

Athletic Handbook



Lee Academy

2023-2024

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INTRODUCTION

Athletics plays a vital role at Lee Academy and is the largest extracurricular opportunity afforded to our students. Our athletic program has had and still has an enormous amount of supporters. Our teams have experienced a great deal of success over the years and much of that credit must be given to the fans who have supported them, win or lose. Much credit also goes out to our athletes and coaches who work so hard to prepare for their successful seasons. The tremendous impact our coaches have on our students encourages them to become not only more successful athletes, but even more successful students.

David Rankin, Athletic Director

2023/24 Lee Athletic Department Staff

Head of School - Brad Bochette

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PHILOSOPHY & MISSION

Our athletic department is no more than an extension of the school's philosophy and mission, which is to partner with families to work toward the full development of every student's full potential mentally, morally, socially, and physically. Athletics plays a vital role in this development process and should help in the preparation of each athlete as they grow toward becoming responsible citizens. In addition, athletics should contribute to a wholesome atmosphere of safety, fairness, ethics, respect, and fellowship.

So many life lessons are learned on the field and on the court. Lee Academy athletics strives to teach all of our athletes to play the game the right way...with class, courage, and the will to win. Through athletics, Lee Academy tries to instill values and beliefs in these athletes using the "All About The C" motto below. Each of these terms are referred to and utilized very often during practices and games.

"ALL ABOUT THE "C"

CHRIST

CHARACTER

CHAMPION

CLASS

COURAGE

CONFIDENCE

COMPOSURE

CONTROLLABLES

COMPETE

COMMUNICATE

COMPASSION

LEE ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY POLICIES

Elementary School Eligibility Guidelines (1st-5th grades)

1. Students in elementary may sign up for elementary sports. 1st-2nd grade flag football/cheer, 3rd-5th grade tackle football/cheer and 1st-5th basketball are all offered based on student interest and availability of quality coaches. Students will be taught the basic skills.
2. Parents will be notified of a sign-up date, through emails, text alerts, and school announcements.
3. Students who play on a team must return all required forms prior to participation.
5. All elementary teams will abide by Lee Athletic policy.
6. Elementary Sports will be governed by SCISA as well as Lee Athletic Policy. An athletic physical will be required prior to participation in Elementary Tackle Football.

Middle School Eligibility Guidelines (5th - 8th grade)

1. Students in middle school may sign up for middle school sports. Middle School sports are all offered based on student interest and availability of quality coaches. Students will be taught the basic skills and compete against other schools.
2. All middle school teams abide by SCISA and Lee Athletic policies.
3. Students may not fail more than one course in order to be eligible to participate in athletics.

This supersedes the SCISA Blue Book..

4. To be eligible for a sporting event or school related activity sponsored by Lee Academy, students must attend at least three (3) academic periods of the school day.

High School Eligibility Guidelines (9th-12th grade)

1. High School students have the opportunity to participate in JV and/or Varsity sports under the eligibility policies outlined in the Lee Academy Athletic Handbook and SCISA regulations.
 2. All required Lee Athletics and SCISA forms must be submitted for a student to be able to participate in the first practice of the season. A student must have a physical before he/she will be allowed to practice with a team.
 3. To be eligible for a sporting event or school related activity sponsored by Lee Academy, students must attend three (3) classes the day of the event/practice. If the student is absent because of a contagious illness or disease, parents are asked to notify the office as soon as possible.
 4. Students may not fail more than one course in order to be eligible to participate in athletics.
- #### **This supersedes the SCISA Blue Book..**
5. On occasion, a 6th-8th grader may participate in a Varsity sport, based on need or the sport.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

1. A student who enrolls and then transfers must wait sixty days before establishing eligibility on another SCISA team.
2. A student who transfers from a non-SCISA school is exempt from the sixty-day rule if other requirements are met. (See SCISA Blue Book- Page 9)
3. Students in 7th-12th grade who enroll after the first day of class will be eligible to participate on an athletic team if enrolled prior to the SCISA September cutoff date for fall sports (**September 21st**) and prior to the SCISA January cutoff date (**January 8th or at the end of the transfer's first semester**) for winter sports. If approved, a transfer must participate in ten days of practice before being allowed to participate in a game.
4. Placement of the student on a team will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and coaches of the teams in question.
5. No student will participate in two games of the same sport on the same day unless the contests are doubleheaders in volleyball, baseball, or softball.
6. Basketball: A student's name must be listed in the scorebook for at least one-half of all JV Basketball games scheduled to be eligible to participate in the JV Region Tournament.
Exception: a player who becomes eligible or returns from injury after the start of the basketball season.
7. A student is eligible to participate in the JV/B-Team Tournament or Varsity Tournament, not both.
8. A student may participate in only one football game each calendar week. Exception: SCISA may grant an exception based upon a weather or health related postponement of a contest.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PRACTICES AND GAMES

Lee Academy will make every effort to give a sports schedule to each athlete for each sport in time to allow them to make plans that will not conflict with the practice/game schedule. Each athlete will have a chance to earn a position on the team based on his/her skill in the sport, proper attendance, attitude towards the players and the coach and work ethic. The coaching staff will determine the position an athlete will have on a team based on what is best for the whole team.

1. A student may miss practice due to an illness provided that the student has a note from either a parent or a doctor.
2. An athlete may miss a practice if there is a family illness (with a written excuse) or a death in the family.
3. An athlete may not miss a practice in order to attend a social event hosted by an outside entity. The Head Coach must approve missing a practice due to another school event.
4. A student athlete that exhibits a pattern of missing practice time will be subject to discipline from the Head Coach which may include extra conditioning, suspension from part or all of a game and possible dismissal from the team. (Exceptions to this policy will obviously be made in the event of extenuating circumstances.)
5. Lee Athletics take priority over any and all outside athletic teams. Athletes are expected to attend all games for their entirety. Missing practice time for any outside of school activities must be addressed with the Head Coach.
6. Student-Athletes returning from an away athletic event after 11:00 pm, will be excused (SE) from first period the following morning. The coach or Athletic Director must email faculty and/or the school secretary prior to the first period.
7. A student-athlete may only be a member of one Lee Athletic team per season.

Exception 1 : Sporting Clays – a student can join the Sporting Clays Team but will not be permitted to miss practice time from another sport to attend Sporting Clays practice.

Exception 2: Cheerleading - requests for other exceptions may be made through the Athletic Director.

Exception 3: Track - a student can join the Track Team but will not be permitted to miss practice time from another sport to attend Track practice unless approved by the Athletic Director or the Head Coach.

8. If a student quits a team once a season has started, he/she will not be permitted to begin practicing or conditioning with another team until the season of the team in which he/she quit has completed. Further action can be taken of the Athletic Director and the Head of School.

SCISA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

- A student wishing to participate in SCISA athletics in grades 9-12 must take and pass at least four (4) one unit CORE Courses, or any five (5) one unit courses, each grading period to maintain academic eligibility.

- Students below the 9th grade must pass four (4) subjects each grading period/semester to maintain academic eligibility.

- A senior who has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation must pass four (4) one-credit courses each marking period/semester.

- Courses taken during the school year by the “Home School” method are not eligible for athletic eligibility determination. “Virtual school” or online courses used for athletic eligibility will be considered on a case by case basis and must receive prior approval by SCISA.

- Any student who did not receive credit for at least one-half of all courses taken the previous school year cannot be declared eligible until after the successful completion of the 1st semester. A maximum of Two Credits earned during summer sessions may be accepted from an accredited school with an established summer school program.

- A student may use college credit courses for eligibility purposes provided the student has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation.

- A One Credit Course is a course taken for 36 weeks, one period each day for a minimum of 45 minutes. A course taken each day as above for 18 weeks would be a half credit which when combined with another half credit course would be the equivalent of a one credit course. A course taken for 36 weeks but only three, 45 minute periods each week would not be a one credit course. Note: A One Credit Course taken for 18 weeks shall meet for one period each day for a minimum of 90 minutes. Dual Credit Courses are treated as one half of a Carnegie unit.

- Core Courses: Those courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Computer Science (1), Fine Arts (1), and Foreign Language that are recommended by the Commission on Higher Education and are common to SCISA schools.

- Eligibility is to be declared on the fourth (4th) school day after the end of the marking period. A student shall become eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on the fourth school day after the end of the marking period. Example 1: The marking period ends on Friday. Student X becomes eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on Thursday. Example 2: The marking period ends on a Monday, and Tuesday is a holiday for students. Student Y becomes eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on the following Monday.

- New students/Transfer students from block scheduling system. Students coming from a block academic schedule system must have maintained good academic standing throughout both semesters of continuous academic work. (Example: a student who earned 4 units for the first

semester but withdrew/dropped-out 2nd semester shall be declared ineligible.)

- An ineligible player is not allowed to participate against another school in any competition whether practice sessions, scrimmages, jamborees, or scheduled game (SCISA or out-of-league games). An academically ineligible player may not take part in any practice sessions.

*Any changes to the SCISA Academic Eligibility Requirements that are not reflected in the Lee Academy Handbook will be enforced as written in the SCISA Blue Book. (The Blue Book can be referenced online at www.scisa.org.)

DISCIPLINE

Lee Athletics abides by the SCISA Code of Conduct. This can be found on page 15 of the 2023-2024 SCISA Blue Book. All athletes are expected to abide by the Lee Academy Code of Conduct, which is on page 24 of the Lee Academy Family Handbook.

SAFE AND RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT

As an educational institution, Lee Academy desires to educate students in a safe and productive environment. Therefore, bullying, harassing, or hazing of any kind will not be tolerated. Please refer to the Family Handbook (Page 18) for more specifics on how Lee Academy defines behaviors that can be classified as bullying, harassing or hazing. (This would also include cyber-bullying.) In addition to school discipline, if an incident occurs during the context of an athletic event (practice, pre-game, game, travel, etc.) an athletic penalty will be incurred (such as suspension, dismissal from team) in addition to the school discipline.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

1. All items, uniforms, and equipment are the property of Lee Academy unless purchased by the coach, parent or student athlete.
2. Uniforms must be turned into the coach or school office at the end of the season.
3. The student is responsible for their uniform. Uniforms not turned in at the season will be charged to the students account.
4. All uniforms or T-shirts must be approved by the Athletic Director prior to ordering.

LOCKER ROOMS AND LOCKERS

1. Students involved in athletics will have use of a locker room.
2. The school is not responsible for stolen items.
3. Lockers may not display materials that promote illegal substances or alcohol, immodest pictures, music with obscenities, slogans or symbols that have double meanings, slogans or symbols that would offend, or media promotion for video games, movies or TV programs that do not support Lee Academy principles.
4. Lockers/Locker rooms are the property of Lee Academy and reserve the right to search a student's locker at any time.

RECOGNITION (Awards)

1. The procurement and presentation of awards to coaches and players is the responsibility of the Lee Athletic Department. Parents desiring to bestow special recognition or honor upon coaches must contact the Athletic Director prior to recognition.
2. All JV and Varsity players will be recognized with a certificate of participation.
3. All Varsity athletes will be recognized with a letter, emblem, or bar depending on their years of participation.
4. Each JV team will receive 2 awards per team per season.
5. Each Varsity team will receive awards based on what the Head Coach of each individual would like to present.

DRESS CODE

1. Practice – Athletes may wear loose fitting t-shirts and loose fitting shorts. Athletic shoes should be worn. Sports bras may not be worn as a uniform top during practice/conditioning or at any time during athletic events. In volleyball, girls are permitted to wear spandex in the gym only. If outside the gym, cover up shorts must be worn.
2. Game Day – At the coach’s discretion athletes may be permitted to wear their uniforms to school for game day.
3. Athletic Ceremonies –
Boys – Dress pants and a dress-collared shirt, tucked in with a belt. No hats or sunglasses will be permitted.
Girls – Skirts/blouse dresses, dress pants or Capri dress pants are permitted, but the capris must be mid-calf in length. No hats, sunglasses, jean skirts, shorts, cargo pants or athletic pants will be permitted. Dresses and skirts must meet school dress code.
4. A student not in dress code will not be allowed to participate in practice or ceremonies until acceptable changes are made.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

As athletic issues arise, it is important to understand the appropriate chain of command. For issues related to athletes, parents, or coaches, the coach should make every effort to resolve those issues personally. The next line of command would be the Head Coach of the specific sport. The Athletic Director followed by the Head of School would be the final links in the chain.

FAN CONDUCT

SCISA CODE OF CONDUCT

All coaches, athletes, and fans must adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Section 1: Athletes, coaches, and fans shall at all times conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanlike manner, reflecting full and true credit to the school they represent.

Section 2: An athlete, coach, or fan will be in violation of Section I upon violation of one or more of the following:

1. By making any degrading remark about any official, coach, or athlete during or after any game, either on or off the field/floor of play. (This would include social media.)
2. By arguing with an official (or officials) or displaying motions indicating dislike or disdain for a decision.
3. By using foul, abusive, or profane language at any time.
4. By making any degrading remarks or criticism of any official, coach, athlete, or school to any news media.
5. By hitting, shoving, or striking any official, coach, athlete, or fan at any time (or attempting to do so).
6. By being ejected from any contest.
7. The use and display for alcoholic beverages, tobacco (including smokeless types) or controlled substances is strictly prohibited at any SCISA event.
8. By detaining an official following a contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official.

SCISA may impose a warning, probation, suspension, or fine on any school, coach, or athlete for violating the code of conduct.

Lee Academy will ask fans to follow the SCISA guidelines and adhere to the SCISA Code of Conduct (see above) as it applies to fan participation whether the game is played at Lee Academy or at another school. Lee Academy strives to provide an environment that is free of offensive behavior. Lee Academy is intolerant of any action or comment that would reflect prejudice toward another person. Conduct, whether intentional or unintentional, that subjects another person to unwanted attention or to comments or actions because of race, national origin, age, gender, physical characteristics or disability, robs the person of dignity and is not permitted. Lee Academy does not condone or allow harassment of others whether engaged by students, staff or family members.

COACHES

The coaches at Lee Academy are distinguished by their character, by their athletic excellence, and by their dedication to the students. It is and shall be the policy of Lee Academy, in the hiring of coaches, not to discriminate on the basis of the applicant's race, color, gender, or national or ethnic origin.

A coach of Lee Academy must:

1. Maintain an excellent example in all areas of his/her life according to the same expectations set forth for a Lee faculty member.
2. Treat all athletes, parents, officials, opponents and fellow coaches in a respectful manner.
3. Promote a culture of sportsmanship within the program and model that at all times before players and fans.
4. Be in agreement with the mission, vision, and core values of the Academy.
5. Support decisions made by the Athletic Director, Administration and Board of Trustees.
6. Communicate all injuries to the Athletic Director and the Athletic Trainer. The appropriate form must be completed and given to the Athletic Director for any injury causing missed practice or game time.
7. Obtain all all certifications required by SCISA and Lee Academy.

TRANSPORTATION

Policy for Travel to Away Games

1. The head coach is responsible for arranging travel to and from away games.
2. Athletes and other students associated with a team (managers, statisticians, videographers, etc.) are the only students who will be permitted to ride the bus with the team.
3. The school bus must be reserved through the athletic secretary.
4. The AD reserves the right to make transportation decisions in unusual circumstances.
5. Sporting Clay participants will be transported to their events by their own parents.

Website

Additional information regarding the Athletic Department is available at www.leeacademy.org under the athletic tab. Here you can find information such as schedules, sports physical forms, etc.

Due to the changing nature of athletics, this Handbook will be revised yearly. Thus, the information, policies and procedures herein are valid only for the 2023/24 school year.