy does not prohibit students from taking part in ***individual skill development*** (i.e. hitting, pitching, shooting, etc.) at open gym opportunities. In the spirit of this policy, Head Coaches involved will meet to determine what, if any, activities the student in question can participate in, with the in-season coach having preference. Coaches will make every attempt to schedule "off-season" activities at times that will not interfere with in-season sports and/or athletes.

PRACTICE TIMES

Head Coaches will provide a copy of the team's practice schedule to each player and the Athletic Director. Practice times will be listed on the school's athletic calendar, www.schedulestar.com, and the District webcalendar. Please note that schedules may change on a daily occurrence and without prior notice. Coaches will remind team members of the next day's schedule at each practice session or following each contest. No practice may not begin prior to 6:30am or conclude after 10:00pm without prior written authorization from the AD.

PREGNANT STUDENTS

A pregnant student-athlete may participate in the athletic program only if a physician certifies in writing that the student-athlete is physically able to participate in specific events or activities and that such participation poses no threat to the health and welfare of either the mother or unborn child. This statement shall serve as medical clearance and assumption of responsibility and liability for the pregnant student's participation. A pregnant student-athlete may not participate in any manner until such a physician's statement is provided to the AD.

QUITTING and/or CHANGING SPORTS

In instances where a student-athlete may find it necessary to quit a sport or make a change in sports during a season of play, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Talk with your immediate position/level coach and Head Coach about the situation.
2. Return all issued equipment/uniforms/etc. directly to your Head Coach.
3. A student-athlete who quits an athletic team may not participate in another team's open gyms, conditioning, practices, scrimmages, contests, etc. until after the conclusion of the first sport season.
    i. Exception: A student-athlete who quits will be permitted to participate in another team's open gyms, conditioning, practices, scrimmages, contests, etc. if the following procedure is followed:
        1. The student-athlete schedules an exit interview with their Head Coach and they discuss the terms and reasons why they would like to quit.
        2. Following that meeting head coaches and the AD will discuss the situation and make a decision on whether or not the athlete may or may not continue on with another sport while not in season.
4. At rare times, a mid-season change of teams may be permitted upon approval of the AD, with input of both coaches involved. Approval will be based upon whether a mid-season change of sports would be beneficial to the individual student-athlete without being unfair to the student-athletes on either team. Without AD consent, the student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in any open gym, practices, conditioning, scrimmages or contests until after the last contest in the sport that he/she has quit.

RECOGNITION NIGHT

All teams are required to attend the Recognition Night Ceremony as the final required activity to the season, as scheduled by the team's head coach and approved by the Athletic Director. Individual athlete attendance is required in order to obtain any athletic award(s) earned during the season of participation (i.e. varsity letter, numerals, sport pin, certificates, trophies, etc.). Any student-athlete failing to attend Recognition Night without a prior written excuse by a parent/guardian that has been approved by the AD must reimburse the Athletic Department for the cost of the awards he/she is to receive.

Student-athletes are expected to follow the dress code as established by their Head Coach, or as follows for a formal event: pantsuit, slacks & blouse combination or dress that is not in part or in whole, see-through and/or exposes the naval or midriff, contains a plunging neckline, has a front, back or side slit that extends more than 6.5" above the knee, or has a low back that exposes the buttocks, slacks with a polo shirt, dress shirt & tie and/or sweater or a suit/jacket. Shorts, jeans, hats, t-shirts, flip-flops, etc. are not appropriate dress for a formal function such as this.

SOCIAL MEDIA, ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION and INTERNET POLICY

While social networking can be an important aspect of a one's life, chat rooms, bulletin boards, blogs, texting and items such as Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Toc and others can pose a serious danger to personal health, safety and welfare. Certain actions within these sites can also lead to serious issues at school and within athletic programs. As participation in athletics is a privilege, student-athletes and parent/guardian(s) must accept personal responsibility for any images, postings or information appearing on the Internet.

When using electronic communication, visiting or appearing on any Internet sites, those involved in the Lucas Athletic program are expected to maintain high standards of conduct and acceptable behavior. These acceptable standards are based upon the policies and regulations described in the Lucas Local Schools

Student Handbook, this Athletic Participation Handbook and individual team rules, regulations and expectations.

Any electronic posting or communication that disrupts either the educational or athletic environment, which advocates the violation of any school or team policy, or attacks students, teams, coaches or officials is unacceptable. These would include, but not be limited to: the consumption of alcohol and/or the use of elicit drugs; inappropriate sexually-oriented material; activities involving bullying, hazing or intimidation; speaking ill of teammates or opponents, officials or coaches. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the athletic program.

TRAVEL, CONDUCT and DRESS GUIDELINES

When traveling to and from athletic events, student-athletes are to follow the guidelines set forth by their coach, along with all regular school bus rules. Head Coaches will set individual team policy in regard to student transportation following contests. If circumstances warrant transportation home by a parent/guardian, written notice to the Coach at least one day in advance of the event would be appreciated and ***only the parent/guardian shall be permitted to sign the student out following the contest*** on the approved form.

When traveling to and from events, conduct and dress must be appropriate and within the guidelines of the school's dress code, BOE Policies and this APH. Coaches may choose to mandate team dress on game days and/or when traveling to and from contests. Athletes who miss the bus to travel to a contest will not be permitted to participate in the contest without prior written approval of the AD and/or Principal. While on an athletic trip, student-athletes are to remain with their squad and under the supervision of the Coach(es). Student-athletes needing release from school early due to an athletic trip will be granted no more than fifteen minutes (15) release time. Further, student-athletes are not permitted to move their vehicles to other parking spots on campus when released from class early due to athletic trips.

VACATION POLICY

Student-athletes are highly discouraged from partaking in vacations during the sports season. Those wishing to take vacations during their season of participation may wish to reassess their commitment to the team. In the event of an unavoidable vacation conflict, a student-athlete must notify their Head Coach well in advance of the vacation and be prepared to assume the consequences of their actions. Missing any portion of the season will have an adverse effect on their team status, *including playing time and award status*. No student-athlete choosing to take a vacation during the season should expect to return to the team without having to earn his or her position back.

Eligibility Guidelines

As a member of the OHSAA, Lucas adheres to all rules, regulations, Bylaws and guidelines of the Association. As such, students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics at Lucas must meet eligibility requirements as established by both the OHSAA and the Lucas Board of Education. For complete and updated information on student eligibility, visit www.ohsaa.org and click on the 'Eligibility' tab. Additional eligibility requirements as established by the Lucas Board of Education are outlined below.

Attendance – Suspension from Class

A student-athlete will be denied the privilege of athletic participation if he/she is suspended from class for the length of the suspension period. This denial of participation shall be in force regardless of whether the removal from class is in the form of an Out-Of-School suspension or a placement within the ALC.

International Students

Students from outside the United States are ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner of the OHSAA.

Scholarship Requirements

1. In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. Furthermore, during the preceding grading period,

the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation. (OHSAA 4-4-1)

2. A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from 8th grade must have passed a minimum of five (5) of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled (OHSAA 4-4-4) and have failed no more than one (1) course in the preceding grading period.
3. The Lucas Board of Education requires that students in grades 9-12 achieve a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 1.50 to maintain athletic eligibility.
4. A student enrolled in 7th grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grades 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and passed a minimum of five (5) of all subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled (OHSAA 4-4-4) and have failed no more than one (1) course in the preceding grading period.
5. Summer school and other educational options cannot be used to substitute for failure to meet academic standards. (OHSAA 4-4-7)
6. Students who are active in athletics, but are ineligible due to substandard academic performance, shall be under the following guidelines/expectations:
    i. An ineligible student continues to be bound by all rules, regulations and/or expectations of the Lucas Athletic Participation Handbook and his/her individual team rules/policies.
    ii. An ineligible student may participate in all practices, open gyms, and/or workouts and may travel with the team to away contests.
    iii. An ineligible student may not participate in contests of any type, including scrimmages, and may not wear the team uniform on game day and may not sit on the team bench.
    iv. An ineligible student may not take part in team pictures, any team recognition (including awards night, pep rallies and/or other special events) and will not appear on team rosters.

Transfers

The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12. These bylaws apply to all schools, both public and private. Students transferring schools are ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner of the OHSAA. For full details governing the athletic eligibility of Transfer Students, please refer to visit www.ohsaa.org and click on the 'Eligibility' tab.

Athletic Award Information

To earn an athletic award, a student-athlete must complete the season in good standing, which includes attending the Recognition Night ceremony, returning any school-issued uniforms/equipment and maintaining eligibility and behavioral expectations. Student-athletes who have earned varsity letters from another school may transfer their award to LHS given that they provide proof of their lettermen status to the AD (i.e. program, letter from previous AD, etc.). In addition to the criteria below, the Head Coach of each sport program may use his/her discretion in dealing with all borderline or questionable cases of athletic awards, including injured athletes, seniors, students who start in 75% of tournament competition, etc.

Varsity Letter Requirements

Baseball & Softball: must have played in 1/4th of all the season's innings, have pinch-hit or pinch-run in 3/4ths of the games played or made five (5) pitching starts or seven (7) relief pitching appearances on the team schedule.

Basketball: must have participated in 50% of all quarters on the team schedule.

Cheerleading: must have met 90% of contest and practice requirements.

Cross Country: must have participated in 90% of possible meets on the team schedule.

Football: must have participated in 50% of all quarters on the team schedule or started on special teams all season.

Track & Field: must have earned a minimum of 20 points or participated in 50% of possible events on the team schedule.

Volleyball: must have participated in 50% of games (not matches) on the team schedule.
Wrestling: must have participated in 90% of possible meets on the team schedule.

Student athletes meeting the above criteria for their particular sport shall receive the following awards in recognition of their participation:
1st Year Letterwinner: Varsity 'L', sport pin, class numerals *Note: Only one block 'L' will be received during a career.*
2nd Year Letterwinner: jacket ribbon & medallion
3rd Year Letterwinner: sport plaque
4th Year Letterwinner: sport plate/plaque
Participation Certificate: A certificate is presented to those students in grades 9-12 not meeting the above criteria for a varsity letter.
Middle School Participation Certificate: A certificate is presented to those students in grades 7-8 that indicates the sport, season and grade-level of participation.

Lucas Athletic Booster Club

The Lucas Athletic Booster Club is dedicated to the development of all Lucas High School athletic programs. Much of this is accomplished by supplementing individual sport needs with providing funding for uniforms, travel bags, warm-ups, post-game meals, expenses for teams and coaches, field maintenance and more. This is accomplished through a variety of fundraising activities including game concessions, funding drives, outings, etc. The Lucas Athletic Booster Club also helps students beyond High School through an annual scholarship program. The Booster Club continually welcomes new members and support. If interested in joining the Booster Club, please attend the next scheduled meeting in the Middle School Library each month during the school year at 6:00pm. For a listing of officers, meeting dates and more, visit www.lhscubs.com and click on the 'Booster Club' link.

2026-2027 Ticket Information

As established by the N10 Conference

Varsity & Varsity/JV Events:
Adult - $8.00 Student - $7.00 (K-12)

JV, 9th or Middle School Events:
Adult - $6.00 Student - $5.00 (K-12)

Lucas Athletic Department Admission Specials
(honored at Lucas home events only)
Family Pass: $360
Good for immediate family only or members of a household.
Passes may be purchased at the gate of any home event. Make checks payable to: *Lucas Athletics*.

Single Season Pass: $150
Good for immediate family or members of a household for one specific season (ie. Fall or Winer)

N10 Conference Member Schools

East Division

Buckey Central Bucks
938 S. Kibler St.
New Washington, OH 44854

Bucyrus Redmen
900 West Perry St.
Bucyrus, OH 44820

Colonel Crawford Eagles
5444 Crestline Road
Crestline, OH 44827

Lucas Cubs
5 1st Ave.
Lucas, OH 44843

Seneca East Tigers
13343 E US Highway 224
Attica, OH 44807

Willard Crimson Flashes
1 Flashes Ave
Willard, OH 44890

Wynford Royals
3288 Holmes Center Rd.
Bucyrus, OH 44820

West *Division*

Carey Blue devils
2016 Blue Devil Drive
Carey, OH 43316

Hopewell- Loudon Chieftains
181 N. County Road 7
Bascom, OH 44809

Mohawk Warriors
605 State Highway 231
Sycamore, OH 44882

New Riegel Blue Jackets
44 N Perry St
New Riegel, OH 44853

Old Fort Stockaders
7635 North County Road 51
Old Fort, OH 44883

Tiffin Calvert Senecas
152 Madison St.
Tiffin, OH 44883

Upper Sandusky Rams
800 N. Sandusky Ave
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: School has been canceled due to weather, are we still playing tonight?
A: If you are asking about a Varsity or JV game, the answer is *maybe*. However, MS and/or Freshman events are automatically postponed when school is canceled due to weather! Refer to the Inclement Weather Policy for more details

Q: Can I ride home from the game with my boyfriend/girlfriend's parents?
A: No! Only a parent/guardian may sign a student out following a contest, if the Head Coach permits. See the Travel, Conduct & Dress section for more information.

Q: I was placed in the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) today – am I able to practice/compete tonight?
A: You are eligible to practice, but you are ineligible for participation an extracurricular contest.

Q: I was sick this morning and arrived to school at 11:00am - am I able to compete tonight?
A: No. You are ineligible for any practice, scrimmage and/or contest because you were not present by 10:00am.

Q: Am I eligible for next semester/season?
A: Eligibility is different for students in grades 7-8 than it is for students in grades 9-12 and varies greatly depending on your schedule. See the Scholarship section of this handbook for more information or contact the AD with your specifics.

Q: Will summer school classes make me eligible? Will tutoring make me eligible? Can I turn in late or missing work to become eligible?
A: No!

Q: Can I stay eligible if my teachers just give me "incompletes" for my grades?
A: No! The OHSAA mandates that any "incomplete" grade be figured as an "F" when determining eligibility.

Q: How do I get in touch with my Head Coach?
A: You can e-mail your coach, call them at the number they provide you at the mandatory pre-season meeting or leave a message in their school mailbox in the High School office.

Q: I will be attending a funeral/field trip/doctor's appointment tomorrow - can I still practice/compete afterwards?
A: Yes, these are examples of "excused absences" from school and will not affect your eligibility for the day.

Q: Why is there no story about last night's contest in the paper?
A: The local papers do the best they can, but are limited by time, space and budgets. Coaches will report game information following each event, but the papers' editors make the final cut.