

## **Lazbuddie Athletic Code**

- The Lazbuddie Independent School District provides an athletic program for the benefit of the students in this school district. We believe that participation in a respected and competitive athletic program can provide students an opportunity to learn responsibility, dedication, determination, and desire. In addition, the students will develop respect for rules and authority.
- This code is established to promote these qualities and to help build and maintain a strong athletic program.
- Winning is important and will always be stressed in our athletic program, but not at the expense of the individuals who make up our teams. Winning will not be stressed to the point of endangering the integrity of our school or our community.
- It is recognized that some of the expectations for athletes exceed the expectations for the general student body, and that some of the athletic rules are stricter than are those for the general student body. Regardless, athletes are expected to follow the established rules. Membership in athletics is a privilege, not a requirement, for our students.
- Rule violations will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. All facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining what action will be taken. When combinations of rules are violated, consequences will be more severe.

### **Definitions**

- “Athletes”, “Athletics”, “Athletic” or “Students” in relation to this policy encompasses the following groups:
  - a. Any student that is enrolled in grades 6-12 that is involved in any athletic program that Lazbuddie ISD offers (football, basketball, etc.)
  - b. Any student that is enrolled in grades 6-12 that are involved in Cheerleading, Pep Squad, and Drill Teams.
- “Time Period” for this policy is to be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This includes athletes that are out of season (i.e. Football player during basketball season, etc.) and to include the period when the student is not in school (i.e. Student holiday, weekend, summer, etc.).

- The consequences will be the same and will carry over into the next sport that the student participates.

## **Athletic Discipline Policy**

### **Substance Abuse:**

Students who represent Lazbuddie Athletics by their participation in any University Interscholastic League activity are expected to exemplify the highest standards of conduct and safe, healthy behavior. Use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs is not acceptable. Specifically, students are expected to abstain from possessing, using, giving, selling, or delivering alcoholic beverages or controlled substances. Furthermore, it is a violation of this policy for a student athlete to be present at social gatherings where alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are made available to minors. (Violation of State and Federal Statutes will be referred to the proper authorities and law enforcement.) An athlete agrees to abide by this Substance Abuse Policy and its consequences for his/her entire enrollment at Lazbuddie I.S.D. This policy is not periodic based on the ending or beginning of a School year. To ensure consistency among different groups, the following penalties for failure to adhere to these guidelines will be implemented:

### **I. The possession or use of any form of alcoholic beverage or illegal substance is prohibited.**

- A student that is issued a DWU, MIP, report from law enforcement, or reports from any source that the coaches, sponsors, and/or administrators deem to be reliable will be considered as proof that an offense has occurred.

#### **Alcohol use:**

##### **First Offense**

one-week suspension. (This will be a minimum of 7 calendar days and will carry with it disciplinary measures to be done during practice time each day of the suspension. During the suspension, the student will be allowed to practice, but will not be allowed to travel to games or sit with the team during games.)

##### **Second Offense**

four-week suspension. (This will be a minimum of 28 calendar days and will carry with it disciplinary measures to be done during practice time each day of the suspension. During suspension, the student will be allowed to practice, but may not travel to games or sit with the team during

games.)

**Third Offense** one calendar year (12 month) suspension from the athletic program.

If an offense occurs prior to the beginning of the preferred sport's season, then the above suspensions will initiate with the start of the season. Likewise if an offense occurs during the Christmas break, then the above suspensions will initiate with the resumption of the season in January.

**Controlled Substance use:**

**Any use of illegal drugs or controlled substances other than alcohol, including steroids, will result in immediate suspension from all athletic participation for a period of 12 calendar months.** Consideration to return may be given at the end of the six month suspension period if the athlete completes an approved counseling-rehabilitation program.

a. Mandatory **Suspension**- the student athlete will be suspended for an entire calendar year from the time of the offense. The athlete will be allowed to return to the off-season program once his/her AEP/ISS time is over. The entire **Buy Back Program** must be completed before the student is allowed to compete.

b. Conditional **Suspension**- a student athlete may reduce his/her mandatory suspension to a 6 month conditional suspension if he/she completes the entire **Buy Back Program**. The entire **Buy Back Program** must be completed before the student is allowed to compete.

**Drug Buy Back Program:**

1. The athlete must complete 50 (1 mile) Buy Back Runs.(Coached Supervised)
  2. The athlete must receive 30 hours of an approved drug rehab program.
  3. The athlete must consent to mandatory drug testing.
  4. The athlete will be suspended for an entire 6 months.
- **When an athlete commits a drug and/or alcohol related offense, he/she may be referred to law enforcement or judicial authorities for criminal prosecution in addition to school imposed discipline.**

## **II. Stealing from a teammate or any other individual is prohibited.**

- **First Offense** – Suspension from the athletic program until **25 miles of running** are completed.
- **Second Offense** – Suspension from the athletic program for 12 months.
- **Third Offense** – Suspension from Athletic program indefinitely.

**When an athlete commits a theft, he/she may be referred to law enforcement or judicial authorities for criminal prosecution in addition to school imposed discipline.**

## **III. Conduct**

Lazbuddie will be noted for clean, tough, competitive play. Self-control will be emphasized at all times. This means:

- a. Athletes must follow all school rules and procedures while attending classes at Lazbuddie ISD.
- b. Athletes are to always unconditionally treat coaches and officials with the utmost respect.
- c. Athletes are expected to act appropriately in class. Misconduct in the classroom may result in disciplinary action in athletics. Courtesy and respect for the teachers and administrators will result in the same for the athlete.
- d. The coaching staff realizes that all athletes do not have the same ability, but the staff expects each athlete to give full effort and to perform to the best of his or her ability.
- e. Respect for our opponents, both players and coaches, is always expected.

**Appropriate discipline will be implemented as a consequence for violating the above expectations.**

## **IV. Attendance**

- a. Students are required to enroll and be in regular attendance in athletics in order to participate in any team or individual sport.
- b. It is unacceptable for athletes to be truant.
- c. It is unacceptable for athletes to be tardy.
- d. If an athlete must miss an athletic period, he/she should make certain that the absence is

unavoidable.

- e. If an athlete must be absent, he/she must contact one of the coaches (preferably the head coach of the sport being missed) before the athletic period. Failure to call before a missing a workout could result in additional make-up conditioning.
- f. A student who cannot be present for a practice (including workouts), school, meeting, or event should call the coach, or sponsor as soon as he/she becomes aware that he/she will be absent. In other words, the coach should be informed ahead of time that the student will be absent. Missed practices, meetings, or workouts will be made up; however, disciplinary action may be taken if a participant fails to inform his/her coach in advance of an absence or he/she receives an unexcused absence from athletics.
- g. Absences for participation in other school-related activities are considered excused; make up conditioning, viewing of game film, play study, etc. may be assigned at the discretion of the coach.
- h. Policy for missed games will be left to the discretion of the coach.

## **V. Illness/Injuries**

- a. If an athlete is injured, one of the coaches should be contacted. The coaching staff will either treat the athlete or recommend that a physician or a trainer be contacted.
- b. If an athlete must leave school or practice because of an injury or illness, he/she must first check with one of the coaches.
- c. If an athlete is ill or injured, he/she will not be expected to work out, but if he/she is in attendance, he/she will be expected to remain with the supervised group.

## **VI. Respect for Coaches, Teacher, and Administrators**

- All adults in the school system will receive courteous responses from the athletes such as “Yes Sir,” “Yes Ma’am,” “No Sir,” and “No Ma’am.” In return, players will be treated with respect. Whenever a coach is speaking to an athlete, either as an individual or as a group, he/she will give the coach his/her undivided attention, and will establish eye contact with the coach.

## **VII. Promptness**

- a. Athletes should always be on time. On away trips, the bus will wait for no one.
- b. During workouts, the athlete will have a definite amount of time after the bell rings to be in the uniform of the day.
- c. Tardiness will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

## **VIII. Dress**

- a. Athletes' attire will be neat and clean at all times and within the school dress code requirements.
  - Coaches and/or Sponsors may set additional dress standards depending on the sport or athletic season.
- b. In competition, everyone will wear his or her uniform in the same manner. No exceptions.
- c. Most required equipment for high school athletes will be furnished. The athlete must take care of his/her equipment. Lazbuddie will provide the athlete with the best quality equipment afforded by the district.
- d. The wearing of jewelry or sunglasses is not allowed at practice or competition unless a physician's prescription is on file in the athletic office.
- e. Headwear (caps & hats) must be authentic Lazbuddie headwear, and athletes are expected to wear it in the manner that it was originally intended to be worn. (visor portion facing forward)
- f. The athlete's appearance away from athletics should always reflect the same class and pride that is shown while in athletics.

## **IX. Appearance**

- a. An athlete is expected to adhere to the following hair policy.
- b. No facial hair.
- c. Sideburns shall be no lower than the bottom of the earlobe.
- d. Hair is not to be below the bottom of the ears on the sides.
- e. Hair is not to be below the collar level in the back.

**The above stated policies pertain only to boys, but no extreme hairstyles will be acceptable for boys or girls.**

#### **X. Care of Equipment and Facilities**

- a. Athletes are to clean their equipment before going into the dressing area.
- b. When changing into workout gear, school clothes should be hung up in the athlete's locker.
- c. Toilets are to be flushed, showers and faucets are to be turned off, and all trash is to be thrown in the trashcan.
- d. Lockers are to be kept neat and orderly. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action for the individual or for the entire team.

#### **XI. Travel**

- a. Athletes are **required** to travel to and from games or practices on the school bus with the team with the following exception:
  - Players may ride home with their parents only if it is out of the parent's way to pick up their athlete at the school or in any other determined extenuating circumstance. In these cases, the coach must receive a signed note from the parent as soon as possible. The coach reserves the right to contact the parent to verify the authenticity of the note.
  - b. Before an athlete leaves with anyone other than his or her parents, arrangements must be made **ahead of time**, and the athlete's parents must submit written permission **in advance**. When possible the principal and A.D. should be notified in advance.
  - c. Athletes are expected to act responsibly on the school bus. The bus should be left in a neat, clean, and orderly condition after trips.
  - d. Boys and girls will not sit in the same seat under any circumstances.
  - e. Electronic devices will be allowed on the bus at the discretion of the coach. Devices used for listening to music must have headphones.

#### **XII. Quitting the Team**

- a. Before any athlete is permitted to quit a sport, he/she must meet with the head coach of that sport and then with the athletic director. Upon quitting a sport, an athlete will not be allowed to return to Athletics unless he/she enters into the Buy Back Program for Quitting. An athlete will be allowed to change his/her mind about playing football during or at the immediate completion of two-a-day work outs without penalty. For

junior high football, this grace period will end on Friday of the second week of school. For all other sports, athletes will have a grace period of one week from the sport's beginning to quit without penalty. (Girls refer to letter "c" below)

**Quitting Buy Back program:**

1. The athlete must complete 25 (1 mile) Buy Back Runs. (Supervised by a Coach)

If an athlete quits a sport for a second time:

2. The athlete will be suspended for the entirety of 6 months.
  3. The athlete must complete 30 (1 mile) Buy Back Runs. (Supervised by a Coach)
- b. When a student wants to quit a sport, he/she has a 48-hour cooling off period in which to reconsider his/her decision and approach the coach for reinstatement to the team. Consequences and conditioning are attached to the 48-hour cooling off period.
- c. Girls must declare their intention to play basketball by Friday of the second week of school, so that equipment can be ordered without creating a surplus. Changing one's mind after the second Friday of the school year will be considered quitting.

**XIII. Recognition of Participation**

- a. A student must compete in a minimum of 90% of the DISTRICT contests, unless a physician verified injury or illness prevents him/her from doing so, before he/she will be recognized as having participated in that sport.
- b. If a student quits a sport before the completion of the season (including playoffs), he/she will not be recognized as having participated in that sport.

**XIV. Policy**

The Lazbuddie ISD Athletic Policy is not intended to be all encompassing. Coaches, under the direction of the Athletic Director, shall have the right and responsibility of dealing with individual discipline problems on a case-by-case basis. All disciplinary situations will be handled as consistently and fairly as possible.

- Athletes will not be allowed to participate in games if he/she does not satisfy the requirements of his/her discipline within an allotted time.
- This policy is in effect until the athlete has completed his/her athletic eligibility.
- Please note that only the minimum consequences are indicated in the policy. If an offense is

considered to be extremely severe or flagrant, the discipline may be stronger (more running, more game suspensions, etc.).

## Acknowledgement

**\*This policy is subject to change at the discretion of the Athletic Director and, or the Administration.**

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*DATE*

*I, (athlete's name printed) \_\_\_\_\_ agree to adhere to the rules and regulations concerning the Lazbuddie Athletic Policy. I understand that failure to do so at any time will result in the disciplinary actions stated above.*

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*Student Athlete's Signature*

*I, (parent/guardian's name printed) \_\_\_\_\_ the parent (or guardian) of the above named student athlete, understand the rules and regulations stated above. We/I will, to the best of our/my ability, guide our student athlete to adhere to these rules.*

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*Parent or Guardian's Signature*

