

## Parent-Coach Communication

### Expectations of LCS Athletes

- Follow team rules, school, and athletic codes.
- Make and keep commitments.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Be coachable.
- Always give 100% in all that you attempt.



### Expectations of LCS Parents

- **Be Responsible**-Read, understand, discuss, and monitor the Athletic Code of Conduct.
- **Be Supportive**-Reinforce the lessons taught by the coaching staff.
- **Be Accountable**-Attend required meetings.
- **Be Positive**-Encourage athletes, coaches, and staff in good times and bad.
- **Be Involved**-Attend games and meetings, and join the LCS Varsity Club.

### Expectations of LCS Coaches

- **Sportsmanship**-Promote and teach good sportsmanship.
- **Communicate**-Communicate with athletes and parents.
- **Teacher**-Fundamentals and skills of the game help athletes establish goals for performance improvement.
- **Support**-Encourage athletes to strive for greatness in all that they attempt.
- **Leader**-Teach athletes how to deal with success and failure by example.
- **Enthusiasm**-Motivate through support and a positive attitude.

## **LCS Athletic Code of Ethics**

### **LCS Student-Athletes/Participants will:**

- Treat competitors, teammates, coaches, officials, and fans with courtesy and respect.
- Continually strive to improve and excel in the classroom and athletic competitions.
- Represent their team, school, and coach positively and responsibly.
- Maintain a healthy and productive lifestyle and refrain from using controlled substances, alcohol, and tobacco products.
- Model and exhibit the principles of good sportsmanship in all contests and practices.

### **LCS Coaches will:**

- Impart to their athletes is a desire to win and respect for the game.
- Teach their athletes to succeed with humility and deal with adversity and dignity.
- Model integrity in all interactions with athletes, officials, peers, and spectators.
- Exhibit the same positive behaviors and attitudes that they expect from their athletes.
- Keep the physical and emotional well-being of all athletes foremost in their minds in all decisions and actions.

### **LCS Spectators will:**

- Conduct yourself in a manner that brings pride to our school.
- Show support and encouragement for players and coaches in the form of positive and constructive comments.

## **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Parenting and coaching are both extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of each other and provide greater benefit to the student-athletes of Lyme Central School. As parents, when your student-athlete becomes involved in our athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the head coach of your athlete's team.

### **Forms of communication you should expect from the coach:**

- Philosophy of the coach and program.
- Expectations the coach has for your athlete and their team.
- Location and times of all practices and contests.
- Team requirements; i.e forms, fees, and special equipment, off-season expectations.
- Procedures that will be taken if your athlete is injured during a practice or contest.
- Discipline that may result in the denial of your athlete's participation.

### **Forms of communication coaches expect from parents:**

- Concerns are being expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns regarding the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your student-athlete becomes involved in the athletic program at LCS, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when your athlete is faced with adversity. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged, whether the adversity is athletic or personal reasons.

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**

1. The treatment of your athlete mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your athlete improve their fundamental skills.
3. Concerns about your athlete's behavior.
4. College scholarship opportunities or options.

It is extremely difficult to accept your athlete not playing as much as you may hope or think. Coaches are professionals who must place the interests of the team as a whole over the interests of the individual. When making decisions, our coaches must decide what they believe is best for the team. As you can see from the list above, certain issues can be and should be discussed with your athlete's coach. Other issues, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach and their staff.

### **Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:**

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

Some situations may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These meetings are to be encouraged. Both the coach and the parent must have a clear understanding of the other's position regarding the situation. When these conferences are necessary the following procedure should be followed **AT ALL TIMES** to help promote an agreed resolution to the situation.

**IF YOU HAVE AN ISSUE TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, PLEASE FOLLOW THIS  
PROCEDURE:**

1. Call the school at 315-649-2417 to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, please leave a message for the coach with the athletic director.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach on the day of a contest.

**The next step**

**What are the rights of the parent if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?**

1. Call the school and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Research indicated that a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance of success during adulthood; therefore, these programs have been established by the Lyme Central School District. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant in athletics are the same traits of those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this pamphlet helps to make you and your athletes and your experience with the LCS Athletic Program less stressful and more enjoyable.

**Superintendent-Ms. Patricia Gibbons**

**Principal/Athletic Director-Mr. Christopher Marshall**

**Curriculum and Data Coordidnator-Mrs. Deborah Wilkinson**