

**Linden Community Schools
Linden Middle School
Athletic Policy Handbook**

**For
Students and Parents
2006-2007**



Linden High School
7201 Silver Lake Road
Linden, Michigan 48451
(810) 591-8020

**Darin Dreasky, Athletic Director
Carol Dolata, Athletic Secretary**

Linden Community Schools

Student Athletic Code Handbook

Message to Students and Parents

This booklet is presented to you because of your interest in participating in our interscholastic athletic program.

The primary purpose of the athletic program in the Linden Community School District is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional and moral well being of the participants. It is the hope of the Linden Community Schools that athletics in our schools will be a positive force in preparing our young people for an enriching and vital role in our society.

The athletic program is considered an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students in the Linden Community Schools. Through voluntary participation, the athlete gives time, energy and loyalty to the athletic program. The student also accepts the training rules, regulations and responsibilities that are unique to an athletic program. In order to contribute to the good of the program, the athlete must assume these obligations as the role demands sacrifices not required of other students.

In addition to the Student Athletic Code Handbook, student athletes are also governed by the discipline code of their school.

Schedules and Scores are
updated daily at:

www.highschoolsports.net

Linden Community Schools Directory

Board of Education

Steve Murphy
Terry Wright
Michael Denton
Laura Starrs

Elaine Porter
Michael Murphy
Nancy Donlon

Olivia Gardner
Allison Graves

Student Representative
Student Representative

Central Office Administration

Elizabeth Leonard	Superintendent	591-0980
Mike Engelter	Assistant Superintendent	591-0980
Evie Jensen	Secretary to the Supt.	591-0980

Linden Middle School

Julie Brown	Principal	591-0710
Charisse Goza	Assistant Principal	591-0710
Barb Eddy	Secretary	591-0710

Linden High School

Brian Boudreau	Principal	591-0410
Russ Ciesielski	Assistant Principal	591-0410
Darin Dreasky	Athletic Director	591-0417
Carol Dolata	Athletic Secretary	591-0417
Cari Oldenburg	Secretary	591-0410
Carrie Ford	Secretary	591-0410

Community Education

Debbie Brindle	Director	591-0415
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The mission of the Linden Community Schools is to EDUCATE, nurture and develop ALL LEARNERS to be self-directed and to strive for EXCELLENCE with CONFIDENCE and INTEGRITY by working cooperatively with school, parents, and community.

Athletic Department Philosophy



Athletic participation is an integral part of the Linden Community Schools. Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right. Student-athletes represent Linden's schools and therefore are obligated to follow district and department rules and regulations.

Middle school level shall reflect the belief that athletics is a participatory experience,. Not all athletes may receive the same participation opportunities in games based on eligibility and coaches discretion . Middle school sports are intended to teach fundamental skills and to give students an opportunity to participate. All students on middle school teams will play in game situations, provided they have fulfilled academic and team requirements.

Finally, athletics is only a part of the entire school program. Academic achievement of the student-athlete shall be the foremost priority. All athletes are expected to adhere to the academic guidelines as established in the student code of conduct and by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Acknowledgement of Receipt

I have read and understand the information provided in this document. I understand that this handbook is meant to provide a framework for policy in the Linden Community Schools and is not all encompassing. Situations that may arise will be dealt with on an individual basis.

By participating in athletic programs in the Linden Community Schools, I agree to adhere to the rules of my school, my team and the athletic department.

Failure to read and understand this document does not excuse me from violation of district, school, team or athletic department policy.

Please detach this form and return it to the coach.

Print Student Name:

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Date: _____

Athletic Offerings in the Linden Community Schools

Middle School

FALL

7th Girls Basketball
8th Girls Basketball
Heavyweight Football
Lightweight Football
Boys Cross Country
Girls Cross Country
Cheerleading

WINTER

7th Girls Volleyball
8th Girls Volleyball
Wrestling
7th Boys Basketball
8th Boys Basketball
Competitive Cheer

SPRING

Boys & Girls Track
Baseball
Softball

Student Athletes should consider time, interests, academic responsibilities, and team requirements before committing to a team. Some middle school sports are very competitive and team selection and playing time cannot be guaranteed.

Middle School Athletic Philosophy

The role of interscholastic athletics in the Linden Middle School is to provide educational experiences in the framework of competitive athletics. By focusing on educational outcomes and student learning, athletics can provide avenues for physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth. The educational outcomes for participation in athletics at Linden Middle School are as follows:

- A. Physical Growth
 - 1. Achieving personal fitness
 - 2. Learning to cope with stress
 - 3. Learning participation skills
 - 4. Learning good health habits
- B. Emotional Growth
 - 1. Gaining self-confidence, self-worth, and self-discipline
 - 2. Learning to accept criticism
 - 3. Learning to accept success and failure
 - 4. Learning a sense of pride in achievement
- C. Social Growth
 - 1. Developing interpersonal relationship skills
 - 2. Developing a sense of responsibility to a group
 - 3. Learning to win and lose graciously
 - 4. Learning to work as a team
 - 5. Learning sportsmanship and fair play
 - 6. Learning respect for teams, opponents, coaches and officials
 - 7. Representing yourself, your team and your school in a positive manner
- D. Intellectual Growth
 - 1. Learning commitment to a goal
 - 2. Learning time management skills
 - 3. Developing skills and strategies to support academic and athletic achievement

Athletics at Linden Middle School will promote participation by all members of the student body in more than one activity. The athletic programs will focus on teaching the rules of the game, allowing for participation in each contest by all team members, and help to enhance the students education by teaching the following principles:

- Sportsmanship
- Teamwork
- Integrity
- Discipline
- Judgment
- Decisiveness
- Initiative



Photo Release Form

I, the undersigned, by returning this form request that my child **NOT** be photographed by the Linden Community Schools or any newspapers, magazines, media outlets, etc. for publications or productions related to Linden High School, the Flint Metro League, or MHSAA athletic events.

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

If you do not return this form, your students picture may appear in publication.

2006-2007 Coaches & Sponsors

Boys & Girls Cross Country

Rick Kimball, Boys Cross Country
Becky Harryman, Girls Cross Country

Boys Light & Heavy Weight Football

Kevin Marks Aaron Stevens
Greg Freitas Josh Clancy

Girls Basketball

Jim Johnston, 7th
Jim Zonca, 8th

Wrestling

Andy Kargel
Greg Freitas

Boys Basketball

Jim Zonca, 7th
Kyle Hopkins, 8th

Girls Volleyball

Sue Smith, 7th
Jenny Smith, 8th

Boys & Girls Track

Jim Zonca
T.B.A.

Cheerleading

Crystal Cardinal, 7th
Chelsea Chittick, 8th

Baseball & Softball

John Ingamells
Gordon Jamison

Middle School Athletic Schedule

FALL SEASON

Practices Start: September 5th

Girls Basketball—Typically Mondays and Wednesdays.

First Game: After Sept. 15th
Last Game: Prior to Nov. 1st

Football—Typically Wednesdays.

First Game: After Sept. 22nd
Last game: Prior to Nov. 5th

Sideline Cheer—Same as Football.

Cross Country—Typically Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

First Meet: After Sept. 15th
Last Meet: Prior to Nov. 1st

EARLY WINTER SEASON

Practices Start: November 1st

Wrestling—Typically Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

First Match: After Nov. 21st
Last Match: Prior to Dec. 22nd

Volleyball—Tuesday/Thursday the first half of the season. Monday/
Wednesday the 2nd half of the season.

First Game: After Nov. 21st
Last Game: Prior to Feb. 20th

Competitive Cheer—Varies

LATE WINTER SEASON

Practice Starts: January 15th

Boys Basketball—Typically Mondays and Wednesdays.

First Game: After Feb. 10th
Last Game: Prior to March 30th

SPRING SEASON

Practice Starts: On or after March 13th.

Track—Boys and Girls.

First Meet: After April 10th
last Meet: Prior to June 3rd

Section I

Rules and Regulations for Athletes

It is important to recognize that while participating in interscholastic athletics, athletes are still governed by school rules and policy. Students may receive disciplinary action such as detention, suspension or expulsion for offenses committed during athletic play.

A. Governing Rules

The rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) must be followed as minimal regulations where more stringent district, league, school or team rules are not specified.

B. Duration of the Athletic Code

The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any violations from the time that a student-athlete becomes eligible for participation in athletic contests sponsored by the school district until the student-athlete graduates from high school. The code of conduct for athletes is in effect 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, year round.

C.. Supplemental Rules and Regulations

Supplemental rules and regulations unique to a given sport may be implemented upon the approval of the principal and athletic director provided that they are not in conflict with the athletic or student codes. These rules will be presented to participants in writing prior to the start of the season, except under special circumstances as approved by the athletic director.

Violation of these rules may be cause for disciplinary action by the coach or building administration.

D. Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

1. The physical and mental treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following must be left to the discretion of the coach.

E. Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

1. Playing Time
2. Team Strategy
3. Play Selection
4. Other Student Athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These meetings are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

F. Conferences with Coaching Staff

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director. He will set up a 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 parent, athlete and coach. Meetings of this nature seldom promote positive resolutions.

G. 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.

Section VI

Parent/Coach Communication

A. The 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 others and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your children become involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

B. Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad.
2. Locations and times of practices and contests.
3. Team requirements such as fees, special equipment and off-season conditioning.
4. Procedures should your child be injured during practice or competition.
5. Written team rules and guidelines.

C. Communication Coaches Expect from Athletes

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.

As our student athletes become involved in the athletic programs in the Linden Community Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there will also be times when things do not go the way the student would like. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

D. Conduct of the Athlete

Any civil law infraction, arrest, vandalism associated with athletic equipment and facilities or conduct by a student-athlete that is determined by school administration to be detrimental to the athletic program, school, or school district can result in disciplinary action as severe as dismissal from the team.

E. Hazing

The Linden Community Schools and the Linden Athletic Department do not condone, nor will we tolerate the hazing of students involved in any extracurricular activity on or off of school property.

Any reported incident of hazing will be investigated on an individual basis. Any student who is found to have participated in the hazing of another student will be disciplined. The disciplinary action will include a meeting with the student and their parent/guardian and may be as severe as expulsion from school and a permanent loss of extracurricular privileges in the Linden Community School District.

Hazing is defined as any type of initiation procedure for any school related activity, which involves conduct such as but not limited to:

- A. illegal activity;
- B. physical punishment or infliction of pain;
- C. intentional humiliation or embarrassment;
- D. dangerous activity
- E. activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress;
- F. forced detention or kidnapping;
- G. undressing or otherwise exposing initiates.

NOTE:

If the school club or organization does not have an official and approved initiation procedure, and if no school staff are involved in the activity, there is a significant likelihood that the activity may result in violation of this policy.

- F. Sportsmanship/Language/Conduct**
Student-athletes must exhibit good sportsmanship both in and out of competition. They are to show respect for all opponents, officials, coaches and other people that they may come into contact with.

The use of vulgar or profane language is unacceptable anywhere and at anytime.

Fighting, taunting or otherwise provoking conflict with opponents or spectators will not be tolerated.

Any actions or behavior by student athletes that are judged to be inappropriate by coaches or school administration may also result in disciplinary action.

Any student who is ejected from a contest will be ineligible for participation in the next contest in accordance with MHSAA rules. In addition, the athlete will be ineligible for at least one additional contest enforced by the Linden Community Schools. Athletes may be subject to additional discipline deemed appropriate by the athletic director. Suspensions from play cannot be served concurrently.

G. Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Use

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco products shall fall under the following regulations which pertain to all students involved on an athletic team. *(Note: Student-athletes are expected to avoid association at activities where the illegal use of alcohol or drugs is present. The student-athlete must make a conscious effort to leave the area or situation when they realize that a controlled substance is being used or is in their presence.)*

1. Athletes will be disciplined whenever referral made to the coach and/or school administration based on (1) being caught in the act by school personnel, parents or authorities, (2) police report or court action brought to the attention of school personnel, (3) self-admittance resulting from investigation of an incident.

- B. Decisions by the coach should be appealed to the athletic director if there is not relief received in consulting with the coach.
- C. Decisions of the athletic director may be appealed to the building principal.
- D. All decisions of the building principal are final in matters pertaining to athletics.

**Section V
Participation Fees**

All students participating in extra-curricular activities in the Linden Community Schools will be required to pay a participation fee. This fee will apply one time per student per year.

Fees for the current school year are as follows:

\$100.00 for high school students
\$50.00 for middle school students

Middle school baseball and softball requires a separate athletic fee payable to Little League, \$60.00

Individual participation fees must be paid by the end of the 2nd week of official practice for each team. Fees will be collected in the athletic office during regular school hours. Students who have not paid their fees will not be able to participate in a contest until their fees have been paid.

Fees are not refundable unless a student has been cut from a team. Voluntary withdrawal, lack of playing time, academic ineligibility, or disciplinary actions taken by the coach or administration will not be the basis for refunding fees.

If a student's family has financial difficulty in paying participation fees, that student will not be denied the opportunity of participation. Any student who wishes to participate but is unable to because of financial hardship should contact the athletic director. Fees can be delayed or partially or fully waived in exchange for services provided to the athletic department as an event worker.

Section III

Athletic Awards

- A. Students cannot accept any award for athletic performance other than an emblematic award. The value of an award may not exceed \$15.00.
- B. School awards for athletic participation are as follows:

Freshman Award: Certificate
Numerals (one time only)

Junior Varsity Award: Certificate
First Issue of Numerals

Varsity Award: Certificate
Varsity "L"
First Issue of Numerals

Pins and certificates for additional varsity level participation.

In addition, coaches will present certificates of participation and a sports medal.

Middle school athletes will maintain passing grades, no E's, in all classes. School awards for athletic participation include a certificate of recognition and a sport medal (See Section II).

- C. Any athlete dropped from team membership for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible to receive a letter, certificate, or other recognition and awards established for members of the team. Athletes dismissed from the team will not be considered to have completed the season in good standing or to have met the awards requirements.

Section IV

Appeals Procedure for Athletes

- A. In cases of dispute, athletes and parents are asked to consult with the coach involved to resolve the dispute.

- 2. Violation of the rule involving the possession, association with, or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco products will result in the following:

- a. First Offense: Dismissal from the athletic team. The dismissal may be waived at a reinstatement hearing set by the building principal or their designee involving the athlete, the parent or guardian. The athlete and parents must have enrolled the student-athlete in a school-approved program providing assessment and treatment for substance abuse related problems. The school district will not be financially responsible for enrollment in this program. Upon notification of enrollment in an approved program by one of the program's counselors, the athlete may be reinstated to team membership status after serving a suspension from all team activities for a period of 14 days. There will be no guarantee of playing time upon the athlete's return from suspension.
- b. Second Offense: An athlete involved in a second offense will be suspended from athletic participation for one calendar year.

H. Student-Athlete Conduct in School

Student-athletes are expected to adhere to all school rules and regulations. Failure to comply with school and individual classroom rules may result in disciplinary action by the athletic department, coach or building administration.

I. Suspension From School

Athletes suspended from school are not permitted to attend practices or games at any facility, home or away, during the period of their suspension.

J. Team Travel

Athletes must travel to and from contests away from Linden in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions to this rule are:

1. Injury to the participant which requires alternative transportation.
2. Prior written arrangement between the parents, coach and the athletic director at least 24 hours prior to the contest.

Matters of convenience are not considered acceptable reason for granting waiver to the district policy. Repeated disregard to this policy may result in disciplinary action against the student athlete.

Under no circumstances will students be permitted to drive themselves to or from a contest or ride with anyone other than their parent or guardian. (High School).

Parents/Guardians must understand that their signature on a release form waives their child's coverage through school district and MHSAA insurance plans.

K. School Attendance on Day of Contest

Students must be in school the day of a contest in order to participate in that contest. Prior arrangement must be made with the athletic director if a student must be absent any part of the day of a contest before the player is permitted to participate.

The high school process will begin the second week of each marking period. Transfer students will be allowed a one week grace period before their eligibility will be monitored on a weekly basis. Appeals of the academic policy will take place as follows:

Level One Hearing

A student who wishes to appeal their eligibility must make their request to the athletic director before 12:00 p.m. (noon) Friday. The assistant principal or the athletic director will hear the appeal the day of ineligibility. The basis for granting eligibility is the existence of clearly established extenuating circumstances.

Level Two Hearing

A student who is not satisfied with the decision of the Level One Hearing may appeal the decision to the building principal. The student will be permitted to continue process in extra-curricular activities during the appeals. The appeal will take place on the following Monday and decisions of the building principal in matters of athletic eligibility shall be final.

H. Amateur Status

Student-athletes cannot have received money or other valuable considerations from any source for participation in athletics, received money or valuable considerations for officiating interscholastic athletic contests, or signed a professional contract.

I. Outside Athletic Competition

A student-athlete cannot participate in any athletic team competition in the same sport during the same season or cannot participate in a post-season all-star charity or exhibition game in football, basketball, or ice hockey at any time.

F. Physical Examinations

A student-athlete must have a current physical on file in the athletic office prior to competing in any athletic practice or contest. There are no exceptions to this rule. Physical examinations for athletics shall be the responsibility of the parents and must be signed by a medical doctor after April 15th of the current school year.

G. Academic Eligibility

The Linden Community Schools take great pride in emphasizing the academic accomplishments of the students in our schools. The student-athletes must meet minimum requirements in order to participate in athletics.

To be eligible to participate in athletics a student must have earned passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes during the previous semester. Students entering the middle school from elementary school or the high school from the middle school are immediately eligible for their first semester of school in that building.

Eligibility will be checked weekly for all students involved in extracurricular activities. Grades for weekly eligibility will be determined as if the current grading period were to end the day of the contest. Students who are receiving a non-passing grade for the first time will receive one week of probationary status. Students who have two or more non-passing grades or two consecutive weeks of one non-passing grade will be notified of their ineligibility no later than Friday of that week by the coach. Students will be ineligible for participation from Sunday to Saturday of the following week.

Students are expected to attend mandatory practices and team meetings, but will not be permitted to dress, sit or travel with the team during contests.

The middle school start of the eligibility period will begin 7 days prior to a team's season. Grade accountability will be counted two weeks prior to a contest. An athlete has one probationary week to improve grades to a passing status. Students with an IEP must be meeting the requirements of their IEP in order to participate.

L. Attendance at Mandatory Practices

Unexcused absence or tardiness to practice will be handled by the coach of each sport and could result in suspension or in persistent cases, dismissal from the team. **A student must be in attendance at school for a minimum of 3 hours to participate in a practice.**

M. Sunday/Holiday Practices

Sundays should remain a day free of student activities. Athletic teams will not practice on Sunday unless they have a Monday contest. If a practice must be held on Sunday, practice cannot be considered mandatory.

When practices are scheduled during holiday/vacation periods students must prearrange in writing with the coach if they will not be in attendance. Games scheduled over these time periods are considered part of the regular season and arrangements must be made with coaches if a student must miss participation during this time.

N. Practices on Inclement Weather Days

At no time will the Linden Community Schools demand that an athlete place their safety or the safety of anyone else in jeopardy. Practice sessions will not be held on days that school has been cancelled because of inclement weather unless the athletic director has given clearance. If practice is allowed, it will be considered non-mandatory.

O. Participation in More Than One Sport

Once an athlete has started practicing in a sport, they may not change to another sport during that season without permission from the athletic director and both coaches. If an athlete is cut from a team in one sport, they are able to try out for a team in another sport.

A student may not participate in more than one sport in the same sports season without prior approval of the athletic director. The student must devise a plan of participation and receive the written approval of both coaches involved prior to the start of the season. The student must also declare one sport their primary sport and participate in all contests and mandatory practices of that sport unless the coach of that sport has granted prior approval. If a student fails to uphold their agreement as laid out in their written plan, they will be required to drop their second sport.

In the event that there are overlapping seasons, a student must complete their obligation to the prior sports season before beginning the next season. Under no circumstances will any student be forced to try-out for a team until their current season has ended.

P. Fundraising

Fundraising by individual athletic teams is **PROHIBITED** in the Linden Community School District. Students will not be asked to sell individual items under any circumstance. Persons interested in fund-raising should contact the Athletic Director.

Q. Cell Phones

Cell phones are to be used for emergencies only. Cell phone use is prohibited in all locker room areas. Failure to abide will result in the confiscation of phone and possible disciplinary action by the coach, Athletic Director, and/or Principal.

R. School Equipment

It is the responsibility of the student athlete to return all school issued equipment to the appropriate coach at the end of the season. Equipment will not be accepted in the athletic office or the main office. Equipment should be returned clean and any needed repairs noted at the time of return. Any lost, stolen, damaged or non-returned equipment and uniforms are the financial responsibility of the student. They will not be permitted to participate in any other extra-curricular activity until equipment is returned or reimbursement is made.

Section II

Eligibility for Participants

A. Enrollment

A student must be enrolled in the Linden Community School District by the Monday of the fourth week of the semester in order to participate in competition. The student must also live in the home of the parent or guardian with whom they lived during the previous school year. Exceptions to this rule are outlined in the Bylaws of the MHSAA.

B. Transfer Students

Students must have moved to a new school district accompanied by the person with whom they were previously living or must have transferred for equally valid reasons. Check with the athletic director under all conditions.

C. Age (High School)

A student who competes in any high school interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age. If a high school student becomes nineteen on or after September 1st of a current school year, he/she is eligible for participation for the balance of that school year. Senior high students must be under 19 years of age, 8th graders under 15, and 7th graders under 14, unless that birthday occurs on or after Sept. 1 of the current school year, in which case they are eligible throughout the school year.

D. Semesters of Eligibility (High School)

A student who has been enrolled in grades 9-12 for more than eight semesters shall not compete in any athletic practice or contest.

E. Seasons of Competition (High School)

A student may not participate in more than four (4) first semesters and four (4) second semesters of competition.