



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



LAVILLE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

MESSAGE FROM LAVILLE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

It is my pleasure to welcome you to LaVille Jr/Sr High School. We are proud of the many accomplishments of our student-athletes and we look forward to the legacy that you will bring to the "Lancer Nation.". This Student-Athlete Handbook has been developed to assist in better understanding the goals and objectives of the Athletic Department. It will also provide useful information to help you navigate campus life in general, and, more specifically, in your role as a student-athlete. I encourage you to seek advice and input from your coach, as well as upper class student-athletes. These are additional resources that can help you to get the most out of your academic and athletic experience. We are proud to welcome you to our program and wish you all the best for continuing success in both academics and athletics. If you have additional questions please contact the Athletic Office at 574-784-3151 x3022.

Sincerely,

Will Hostrawser
Athletic Director

Nate McKeand
Principal

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

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INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The School Board recognizes the value to the Corporation and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for as many students as feasible. The Board subscribes to the administrative guidelines of the Indiana High School Athletic Association so long as the Association complies with the requirements of I.C. 20-5-63-6 but maintains responsibility for enforcement of all rules. The Board believes that it is the purpose of an interscholastic program to provide the benefits of an athletic experience to as large a number of students as feasible within the Corporation.

ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This athletic handbook is designed to inform athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations and information that helped develop the tradition of competition at LaVille Jr. /Sr. High School. The athletic handbooks rules and regulations are in effect 365 days a year 24 hours a day for all athletes.

Participation in high school athletics is a privilege that carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility and sacrifice. Since athletic competition on high school teams is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct established by the administration and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. Athletes are to conduct themselves in a manner that is acceptable to their family, community, and school for 365 days a year.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The Athletic Program of LaVille Jr/Sr High School makes every effort to ensure that its athletic program promotes the best interest of our student athletes during these important years of their lives. The Athletic Program strives to foster athletic opportunities for those students choosing to make a definite commitment to interscholastic competition. The diversified secondary school program offered by LaVille provides for competition in eighteen varsity sports and offers the athlete opportunity for physical and intellectual growth, understanding of self, developing habits of health and learning to win gracefully and to lose in the same fashion.

At LaVille, athletics is an important factor in the total education of the student. Sports teach many valuable lessons of life not found in any classroom, and contribute significantly to the total development of the individual.

In the process of participating and maturing, it is hoped that the student athlete will enjoy themselves and better understand the importance of self confidence, respect for others, hard work, discipline, sacrifice, and working together toward a common goal of reaching maximum potential as teams and individuals.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

1. To provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School Corporation alone.
2. To provide opportunities that foster the growth of school loyalty with the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.
3. To provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.
4. To provide opportunities that enable student athlete's a chance to enjoy wholesome competition.
5. To provide opportunities and activities that interest the entire school, not only athletes.
6. To teach student athletes new skills and help them improve skills already possessed.

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7. To provide opportunities for student athletes to build lifelong friendships with their teammates and their opponents.
8. To provide opportunities for student athletes to learn about good sportsmanship and to exemplify this sportsmanship.
9. To provide opportunities where student athletes will place the TEAM above themselves.
10. To provide opportunities for student athletes to practice self – discipline.
11. To teach student athletes a respect for rules and authority and give them an opportunity to exemplify this respect.
12. To teach student athletes to present themselves in a socially acceptable manner.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OFFERED

Fall Season:

Boys Sports - Football, Cross Country, Tennis, Soccer
Girls Sports - Volleyball, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Cheerleading

Winter Season:

Boys Sports - Basketball, Wrestling
Girls Sports - Basketball, Cheerleading

Spring Season:

Boys Sports - Baseball, Track & Field, Golf
Girls Sports - Softball, Track & Field, Tennis

JR. HIGH ATHLETIC PROGRAMS OFFERED

Fall Season:

Boys Sports - Football, Cross Country
Girls Sports - Volleyball, Cheerleading

Winter Season:

Boys Sports - Basketball, Wrestling
Girls Sports - Basketball, Cheerleading

Spring Season:

Boys Sport - Track & Field, Golf
Girls Sport - Track & Field, Golf

VARSITY ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROFILE

As a member of I.H.S.A.A, LaVille offers varsity competition in the following sports:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Baseball | 7. Golf(Boys) | 13. Tennis (Girls) |
| 2. Basketball (Boys) | 8. Golf (Girls) | 14. Track (Boys) |
| 3. Basketball (Girls) | 9. Soccer (Boys) | 15. Track (Girls) |
| 4. Cross Country (Boys) | 10. Soccer (Girls) | 16. Volleyball |
| 5. Cross Country (Girls) | 11. Softball | 17. Wrestling |
| 6. Football | 12. Tennis (Boys) | 18. Cheerleading |

LaVille is a charter member of the Hoosier North Athletic Conference (HNAC). The other members of the HNAC are Caston, Culver, Knox, North Judson, Pioneer, Triton and Winamac.

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RULES OF THE LaVILLE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The LaVille Athletic Department will be governed by two sets of rules. One set of regulations is set forth by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) of which LaVille Jr/Sr High School is a voluntary member. The IHSAA By-laws are listed on the IHSAA Website (www.ihsaa.org) under the "About IHSAA" drop menu. The other set of regulations is set forth by the administration and the athletic department of LaVille Jr/Sr High School and outlined in the LaVille Athletic Handbook.

LaVILLE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

ACADEMICS

Your first responsibility as a student-athlete is to be a great student. It is required that you pass 5 classes to be eligible to participate in Athletics at LaVille Jr/Sr High School. Coaches and/or the Athletic Department will check grades and eligibility will be monitored through the Athletic Office. Grade checks will occur at a minimum twice across an athletic season. If you find yourself in need of help, please let your coach know, and set up time to meet with your teachers to get additional help.

ACTIVITY CONFLICTS

Where sports or other school activity conflicts occur, the following policy will apply:

1. The "performance," i.e., the athletic game or meet, concert or contest in music has priority over practice or rehearsal. In the event a practice, rehearsal, or even final dress rehearsal is scheduled at the same time an athletic game or meet occurs in which the student is participating, the game or meet has priority and the music member is excused without penalty. Conversely, in the event the music "performance" conflicts with an athletic practice, the "performance" takes priority and non-participation will not result in a penalty.
2. Coaches and directors will do everything possible to ensure conflicts in schedules do not arise. However, from time to time there will be practice / rehearsal conflicts. In the event the practice/rehearsal occur at the same time in both music and sports, the practice time shall be divided equally between the two activities. The two parties involved can work out a mutual agreement to trade off every other day in having the athlete involved. COMMUNICATION well in advance is the key.
3. In the event a music performance conflicts with a game, both scheduled at the same time the student is permitted a choice without penalty. All such conflicts should be worked out well in advance (preferably the beginning of an athletic season) and communicated openly with the music instructor and coach. If this causes a problem, the high school principal will act as arbitrator.

APPEAL HEARING PROCESS

The athlete or parent/guardian has the right to appeal the disciplinary action that has been taken. The request for an appeal hearing must be made, in writing, to the Athletic Director within ten (10) days of the notification of the suspension by way of certified mail.

DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS AND APPEAL PROCESS

It will be the responsibility of the Athletic Director and/or designee to conduct all investigations into violations of the Athletic Handbook. Based upon the investigation, the Athletic Director will make the decision as to the degree of punishment. An athlete who has been cited for a serious offense has the right to call a hearing before the Athletic

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Committee. A hearing may also be requested by the Principal, Athletic Director, Head Coach, or member of the Administrative Team.

The Athletic Director will notify the parents, athlete, and others involved of the time and place of the meeting. This notification will come in the forms of a personal telephone call to the parents/guardian of the student and will be followed with a certified letter.

Prior to the hearing, the athlete will present to the Athletic Director written accounts of the incident in question signed by witnesses as well as other information that is relevant to the situation that may help his/her position. In return, the Athletic Director will gather witness accounts and other relevant information.

During the hearing, the Athletic Director will present all available information. When appropriate, the athlete will present his/her explanation of the situation or incident. Members of the Athletic Committee may ask questions for clarification purposes. The parents/guardians and the athlete may make statements or ask questions for the purpose of clarification.

Upon the completion of the hearing, Committee members will discuss privately the information presented during the hearing and make a recommendation to the Athletic Director. If necessary, the Administration may recall the Committee for clarification or to present additional information.

The final decision rests with the Athletic Director/Principal who will personally notify the parents/guardians and the athlete of the decision. All decisions that arrive from the Athletic Committee may be appealed to the building administration.

The proceedings and the results of all Athletic Committee hearings are confidential among the participants.

ATHLETE DEFINED

The LaVille athlete is defined as all young men and women who represent a team that engages in interscholastic competition of IHSAA sanctioned sports and further includes student managers, athletic training student assistants, statisticians, and cheerleaders. A student is considered an athlete for one year (365 days) from the time he/she becomes a member of a LaVille Jr/Sr High School athletic team. Each time an athlete becomes a member of a LaVille team, they are declaring their intentions of being an athlete for another full year. When a student is considered to be an athlete, he/she will be held accountable for rules, guidelines, and policies of this handbook.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

The Athletic Committee serves as an advisory body to the Athletic Director. The Committee will have responsibilities in the areas of approving athletic policy and acting upon an appeal made by an athlete concerning a violation to the code of conduct. The Athletic Committee is jointly appointed by the Principal or designee and the Athletic Director at the start of the school year.

The Committee shall consist of:

- A non-coaching Faculty Member
- 2 Head Coaches
- Administrator
- Athletic Director

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ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. A student athlete must be in attendance a minimum of 4 periods on the day of an extra-curricular activity in order to attend practice or participate in an event.
2. If a student leaves school early they must bring in either doctor's note or a note from a parent in order to participate in practice or an event. (If a student leaves school early because they are ill, they WILL NOT be allowed to participate that particular evening in practice or an event.)
3. If a student arrives late to school they must bring in either a doctor's note or a note from a parent in order to participate in practice or an event.

CHANGING SPORTS

If an athlete decides to no longer participate in a given sport (quits) for any reason during a sport season, that student-athlete may not join another team during the same season if try-outs/cuts have already taken place. However, if an athlete is cut from a team, he or she may join another team or program in that sport season at both coaches' discretion.

COACH/PARENT ADMINISTRATION COMMUNICATION POLICY

Interscholastic athletics provide young men and women the opportunity to learn many life lessons. By participating in athletics, young men and women learn lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition, mental and physical exercise, and handling success and failure. Athletics also increase an individual's pride in representing the school and community. Athletics prepare our student athletes for future success. Both parenting and coaching are extremely rewarding, but sometimes difficult roles. By establishing an understanding of each other's positions, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children.

As parents, when your children are involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

Communication parents should expect from coach:

- Coach's philosophy
- Expectations each coach has for your child, as well as the entire team
- A schedule of practices and contests
- Team requirements, fees, equipment, conditioning, etc.
- Procedures followed when your child is injured at practice or contest
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- All concerns expressed directly to head coach of team
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance of practice or contest
- Specific concerns in regard to expectations of child

Appropriate Concerns to discuss with coach:

- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's attitude or behavior

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The treatment of your child, mentally and physically

Coaches are professionals and make decisions based on what they believe is best for the team and all players involved. As you see in the above list, certain things can be and should not be discussed with your child's coach.

Issues not to Discuss with the Coach:

- Playing time
- Strategy
- Roster decisions
- Play calling
- Other team members

24 Hour rule of Communication:

If you have a concern:

- Please do not attempt to confront the coach before or after a contest or practice.
- Wait 24 hours to contact the coach
- Call to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic office. If a problem arises, see your Head Coach. In 90% of cases the coach can clear up any problem you or your student athlete may have.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a resolution? In the event that this discussion cannot come to a legitimate solution, please call the Athletic Director 574-784-3151 x3022. After this discussion, if you still are unable to come to a solution, please contact the principal. Almost all issues can be solved by a member of this team. We as administrators will only discuss items with you if you have followed the proper channels of the chain of command.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A student who is a member of a LaVille Jr/Sr High School athletic team in any capacity (athlete, cheerleader, athletic training student assistant, student manager, or statistician) must be willing to assume the responsibilities that go along with being a member of a team and wearing the royal blue and white. The student body, the community and others often judge our school by our student athletes' conduct and attitude on and off the field, in season and out of season. Student athletes and athletic support personnel are role models and therefore, are expected to be positive examples in school citizenship, scholastic effort, leadership, and in personal appearance.

Participation in athletics is a privilege requiring that a student makes a commitment to practice before or after school with perfect or near perfect attendance, to work hard to excel, to learn cooperation and team effort, and to exemplify good behavior both at school and away from school. Student athletes and support personnel are representatives of LaVille Jr/Sr High School and should serve as role models at school

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and in the community. Therefore, student athletes and support personnel are expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct the entire calendar year (365 days). Students who cannot accept this challenge and responsibility should not become involved with the LaVille Jr/Sr High School athletic program. There is a legitimate school interest and an expectation by the coaching staff at LaVille Jr/Sr High School that students follow the Athletic Code of Conduct at all times including the time when they are away from school and not involved in school activities. There is also an expectation that student athletes avoid situations or leave events where activities are occurring that violate this Code of Conduct, specifically parties or clubs. Self discipline learned from the athletic experience should teach each student athlete to make prudent decisions about their associations and behaviors.

SECTION 1 - Policy Descriptions

ALCOHOL POLICY

An athlete should not possess, consume, sell or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage. An athlete who finds himself/herself at places where underage drinking is taking place is expected to leave the area immediately to avoid being associated with that behavior.

Responsibility at Social Events

Athletes and their parents will make the decision to attend social events (dances, parties, etc.) - choice of attendance is up to the athlete and his/her parents. However, athletes are expected to leave social events immediately or as soon as transportation arrangements can be made where illegal activity takes place (ie: use of drugs, consumption of alcohol, vandalism, etc). All athletes must understand that failure to leave such events may result in disciplinary action and/or dismissal from a team as determined by the rules, coaching staff, Athletic Director, and/or Administration of LaVille Jr/Sr High School.

ARRESTS

A student athlete who has been arrested and/or arrested and charged with a crime will be suspended from the team for at least one contest. The Athletic Committee will hold a hearing within five school days of the suspension. The hearing will decide if the student will be suspended until charged or if charges have been filed until his/her trial is concluded or if the suspension will be lifted before the conclusion of the trial. The Athletic Committee will determine the length of an athlete's suspension on a case-by-case basis. If the athlete is found guilty of a misdemeanor or felony, then the appropriate penalty will apply at the time of the conviction.

DRUG POLICY

An athlete shall not knowingly possess, use, transmit, sell or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, caffeine based pill, substance containing phenylpropanolamine (PPS), stimulant, depressant, inhalant, solvent, ephedrine or intoxicant of any kind, whether prescription or sold over the counter. Proper use of a drug authorized by

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a medical prescription from a health care provider is not a violation of this rule. Possession of any drug paraphernalia such as but not limited to rolling papers or clips is also a violation of this rule. An athlete who finds himself/herself at a place where any of the above substances are being used is to leave the area immediately to avoid being associated with that behavior.

Responsibility at Social Events

Athletes and their parents will make the decision to attend social events (dances, parties, etc.) - choice of attendance is up to the athlete and his/her parents. However, athletes are expected to leave social events immediately or as soon as transportation arrangements can be made where illegal activity takes place (ie: use of drugs, consumption of alcohol, vandalism, etc). All athletes must understand that failure to leave such events may result in disciplinary action and/or dismissal from a team as determined by the rules, coaching staff, Athletic Director, and/or Administration of LaVille Jr/Sr High School.

FELONY CONVICTION

An athlete who is convicted of a felony will face the consequences listed in section 2 in addition to any sentence that is prescribed by the courts.

MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION

An athlete who is convicted of a misdemeanor will face the consequences listed in section 2 in addition to any sentence that is prescribed by the courts. (NOTE - These do not include minor traffic violations.)

THEFT and VANDALISM

An athlete shall not vandalize property, have stolen any item or have in their possession any stolen item from any source, including uniforms or equipment from LaVille Jr/Sr High School, other schools, or communities.

TOBACCO POLICY

An athlete shall not use or possess tobacco IN ANY FORM including but not limited to snuff, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, nicotine gum, nicotine patch or any cigarette simulations device (vaporizer pipe or e-cigarettes with or without nicotine) or smoking tobacco on or off the grounds of LaVille Jr/Sr High School.

SECTION 2 - Code of Conduct Violation Penalties

Level 1 - Equivalent to 33% of the regular season

First violation of the Tobacco Policy (plus participation in a substance abuse program*)

First violation of the Alcohol Policy (plus participation in a substance abuse program*)

First violation of the Use of Drug Policy (plus participation in a substance abuse program*)

First violation of the Theft or Vandalism Policy

First conviction of a Misdemeanor

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Level 2 - One Calendar Year Exclusion from athletics

Second violation of the Tobacco Policy (plus participation in a substance abuse program*)
Second violation of the Alcohol Policy (plus participation in a substance abuse program*)
Second violation of Use of Drug Policy (plus participation in a substance abuse program*)
Second violation of the Theft or Vandalism Policy
Second conviction of a Misdemeanor
First conviction of a Felony

Level 3 - Career Exclusion from athletics at LaVille Jr/Sr High School

Third violation of the Tobacco Policy
Third violation of the Alcohol Policy
Third violation of the Use of Drug Policy
Third violation of the Theft or Vandalism Policy
Third conviction of a Misdemeanor
Second conviction of a Felony

* Any combination of violations (Tobacco, Alcohol, Use of Drugs, etc.) will result in consequences on an increasing level. For example, a student that violates the Use of Drug Policy will face Level 1 consequences for their first offense. If he/she would violate any other Policies, such as the Tobacco Policy, it would result in a Level 2 consequence for their second offense.

* = at the expense of the athlete

SECTION 2 ADDENDUM

Coaches shall have the right to impose further rules, as they deem proper for their activities.

A medical prescription from a health care provider is not a violation of the code of conduct.

Length of imposed penalties will be calculated on the length of the season including the scrimmage (if the team has one), all regular season games and one guaranteed sectional contest. For calculation purposes, the number of games to be served is rounded up at point five (.5).

Once a Jr. High Athlete has become enrolled in the high school all previous offenses are erased and they will start with a clean slate.

Carry-over Suspension

If the violation of the code of conduct occurs in the last part of a sport's season and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her violation in that sport, the suspension will carry-over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes the next sport or the same sport next year. i.e. if the suspension is for 25% of the football

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season (3 games) and the student athlete misses only one game before the season has ended, then he will serve the remaining 16% of the suspension in his next athletic season. If that next season is basketball, then he must miss 16% of the basketball season (16% of 21 games is 4 games). If a one-sport student athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, he/she will be required to complete that season in good standing.

Completing a Suspension

When serving a suspension, the student athlete is expected to be present at all athletic contests and practices involving his/her team or squad. The student athlete LaVille Jr/Sr High School is a member of the team and is expected to fulfill this responsibility. The head coach's discretion can excuse the student athlete.

Responsibility at Social Events

Athletes and their parents will make the decision to attend social events (dances, parties, etc.) - choice of attendance is up to the athlete and his/her parents. However, athletes are expected to leave social events immediately or as soon as transportation arrangements can be made where illegal activity takes place (ie: use of drugs, consumption of alcohol, vandalism, etc). All athletes must understand that failure to leave such events may result in disciplinary action and/or dismissal from a team as determined by the rules, coaching staff, Athletic Director, and/or Administration of LaVille Jr/Sr High School.

Self-Report Clause

It is the intent of LaVille to assist students with developing responsibility for their actions and to encourage honesty. Therefore, any student who voluntarily reports on him/herself as to a violation of the Code of Conduct before being reported by some other means will be permitted leniency as long as the athlete answers questions about his/her conduct honestly. This student will serve a lesser penalty for the infraction than stated; he/she will not be permitted to participate in a number of contests equal to one-half of the previous stated penalties or at least one contest of the sport season he/she is in or will be in. This Self – Report clause can be used only on a first violation of any rule and can be used only **once during the student – athlete's time here at LaVille.**

Substance Abuse Acknowledgement

Prior to the beginning of an athletic season, athletes who know they have a problem with alcohol, tobacco, and or drugs may approach the Athletic Director concerning the problem. Those athletes would be eligible to practice and play as soon as they show proof of participation in a counseling or rehabilitation program. Any subsequent violations would result in the previously listed suspensions.

DRESS CODE FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

Athletes should represent LaVille Jr/Sr High School in a respectable manner. When a LaVille Jr/Sr High School athlete attends a home event or travels to another school as a competitor, he/she should dress in a manner above criticism. Coaches may require certain types of attire.

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ELIGIBILITY

The final responsibility for determining eligibility rests with the Director of Athletics and Activities, as well as the building level administrator or designee. As a member of the I.H.S.A.A., LaVille Jr/Sr High School adheres to IHSAA By-Laws - specifically rules the following established rules. To be eligible to represent LaVille Jr/Sr High School in interscholastic athletics you:

1. Must have completed ten separate days of organized practice in said sport under the direct supervision of the high school coaching staff preceding the date of participation in any inter-school contest. Individual student athletes moving directly from one sport season to the next sport season may be eligible to participate in a following season contest after five (5) separate days of organized practice under the direct supervision of the high school coaching staff. (I.H.S.A.A. rule 50 -1.1 & 101-1.1)
2. Must have received passing grades in at least five (5) full credit subjects or their equivalent during your last grading period. Students who are ineligible to participate due to grades are ineligible for a minimum of a nine-week period.
3. All entering freshmen are granted eligibility for the first nine-weeks of their freshman year. Moving forward, eligibility will be determined after the first and third grading periods when grades are posted. Following the second and fourth grading periods, eligibility will be determined by semester grades.
4. Students with failing grades may attend practices and/or study table during periods of ineligibility at coaches and parental/guardian's discretion.
5. A student, who is or shall be twenty (20) years of age prior to or on the scheduled date of the I.H.S.A.A. State Finals in a sport, shall be ineligible for inter – school athletic competition in that sport. A student who is nineteen (19) years of age on the scheduled date of the I.H.S.A.A. State Finals in a sport shall be eligible as to age for inter – school athletic competition in that sport.
6. Must not have been enrolled in more than four (4) fall semesters and four (4) spring semesters beginning with grade 9.
7. Must be an amateur (have not participated under an assumed name, have not accepted money or merchandise directly or indirectly for athletic participation, have not accepted awards, gifts or honors from colleges or their alumni, and have not signed a professional contract).
8. Must have filed with your Principal each school year between April 1 and your first practice, your completed Consent and Release Certificate and physical form signed by a licensed practicing physician.
9. Girls shall not be permitted to participate in an I.H.S.A.A. tournament program for boys when there is an I.H.S.A.A. tournament program for girls in that sport in which they can qualify as a girl's tournament entry.
10. **PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL OFFICIALS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BEFORE PARTICIPATING OUTSIDE OF YOUR SCHOOL. WE ARE HERE TO HELP CLARIFY ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING ELIGIBILITY RULES.**

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EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

You may not participate in any athletic activity until the previous coach has released you. All uniforms and equipment must be turned in prior to going out for another sport.

1. Athletes are responsible for all athletic equipment issued to them for the duration of the season.
2. Athletes must turn in all athletic equipment issued to them immediately after the completion of any sport season.
3. Lost or abused equipment:
 - "Normal" wear and tear of equipment is expected, but team members will be held responsible for unusual abuse of equipment or uniforms. Example, baseball/softball pants may become torn or worn out due to sliding. This is normal wear and tear. A football player who cuts the sleeves of his jersey in order to have more room would be unusual abuse of equipment.
 - Athletes shall pay for all items not returned. The cost will be what the amount is to replace the item not returned.
4. Honors or awards for a particular sport will be denied any athlete who fails to turn in all school equipment issued to them or fails to pay for lost or damaged equipment.

FACILITY USE

1. All facilities will be supervised by a coach or administrative approved Union-North employee before and after all practices and games.
2. The sport in season has priority in the use of the school's gymnasium. When numerous teams are in need of gym time, the Athletic Director in cooperation with the coaches will provide a schedule of gym use for the teams involved.
3. All activities must and will be supervised. Under no circumstances is anyone allowed to practice or workout in the gym or weight room unless they are under the direct supervision of a coach.

GAME CONDUCT

Athletes are expected to represent LaVille Jr/Sr High School and the community in a positive manner in school, out of school, and on the athletic field. Profanity or inappropriate gestures will not be tolerated and may result in suspension.

Ejection From An Athletic Contest

Anytime an athlete is ejected from a game, meet, etc., the athletic director will be notified as soon as possible. IHSAA Rule 8-4 will be followed:

First Ejection

1. The athlete will be suspended for the next contest at the level for which he/she was suspended.
2. The athlete will be required to take an online NFHS Sportsmanship Course prior to returning to competition.

Second Ejection

1. The athlete will be suspended for the next two contests at the level for which he/she was suspended.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM RULES

Each head coach may establish training and behavior rules for the athletes under their supervision during the IHSAA season. These rules will typically cover being on time for practices, dress for contests, decorum at contests and on buses, language, sportsmanship, and curfew on nights before and after contests. Specific rules established by the head coach in a sport will be

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put in writing and a copy will be made available to the athlete and his/her parents. The rules set forth by each coach, will be followed in addition to this handbook.

INJURIES & MISSING PRACTICE

When an athlete obtains an injury and cannot actively participate in practice, they are still expected to attend and pay attention during all practice sessions. If they fail to do so, it will be considered an UNEXCUSED absence and be dealt with accordingly.

Once an athlete visits a doctor, they are under that Doctor's care and CANNOT actively practice until they are released by that doctor. ALL doctor's releases MUST be written and delivered directly to an athlete's coach, our trainer OR the athletic department. It is the athlete's responsibility to obtain all doctor's releases and communicate them.

If, due to an injury, an athlete misses 5 to 10 consecutive days of practice, they MUST make up 4 practices BEFORE they will be allowed to play in a game. If an athlete misses more than 10 consecutive days of practice, they MUST make up 6 days of practice BEFORE they will be allowed to play in a game. The intent of this IHSAA Bylaw is for the student-athlete's safety – it is not meant as a punishment. For further information reference IHSAA Bylaw 9-14.

Return to Play Policy

The LaVille Sports Medicine Team consists of certified athletic trainers licensed by the Indiana Board of Health professions and the designated sports medicine fellowship trained and board certified team physician. Members of the Sports Medicine Team are responsible for emergency care, evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries sustained by LaVille athletes. The Sports Medicine Team will also make the final determination of when an injured athlete may resume participation.

- Parents have the ultimate authority to exclude their child from participation, but cannot overrule the exclusion requirements of any member of the LaVille Sports Medicine Team.
- The coach has the authority to exclude a member of their team from participation, but cannot overrule the exclusion requirement of any member of the LaVille Sports Medicine Team.
- A treating physician, athlete's personal physician, or other health care provider MUST issue a "release" when visited. Athletes who visit a physician FOR ANY REASON cannot participate until a "release" is supplied to the LaVille Athletic Department or any member of the LaVille Sports Medicine Team.

The goal of the LaVille Sports Medicine team is to practice "athlete centered medicine". This is best accomplished by having the athletic trainers and physician make decisions that best serve our student-athlete's short and long term medical interests.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

While in season, any athlete assigned "in school" suspension is ineligible to practice or compete that day. Any student earns an ISS while in season will be suspended from one athletic contest. An athlete will be penalized for each separate incident for which an in-school suspension is earned. (NOTE: When a student earns an in-school suspension, they will not be subject to the missing practice rules during their suspensions.)

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MISSING PRACTICE

ALL LaVille Jr-Sr High School Student Athletes are expected to PLAN AHEAD and organize their personal schedules so that they can meet and honor their school responsibilities and commitment to their team. Absences from and tardies to school and/or practice... whether "excused" or "unexcused" ... have a negative effect on a student athlete's academics, the progress and preparation of the athlete and the eventual success of the team. A missed day of school and /or a missed practice session are opportunities for improvement and growth that cannot realistically be made up.

IF YOU CANNOT PRACTICE – YOU CANNOT PLAY

Excessive absences (either excused or unexcused) will jeopardize an athlete's playing time. An absence from a practice and/or game always has a negative effect on the team's opportunity for success. Attendance and active participation in practices and/or games is of utmost importance. Communication is a necessary life skill to be exercised regularly by all student-athletes when it comes to practice attendance.

All sports will follow the following guidelines for missing practice:

EXCUSED ABSENCE (including but not limited to)

These absences, when communicated BEFORE they occur, WILL NOT be penalized: Funerals; weddings; family crisis; doctor or dental appointment verified by a physician's note; athlete illness verified by a physician's note; reasonable after school academic time with LaVille faculty; SAT, PSAT or ACT testing; participating in peer mentoring; participation in the school play.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE (including but not limited to)

These absences **will result in games being missed**; missing practice to complete a school assignment and/or project due to a lack of planning; earning a detention (when practice is missed as a result); earning a Friday Night School (when practice is missed as a result); missing the team bus; attending another school's function; being tardy to a scheduled contest; and or not directly communicating an absence to the coaching staff.

1 st Unexcused Missed Practice =	Sit out one (1) game
2 nd Unexcused Missed Practice =	Sit out three (3) games
3 rd Unexcused Missed Practice =	Dismissal from the team

Parent/guardians are respectfully requested to always assist their athlete's logistically and in decision making... so that they can successfully meet their team commitment.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

While in season, no athlete will participate in practice or competition on the day(s) that he/she has been suspended from school for that day or any part of that day. While in season, upon return to school, the athlete will additionally be suspended for the next two athletic contests to run consecutively. An athlete will be penalized for each separate incident for which an out-of-school suspension is earned. (NOTE: When a student earns an out-of-school suspension, they will not be subject to the missing practice rules during their suspensions.)

PARTICIPATION ON TEAMS OUTSIDE OF LAVILLE JR/ SR HIGH SCHOOL

With the increase of traveling teams, club leagues, and AAU, student athletes have the opportunity to participate in a given sport year round. Student athletes may participate on such teams during the school year as long as the particular sport is not in season, is limited to non – school time, fees are provided solely by the student athlete and/or parents, and participation is

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open to all students. An example would be having a volleyball player on the school team, while playing for an AAU basketball team at the same time. However, when a student athlete makes a commitment to a team at LaVille Jr/Sr High School; the student athlete will honor all commitments for the team. If a conflict were to arise between a school team and a non – school team, the school team will always take precedent. Should an athlete miss a practice and/or game for the school team in order to attend a non-school team event it will be considered an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE from practice and be dealt with accordingly. Furthermore, a coach MAY impose additional stipulations according to the coach's rules and regulations.

PETITIONING ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Students and their parents/guardians may petition the school district to begin additional interscholastic sports or additional levels of competition in existing sports. The petition should be submitted in writing to the high school principal. The high school principal will then attempt to determine the level of student interest. The high school principal will then present the petition with a recommendation to the Board of School Trustees.

REQUIREMENTS BEFORE PARTICIPATION

Under no circumstances may an athlete participate in a given sport without the following:

1. Physical Form – each year athletes must submit to their respective Head Coach, Athletic Office or the Athletic Trainer. All physical forms will be kept in the office of the Athletic Trainer.
2. Medical Consent Form – this form gives permission to the attending physician to proceed with any medical or minor surgical treatment, x-ray examinations and immunizations for the student – athlete. In the event of serious illness, the need for major surgery, or significant accidental injury, and attempt will be made by the attending physician to contact the parents or guardians in the most expeditious way possible. If said physician is not able to communicate with the parents or guardian, the treatment necessary for the best interest of the student – athlete may be given.
3. Student Conduct Form
4. Proof of or Purchase of Insurance – forms are located in the Athletic Office.
5. Concussion Form
6. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form
7. Random Drug Testing Authorization Form

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Student Athletes will uphold all guidelines set forth in the LaVille Jr/Sr High School Handbook in participation and spirit of the rule.

TRANSPORTATION OF ATHLETES

To offset the increasing transportation cost each athlete will be charged a minimal fee per sport. Transportation will be provided for each team sponsored by the School Corporation. It is the responsibility of the coaching staff of the particular sport to be responsible for the conduct of the players while they are in transit to contest.

Athletes are to ride to and from each sporting event with the team, unless written permission from the parents is given to the Athletic Director or Coach. The student may only ride home in another form of transportation provided the above policy has been followed or there is a medical/family emergency/other school function that they must attend. Remember, the athlete is part of a team and should be able to enjoy the company of teammates in victory and defeat.

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ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

ATHLETIC AWARDS

AWARDS - FRESHMAN / JV / JR. HIGH

All Jr. High, Freshmen and JV award winners will receive a certificate of participation.

VARSITY AWARDS

The requirements for earning a varsity award at LaVille Jr/Sr High School are as follows:

BASEBALL:

1. appear in at least fifty (50) percent of the team's total Varsity games prior to the beginning of the state tournament
2. presented at the discretion of the head coach

BASKETBALL(BOYS & GIRLS):

1. appear in at least fifty (50) percent of the total varsity quarters prior to the beginning of the state tournament
2. presented at the discretion of the head coach

CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS & GIRLS):

1. be a running member in the annual conference meet
2. or be a running member in the state tournament
3. appear on the varsity team in at least fifty (50) percent of meets
4. presented at the discretion of the head coach

FOOTBALL:

1. appear in at least fifty (50) percent of the total varsity quarters prior to the start of the state tournament
2. presented at the discretion of the head coach

GOLF (BOYS & GIRLS):

1. earn an average of two (2) points per varsity meet
2. finish in the top one – third in the conference or sectional meet
3. participate in at least fifty (50) percent of the varsity matches
4. presented at the discretion of the head coach

SOCCER (BOYS & GIRLS);

1. appear in at least fifty (50) percent of the total amount of halves played prior to the beginning of the state tournament
2. presented at the discretion of the head coach

SOFTBALL:

1. appear in at least fifty (50) percent of team's total Varsity games prior to the beginning of the state tournament
2. presented at the discretion of the head coach

TENNIS (BOYS & GIRLS):

1. must accumulate at least two thirds of the total match points possible for the season; excluding the state tournament. A participant will be awarded two points for each victory whether singles or doubles, and one point for each loss whether singles or doubles
2. participate in more than fifty (50) percent of the total varsity matches prior to the beginning of the state tournament
3. presented at the discretion of the head coach

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TRACK (BOYS & GIRLS):

1. be a running member in the annual conference meet
2. or be a running member in the state tournament
3. appear on the varsity team in at least fifty (50) percent of meets
4. presented at the discretion of the head coach

VOLLEYBALL:

1. participate in fifty (50) percent of total games, not matches, prior to the beginning of the state tournament
2. presented at the discretion of the head coach

WRESTLING:

1. must accumulate a total of 18 points in the season prior to the start of the state tournament. Points will be awarded as follows: five (5) points for a pin, four (4) points for a decision, three (3) points for a draw, and two (2) points for a loss by decision.
2. participate in more than fifty (50) percent of the team's total matches prior to the beginning of the state tournament
3. presented at the discretion of the head coach

CHEERLEADERS:

1. must participate in ninety (50) percent of all varsity games as a member of the varsity cheerleading squad
2. presented at the discretion of the head coach

MANAGERIAL AWARDS:

1. presented at the discretion of the head coach

In addition to varsity letters, LaVille Jr/Sr High School may award three special awards for outstanding performance in each sport.

The special awards are as follows:

Most Valuable Player – decided by vote of the team or the Head Coach.

Most Improved Player – decided by vote of the team or the Head Coach

Mental Attitude – decided by vote of the team or the Head Coach.

Other special awards may be added at the discretion of the head coach and Athletic Director.

IHSAA CHAMPION PATCHES

IHSAA championship (team & individual) patches will be purchased by the Athletic Department. One patch will be purchased at depicting the highest level of achievement in the state tournament. An individual or team must earn a championship to get a patch (with the exception of State Runner-up for teams or individuals, State Finalist or State Qualifier for individuals). The patch will be in the shape of the State of Indiana.

CONFERENCE CHAMPION PATCHES

Conference (team & individual) patches will be purchased by the individual teams, by the individual athletes or by other means. The athletic department will not fund these awards.

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TOURNAMENT / INVITATIONAL CHAMPION PATCHES

Tournament (team & individual) champion patches will be purchased by the individual teams, by the individual athletes or by other means. The athletic department will not fund these awards.

AWARD RINGS

IHSAA Team Champions

Any team that is an IHSAA "State Champion," "Runner-up or "Finalist" will have the opportunity to purchase the ring the IHSAA offers to those groups. These rings will not be purchased by the Athletic Department. They must be funded by another means.

IHSAA Individual Champions

Any individual that is an IHSAA "State Champion," "Runner-up or "Finalist" will have the opportunity to purchase the ring the IHSAA offers. State "Qualifiers" do not qualify for rings. Individually, an athlete must be in the top two places in the "State Meet." These rings will not be purchased by the Athletic Department. They must be funded by another means.

AWARD LISTING

All athletes who participate and have not served an athletic suspension will receive a certificate.

Freshman Team: Certificate plus numeral for first time participants.

JV Team or Non Letter Winner: Certificate plus numeral for first time participants.

First Letter Earned: "LV" (for Jacket), Chevron and Numerals (if not already earned)

Second through Eighth: Chevron

Ninth: Blanket and Chevron

Tenth: Picture Plaque and Chevron

Eleventh: Picture Plaque, Chevron.

Twelfth: Large Picture Plaque and Chevron

Lifetime Athletic Pass: A Lifetime Athletic Pass will be awarded to those athletes who earn 11 or more letters AND earn at least one all-conference spot, all-area team spot, academic all-state spot, all-state team spot or all-north/south/east/west team spot.

(NOTE: An athlete earning 10, 11, or 12 total letters will only earn one (1) picture plaque to be awarded after the last letter earned)

CLAIMING ATHLETIC AWARDS

If any athletic award is not claimed by a student-athlete by August 1st of the following school year, it will be forfeited.