

# LYTLE PIRATE ATHLETIC MANUAL

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

## PIRATE PRIDE



2017-2018

Board Approved

NOTE: THIS MANUAL IS IN ADDITION TO THE LYTLE ISD UIL HANDBOOK

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Lytle Pirate Athletic Manual is to inform athletes & parents of policies set forth governing individual athletes.

Included in this manual is information concerning:

1. Lytle Athletic Mission Statement
2. Insurance
3. Lytle Sportsmanship Guide
4. Athletic Policies for the Student Athlete
5. Parent/Coach Communication
6. Varsity Team Sport Lettering Qualifications
7. Strategies to Prevent Staph Infections
8. Parental Statement of Understanding

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**Mission of Lytle Athletics is to serve as an extension of the classroom.**

**There are strong lessons to be learned in Athletics. One of those lessons is to set and maintain high standards of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in our schools and society. It is up to us to provide the direction and constant vigilance under which good sportsmanship can prosper and have a positive impact on our children, the leaders of tomorrow.**

## INSURANCE

**Adequate insurance coverage for the athlete is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.** The school system purchases accident insurance for the students for coverage while they are involved in school interscholastic athletic activities. The insurance plan includes only those sports which are under the supervision of Lytle ISD. It does not include club sports offered by individual school or organizations. This insurance plan serves only as supplemental insurance to the parent or guardian primary insurance. If the athlete does not have a primary insurance provider the school insurance will only pay a certain amount of charges. It must be clearly understood that no accident insurance plan is comprehensive.

School insurance claim forms are to be filled out by the parent or guardian and submitted to the doctor/hospital. It is the parent or guardian's sole responsibility to file all necessary claim forms to the appropriate providers. An insurance claim form can be obtained through the Athletic Director's office or through the Athletic Trainer's office.

## HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Parents allowing their children to participate in school athletics accept the risk of injury. To help minimize the risk and to manage injuries when they occur, the school has employed a certified Athletic Trainer.

The Athletic Trainer is an important link in the health care delivery system. The Athletic Trainer serves as a liaison among athletes, parents, coaches, physicians, allied health professionals, and administrators to facilitate healthy participation in interscholastic athletics. *Please note that due to the large scope of the athletic program the Athletic Trainer may not be present at all practices and competitions.*

## **LYTLE ISD SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDE**

### **A Guide for Athletes, Coaches, and Parents**

Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege. As representatives of Lytle Public Schools, student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that meets the highest standards at all times.

It is the goal of Lytle Public Schools to provide all students with opportunities to engage in athletic activities that enrich their education and further develop the core values of respect, responsibility, fairness, trust, and good citizenship.

Engaging in planned instruction teaches good sportsmanship and proper behavior. It is the responsibility of the administration, staff, coaches, parents, and the community at large to create a climate that fosters the development of these behaviors. This is accomplished by encouraging and modeling positive and appropriate behavior within the sporting environment while at the same time striving for excellence.

Expectations for the behavior of athletes, coaches, and spectators at athletic contests, practices, and events are outlined below:

#### Athletes

Athletes are required to meet the following expectations:

1. Be courteous to visiting teams and officials
2. Play hard and to the limit of your ability, regardless of discouragement. True athletes do not give up nor do they argue, cheat, or taunt opponents.
3. Retain composure at all times and never leave the bench or enter the playing field/court to engage in a fight.
4. Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat. A true competitor does not offer excuses.
5. Maintain a high degree of physical fitness by conscientiously observing team and training rules.
6. Demonstrate loyalty to the school by maintaining a high scholastic standing and by participating in or supporting other school activities.
7. Play for the love and honor of the game.
8. Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
9. Respect the integrity and judgement of officials and accept their decisions without question.
10. Respect the facilities of the host school and demonstrate the behavior expected of guests.

## Coaches

Coaches are required to meet the following expectations:

1. Exemplify behavior that is representative of the educational staff of the school and a credit to the teaching profession.
2. Demonstrate high ideals, good habits and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards of your players. Make sportsmanship priority #1.
3. Emphasize to players and bench personnel the importance of proper sideline behavior and the necessity of restraining from entering the playing field/court.
4. Recognize that the purpose of competition is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of individual players and that the most important values of competition are derived from playing the game fairly.
5. Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.
6. Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display.
7. Cooperate with the school administration in the planning, scheduling, and conduct of sports activities.
8. Employ accepted educational methods in coaching, giving all players an opportunity to use and develop initiative, leadership, and judgement.
9. Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of players, refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of the team.
10. Teach athletes that it is better to lose fairly than win unfairly.
11. Demonstrate integrity. Do not allow gambling, profanity, abusive language, or similar violations.
12. Refuse to criticize an opponent, an official, or others associated with sports activities.
13. Properly supervise student athletes under your immediate care and specifically observe coaches responsibilities during events off school grounds.

## Parents/Spectators

Parent/spectators are required to meet the following expectations:

1. Realize that you represent the school and community and, therefore, have an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through positive behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
2. Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
3. Recognize that since the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics it to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the players, victory or defeat is secondary importance.
4. Treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending to them every courtesy.
5. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

6. Respect the judgement and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions.

#### Athlete/Parent/Coach Communication

Lytle Public Schools encourage open communication among athletes, parents, and coaches. Both athletes and parents are urged to discuss their concerns with the coach in the appropriate setting and at the appropriate time.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach include issues of mental and physical well-being, strategies for improving individual performance and issues of behavior.

Issues not appropriate for a parent to discuss with the coaches include playing time, starting positions, team strategy, play calling, and other athletes.

#### Conflict Resolution

It is desirable for conflicts to be resolved by an athlete with his/her coach. Occasionally, however, situations arise where conflicts are not able to be resolved through this interaction and the assistance of the Athletic Director and/or Principal is needed.

#### Spectator Conduct

Lytle ISD requires school districts to monitor spectator behavior at all school sponsored activities. Accordingly, an event supervisor(s) may request any person involved in misconduct to leave the premises and may contact the police for assistance. The school has the authority to suspend individuals from attending all school sponsored activities for spectator misconduct. Lytle ISD appreciates positive support from all spectators.

## THE DEFINITION OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is character displayed in athletic competition. People of character live by Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. These core ethical values provide the foundation for the Pursuing Victory with Honor campaign and all Character Counts!

**TRUSTWORTHINESS:** Always pursue victory with honor – demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity – observe and enforce the spirit and letter of rules – does not compromise education and character-development goals – do not engage in or tolerate dishonesty, cheating, or dishonorable conduct.

**RESPECT:** Treat the traditions of the sport and other participants with respect – do not engage in or tolerate disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, profane or belligerent “trash-talking”, taunting and unseemly celebrations – win with grace and lose with dignity.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Be a positive role model on and off the field and require the same of athletes- further the mental, social and moral development of athletes and teach life skills that enhance personal success and social responsibility – maintain competence including basic knowledge of character building, first aid and safety, and coaching principles, rules and strategies.

**FAIRNESS:** Adhere to high standards of fair play – treat players fairly according to their abilities – never take unfair advantage – be open-minded.

**CARING:** Assure that the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of athletes is always placed above desire and pressures to win – do not permit reckless or potentially unsafe behavior of athletes.

**CITIZENSHIP:** Avoid gamesmanship and promote sportsmanship by honoring the rules and goals of the sport – establish codes of conduct for coaches, athletes, parents and spectators – safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport by prohibiting the use of alcohol and tobacco – demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those relating to gambling and the use of drugs.

**PIRATE**

**PRIDE**

## ATHLETIC POLICIES FOR THE STUDENT ATHLETE

Participation in the athletic program and/or University Interscholastic League contest is **not a right but a PRIVILEGE**. No student is required to take part in the contests or activities. Therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the following athletic code and conform to the rules therein. The coaches of the sport or activity and the Athletic Director shall have the right to remove these privileges at any time.

All athletes, with the exception of powerlifting, tennis, and track participants, must be in an athletic class period for both the fall and spring semesters. Exception - does not apply for seniors that only play fall sports. Athletes participating in only powerlifting, tennis, or track do not have to be in the athletic period. Only the Athletic Director may grant exceptions to this rule. Athletes participating in football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball are to be in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> period athletic class. When athletes are not in season they will be in the Athletic period for all athletes which is called off-season.

All sophomores through senior athletes wishing to participate in football, volleyball, basketball, baseball or softball who did not complete, or participate in the sport the previous season, and wish to try-out may do so. However, the athlete will only be placed in the athletic period upon making the team.

### A. CONDUCT ON THE FIELD OR COURT

The athlete must never use profanity or resort to illegal tactics. He/she must learn that both winning and losing are part of the game; it is important to be a good loser as well as a gracious winner. Temper fits, flagrant violations of rules, etc. will not be tolerated. Total respect to officials is an absolute must. ONLY the coach will discuss all calls made by officials. Violent acts towards the opposing teams, officials, or own team will not be tolerated. All Lytle ISD Student Code of Conduct and the athletic policies will be followed at all times. Any behavior contrary to the above or any act that is not conducive to good sportsmanship may result in removal from the contest and possible expulsion from the team. Athletic awards may also be revoked.

### B. ATHLETIC APPEARANCE AND GROOMING

At all times, an athlete's appearance (hairstyle and clothing) should not be such that draws undue attention, creates disruption, or presents a safety hazard. Absolutely, no jewelry will be worn during practice or during games.

#### HAIR

Must be a natural color, traditionally styled, with no unusually shaved areas. Hair must not cover the eyes (Continually sweeping hair to the side is not acceptable) Boys' hair may not touch the bottom of the collar; sideburns may not extend below the bottom of the ear. All students must be clean-shaven

#### Traditional Hair Style

Hair should be well-groomed. Lytle High School does not consider ponytails, two-

tone colored, rat-tails, Mohawks, faux hawks, bushy-hair, or any other long hair style to be a traditional style of hair for boys. Boys' hair may not touch the top of the shirt collar or extend below the eyes in front. Girls' hair may be colored, but only a natural hair color. Appearance for clothing is defined in the Lytle ISD handbook. It will be up to the discretion of the coach of each sport.

#### C. SELF DISCIPLINE

One of the rewards of being an athlete is learning self-discipline. There is no better way to acquire self-discipline than to make sacrifices.

#### D. QUITTING THE TEAM

Think hard before you decide to go out for a sport. Athletics takes a lot of hard work, time, and dedication. As such, any participant who quits a sport they have begun will not be allowed to participate in any other sport until the regular season has ended in the sport that he/she has quit. Other exceptions are possible, but must be made by majority vote of the Athletic Director, Principal, and coach.

Participants will not be allowed to participate again in the sport from which they quit unless they have a majority vote of approval from the Athletic Director, Principal, and head coach of the sport involved.

#### E. EQUIPMENT

Proper care is to be kept of all school issued equipment. School issued equipment cannot be worn outside of school or during school unless granted permission by the coach. The athlete is also financially responsible for all equipment that has been issued to the athlete.

#### F. PRACTICE REGULATIONS

1. A coach must be consulted ahead of time if any athlete must miss practice or a game. Missing a game or practice without permission may result in suspension or removal from the team. The head coach will make the final decision.
2. Obey all rules set up by the coach. Respect all coaches.
3. Profanity and poor effort will not be tolerated.

#### G. TRAVEL

All athletes in middle school and high school represent the community, school, and coaches at all times on all out of town trips. Therefore, it is expected that all athletes will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the dress code for athletics and the Lytle Student Code of Conduct. Violations will result in suspension from the next contest. Any incident of a serious nature may result in suspension and/or expulsion from the team and/or program.

In addition, the following guidelines will be enforced for all trips:

1. Be on time. Tardiness will not be accepted.
2. Dress neatly as directed by the coach.
3. Be mannerly in all public areas.
4. Show respect for the opposing team's facilities.

**Athletes making the trip on the bus will return on the bus unless a parent is present or an emergency situation arises. The proper form must be completed to return home with a parent. ALL parents must follow the proper sign out procedure at ALL TIMES. If athletes must return with another person other than their parent, the coach must be notified in advance in writing and personally.**

#### H. SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL/DISCIPLINE

An athlete receiving ISS cannot compete during the term of the assignment. An athlete may be placed on probation if he/she is assigned to ISS and any additional assignments to ISS may result in removal from the athletic program. The coach, under the direction of the Athletic Director, has the right to suspend an athlete from a competition due to an ISS placement, even if the competition is after their completed ISS placement. The coach, under the direction of the Athletic Director, also has the right to suspend an athlete from a competition due to any other disciplinary action imposed by the school.

#### **Lytle Alternative Education Program (DAEP)**

If any athlete is placed in the Lytle Alternative Education Program (DAEP), he/she will be placed on a 30 day probationary contract at the completion of the original DAEP placement. After review and completion of the probationary time the athlete may return to the sport in season after review and approval of the Athletic Director.

#### **I. EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT**

Lytle provides comprehensive extracurricular programs for the benefit of Lytle students. The underlying belief is that that participation in an extracurricular program can provide students the opportunity to learn responsibility, dedication, leadership, hard work, and respect for rules, respect for authority and many other positive qualities. Regulations are established to promote these qualities and to help build and maintain strong programs. **It is recognized that some of the expectations for students involved in extracurricular activities exceed the expectations for the general student body.** These students are expected to follow district policies and all program-specific procedures set by the district and the school. Violations of the rules will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. The facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining consequences for rule violations.

It is the desire of Lytle coaches, directors and sponsors to educate and counsel our students on the harmful effects of a violation of this Code of Conduct and the potential consequences inflicted upon themselves, their families, and their respective teammates should they choose to breach the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. It is also the intent of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct to provide a clearly defined course for our students to follow and instill a belief that a one-time infraction need not result in a permanent pattern in life.

In all instances of an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct the student will be provided due process. The process for determining a violation of the Code of Conduct will be established by the Principal on his/her campus. Any student involved in an extracurricular activity who is found to be in violation of any of the infractions mentioned below will face disciplinary action.

Once guilt has been determined, the General Guidelines for Student Discipline as outlined in Lytle Board Policy FO (Local) will be used when possible and applied to all cases concerning the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. The following penalties will be administered throughout the district when infractions occur:

#### **J. TOBACCO**

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of tobacco.

A first offense will result in 1-week suspension of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there is not 1 week remaining in the particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

A second offense will result in a 2-week suspension of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there is not 2 weeks remaining in the particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

A third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

#### **K. ALCOHOL**

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol.

The first offense will result in a 2-week suspension of the student from game competition

or extracurricular participation. If there are not 2 weeks remaining in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

The second offense will result in a 4-week suspension of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there are not 4 weeks remaining in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

The third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

#### **L. ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of any controlled or otherwise illegal substance.

Refer to the Lytle ISD School District Student Drug Testing Policy

#### **M. THEFT**

Any extracurricular participant guilty of theft will face the following consequences:

A first offense will result in a 3-6 week suspension of the student from game competition determined by the circumstances involved in the theft. If there are not 3-6 weeks left in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in the subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

A second offense will result in a 3-6 week suspension of the student from game competition determined by the circumstances involved in the theft. If there are not 3-6 weeks left in that particular sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in the subsequent sports season or period of extracurricular activity. Another contract will be required.

A third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular activities.

#### **N. ARRESTS**

Citations or arrests on or off campus in regards to smoking, using/selling or possession of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, drinking alcoholic beverages, vandalism or any behavior which causes embarrassment to the team or Lytle ISD may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program. Any member of extracurricular organization **must notify** the head coach and Athletic Director immediately upon any arrest or citation. Failure to notify the staff member responsible for the program may result in suspension or dismissal from the program.

## **O. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

Social networking websites and electronic communication: Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that Lytle ISD's extracurricular participants' personal electronic communication is appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication including, but not limited to, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, photo sharing, inappropriate texting that is published or appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private.

Extracurricular participants are responsible for texting and electronic communications on the internet through their personal websites as well as postings on other students' websites. The areas of inappropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, vulgar or obscene comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Communication on the internet or by electronic means by extracurricular participants that are published and as a result cause disruption or damage to school district property at Lytle or another school district are also inappropriate.

Any member of a Lytle ISD extracurricular program who is involved in inappropriate, disruptive, negative, obscene, or sexual pictures, comments, or statuses on any social networks such as, but not limited to, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, or Facebook may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program.

## **P. ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

Students must remain aware that being a part of an extracurricular activity is considered an honor and a privilege and not a right. Therefore, it requires observance of all discipline policies whether or not a student is at school or school-related activities.

The discipline consequences for violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct may include suspension or dismissal of the student from the extracurricular program. Such actions shall be taken by coaches, directors or sponsors only after consultation with the Athletic Director (where appropriate) and/or school administration. A behavioral contract may also be used following various infractions. Consequences for some rule violations may be addressed by coaches through discipline within the student's program. Additional disciplinary consequences can also be imposed by the appropriate school officials for conduct or behavior that violates the District's Code of Student Conduct.

**Note:** If the offense occurs during the summer, the suspension from activities will begin with the first week of competition/activity.

If the offense occurs during the sport season or period of extracurricular activity, the suspension will begin with the next competition or extracurricular activity as determined by the Athletic Director.

#### Q. ATTENDANCE POLICY

An athlete may not participate in any contest or activity unless he/she attends school for a minimum of 4 class periods the day of the competition. The athlete must have attended a minimum of 4 class periods the preceding day if the activity falls on a Saturday or a holiday. Only the Principal or Athletic Director shall grant exceptions.

#### R. GRADES

All athletes must maintain a 70 or above average to participate in athletics. Failing grades will not be tolerated and will be subject to dismissal from the athletic program. In the case of low grades (74 or below), attendance in a mandatory tutorial program may be required.

**If an athlete becomes ineligible at any time during the year, he/she will be placed on a probationary status. If an athlete fails two consecutive eligibility grading periods, he/she will be dismissed from the athletic program. (Exception to this rule only if the student's schedule is not able to be rearranged at the time) He/she will then be monitored for the remainder of the school year; if his/her grades are passing at the end of the year, he/she will be permitted to re-enter the program the following year. An eligibility period runs from 6 weeks to 6 weeks or from 9 weeks to 9 weeks.**

In addition, if the athlete is failing, he/she will not be eligible to enter the program until the following school year. If the student has any discipline referrals during the previous semester, admittance to the athletic program may also be denied.

If at any time during the school year the athlete is failing more than two subjects, it will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and head coach whether or not that athlete will be allowed to miss any school time to participate in an athletic event.

#### S. DRESSING OUT POLICIES AND MISSED PRACTICES

Expectations are for athletes to dress out every day in athletics. If an athlete is ill and cannot participate, the athlete must have a doctor's note after the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of nonparticipation.

For every missed workout an athlete will be required to make-up the conditioning he/she missed. In the event of an athletic injury, a pro-rated make-up will be set by the coach.

## PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

### **Parent Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to student athletes. As parents, when your son/daughter becomes involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectation is placed on your son/daughter. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your son/daughter's program.

### **Communications You Should Expect from Your Son/Daughter's Coach**

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. General expectations
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs
5. Procedure if your son/daughter is injured during participation
6. Team rules, guidelines, and consequences for infractions
7. Lettering criteria
8. Team selection process

### **Communication Coaches Expect From Athletes/Parents**

1. Concerns related to your son/daughter's general welfare
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches**

1. Ways to help your son/daughter improve
2. Concerns about your son/daughter's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your son/daughter not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student athletes involved. As you have seen from the previous list, certain things can be and should be discussed with your son/daughter's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position.

### **If You Have a Concern to Discuss With a Coach**

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic secretary to help set up the meeting for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

**The Next Step** – what can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

### **Parent Code**

1. Be a positive role model through your own actions to make sure your child has the best athletic experience possible.
2. Be a “team fan”, as well as a “my kid” fan.
3. Weigh what your son/daughter says; they might slant the truth to their advantage.
4. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
5. Be respectful of all officials' decisions.
6. Praise student athletes in their attempts to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people.
7. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
8. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

9. Help your child learn that success is oriented in the development of a skill and should make a person feel good about themselves, win or lose.
10. If you as a parent have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner including proper time and place. Be sure to follow the designated chain of command.
11. Please reinforce our drug and alcohol-free policies by refraining from the use of any controlled substance before and during athletic contests.
12. Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.

**Be sensible, responsible, and keep your priorities in order.  
Participating on a Lytle JH/HS team is a wonderful opportunity for  
your child to grow physically, socially, and emotionally.**

## CRITERIA TO EARN A LETTER OR A LETTER JACKET

The following criteria are mandatory to earn a letter or a letterman's jacket in a varsity sport:

- Varsity football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball athletes letter if they have been on varsity for over half the year including district play. If the team advances in the playoffs and a JV athlete is promoted to the varsity they will receive a letter but not a jacket.
- Cross Country varsity athletes must place in the top ten in district as an individual at the district meet or win a district championship as a team to earn a jacket. Advancing to Regionals as the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place team doesn't earn a jacket but will earn a Regional Qualifiers patch. If a senior has participated in cross country all four years of high school and none of the above apply he/she will earn a jacket.
- Track varsity athletes must have earned 10 points throughout the season plus at least 1 point in the district meet to earn a letter jacket. An athlete may also earn a jacket by the team winning the district championship or by the individual advancing to the regional meet. If a senior has participated in track all four years of high school and none of the above apply he/she will earn a jacket.
- Tennis varsity athletes must either earn 7 points for wins at tournaments during the season or place in the top three at district tournament. Wins at tournaments are as follows: 1 pt. main draw wins, ½ pt. consolation draw wins, 1 pt. for wins via bye in the main draw, ½ pt. for wins via bye in the consolation draw, 3 pts. For main draw tournament champion, 2 pts. For consolation draw champion.

Only one jacket will be purchased by the school for each athlete.

## **STRATEGIES TO PREVENT STAPH INFECTIONS**

Hand washing is the single most important behavior in preventing infectious disease. Hands must be clean before you touch your eyes, mouth, nose, or any cuts or scrapes on the skin.

1. Wash your hands after sneezing, blowing, touching the nose and after using the toilet.
2. Wash your hands before leaving the athletic area.
3. Do not share towels, soap, or other personal care items.
4. Shower with soap and water as soon as possible after direct contact sports.
5. Dry using a clean, dry towel.
6. Do not share towels, even on the sidelines at games.
7. Ointments or antibiotics must not be shared.
8. Wash towels, workout clothes and any other laundry in hot water and ordinary detergent and dry on the hottest cycle.
9. Report all wounds to the coach.

**PARENTAL STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING:**

I understand the policies governing interscholastic athletics in the Lytle ISD, and by my signature grant permission for the student's participation. I also understand that participation in school-sponsored activities is a privilege and not a property right; and therefore, the school's Athletic Director/Principal may suspend my son/daughter from participation by declaring the athlete not in good standing if the student's character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon his/her school.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date