

Lubbock Homeschool Christian Athletic Association Policy Handbook

Mission:

To God's glory and as ambassadors for Christ, out of love for our children, we desire to organize Homeschool athletics in order to promote Godly character, excellence, and witness; and to provide the South Plains area Homeschool athletics an association with structure for accountability, direction and communication, so athletics for homeschoolers can grow and thrive in a positive way.

Purpose:

Lubbock Homeschool Christian Athletic Association (LHCAA) was organized by families of homeschooled children to provide athletic opportunities for their children. We are a Christian, membership organization that provides assistance in organization, fund raising, and communication. By virtue of participation in LHCAA activities, students and their families voluntarily accept the behavior standards set forth in the LHCAA handbook. In addition, each sport under the LHCAA umbrella has the freedom to implement additional standards or policies that are relevant to their sport. Because we compete in a variety of venues, it is sometimes necessary for one sport to have a policy unique to their sport. The handbook provides the broad policies of our organization or minimum standards that all activities (or sports) are conducted. When necessary, additional policies may be adopted by each sport to provide additional guidance, clarity or to meet venue specific rules. *AT NO TIME* should a sport adopt a policy that is in direct violation or contradiction to the policies set forth in this handbook.

Statement of Faith:

LHCAA is a Christian organization. Our coaches are Christians and instruct from a Christian viewpoint. While we do not require parents to agree with our statement of faith, they must read it and sign that they have read and understand it.

- We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God without error and the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man. The Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).
- We believe that there is only one infinite God manifested in a triune Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin birth, lived a sinless life as fully God and fully man, died and shed his blood on a cross, and was resurrected for our atonement and resurrection.
- We believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to convict the world of sin, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- We believe that each person has an eternal soul – the believer in Christ Jesus to an everlasting dwelling with God and the unbeliever to an everlasting conscious hell without God.
- While we do not represent any one denomination, we do hold that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

Competition:

LHCAA offers primarily competitive sports. Due to the competitive nature of LHCAA, teams will be chosen to compete well against public, private, and other homeschool teams. Individual playing time is not guaranteed for any player. Playing time will depend on a player's effort, practice time, positive attitude, team player mentality, sportsmanship, and skill level. When appropriate, LHCAA offers sports in an academy style. The academy style is used to introduce young players to a sport focusing on basic skills and concepts needed to play the sport. It is important to note that we do not offer recreational athletics.

Athlete Eligibility:

This league is open to students who are home educated. Students are eligible even if their home education is supplemented with classes from private or public schools. Both parents will be required to sign a document stating that their child is 51% home educated. Students attending private or public schools full-time are not eligible for LHCAA athletics. Students are **NOT** eligible to play with LHCAA if they participate in competitive sports with another educational organization during the same academic year (Sept 1 through August 31st). Exceptions for transfer students and unique situations will be dealt with, by the board, on a case by case basis.

- **Age-based restrictions**
 - Students age 10 as of September 1 through age 14 as of September 1 may play in LHCAA junior high athletics.
 - Students age 15 as of September 1 through age 18 as of September 1 may play in LHCAA high school athletics.
 - Any student age 19 by September 1 shall not be eligible to play in LHCAA athletics. Once a student has graduated or gone through a graduation ceremony will no longer qualify to play in LHCAA athletics regardless of their age.
- **Transfers**
 - Students, who have been removed from a public or private school will not be allowed to play on an LHCAA team without first having an interview with the coach, parent and student. Any such transfer will be on a probationary period for the first season.
- **Fees**

- Fees are due according to the deadline of each individual sport. Players may not participate in a sport for which they have not paid their fee.
- Fees are non-refundable.
- Other fees may include uniforms, referees, rental for gym or other facility, accrued costs for nationals, etc.
- We do welcome and accept donations to cover expenses. All donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. We also welcome fundraiser activities and appreciate parents' help organizing in this area.

Conduct:

The parents are completely responsible for their child/children at all LHCAA events. You are the parent of your child (children) and are responsible for their actions at all times, whether or not you are present. Children are to show respectful obedience to coaches and LHCAA volunteers. Parents, please realize that your child's coach is the only one that should be coaching the team. It is important that respect be shown for coaching decisions and judgments. When students are left without supervision during any LHCAA activity, we must have a reliable phone number to reach a parent in case of an emergency. It is the parent's responsibility to inform coaches when their child will be absent from any scheduled event.

We believe that it is possible to have healthy social interaction and mature Christian relationships. For the protection of our families, our Christian fellowship, and our testimony within the community, it is vital that we conduct ourselves with godliness at all times and adhere to moral purity. We ask that at all LHCAA activities the behavior between the opposite sex be above reproach by avoiding the appearance of wrong-doing. In addition, all students should dress in a manner that demonstrates personal restraint. Clothing should be appropriate to the sport that is being played. At no time should under garments be visible. Each Coach (or Board member) has the right to make final determination of what is considered satisfactory conduct.

Conflict Resolution:

All participants are expected and encouraged to exercise personal self discipline, restraint and genuine kindness toward others. In dealing with any offense that may arise, it is the desire of our organization that the Biblical approach to discipline be applied as found in Matthew 18:15-17. We recommend that problems get solved between the parties of disagreement. If that is unsuccessful, the involvement of your coach or athletic director should be the next attempt at resolution. The final step of resolution is the LHCAA board of directors and/or mediation.

Disciplinary Action:

A time may arise that coaches may need to take disciplinary action with individual players or the team. Each coach has the authority to take the appropriate disciplinary action in those situations. The Discipline may include but are not limited to:

- Loss of playing time
- Additional workout
- Probation (Loss of Privileges)
- Fines – cost to repair or replace property damaged by individual
- Suspension – removal from the organization with opportunity to return after a specific period
- Dismissal – the last resort and means of permanent removal from the program. A dismissed individual may not be present

in any LHCAA activities without the permission of the Board. Dismissal may only be levied by the board of directors.

Should a parent or adult guardian have issue with the disciplinary measures taken, they may appeal a disciplinary action to the Athletic Director. If necessary, the athletic director may solicit the board's advice for problem resolution. The Board has the final authority in all disciplinary actions.

Organizational Structure:

LHCAA is a Texas Corporation and maintains a tax-exempt status recognized by the State of Texas and the Internal Revenue Service. Our organization can accept and encourages tax deductible gifts from individuals and businesses. LHCAA is a membership organization. There are two classes of members:

- Regular Member – families with a child enrolled in an LHCAA sanctioned sport.
- Sustaining Member – families that are a member of LHCAA but they do not have a child enrolled in an LHCAA sanctioned sport.

The board of directors governs LHCAA based on the organizational bylaws. Eleven board members are elected by the members of LHCAA. Each member family is entitled to one vote per family.

Ultimately, the success of our organization is dependent on the cooperative effort of our members. Please pray and put feet to your prayers so we may meet the needs of Homeschool families in our community.