

JMCSS

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



LIBERTY TECHNOLOGY MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

Athletic Mission Statement

The mission of the Athletic Department at Liberty Technology Magnet High School is to promote a successful and well-respected athletic program that strives for excellence and character development while achieving our full potential in shaping leaders.

Athletic Philosophy

Liberty Technology Magnet High School Athletics promotes a lifestyle of character, discipline, excellence, integrity, hard work, and leadership. Athletics provide an inherent opportunity to learn life lessons as well as character and skill development. These fundamental opportunities will help our student-athletes reach their full potential in striving for excellence. The Liberty Technology Magnet High School Athletic Department desires to provide student-athletes with opportunities to compete at a high level and represent our community with pride and tradition.

Sportsmanship Beliefs of Liberty Athletics

Liberty believes good sportsmanship is an integral part of interscholastic competition. For good sportsmanship to prevail, coaches, students, athletes, and fans must display respect, fairness, honesty, and responsibility before, during, and after all athletic contests. We encourage the enthusiastic support of all student-athletes and teams while exhibiting good sportsmanship in words and actions.

Responsibility of a Coach at Liberty Technology Magnet High School

- To exhibit a public demeanor that reflects positively on the school.
- To fully support Liberty's mission statement.
- To know and abide by all Liberty general school and athletic policies.
- To support the overall Athletic Program, including coaches of other sports and the encouragement of student-athletes to participate in multiple sports if so desired. No student-athlete shall be encouraged by any Liberty athletic coach to participate in one specific sport over another.
- To ensure the safety and welfare of the student-athlete. Coaches will champion aggressive play that is always fair and ethical with a fundamental emphasis on good sportsmanship.
- To be knowledgeable in their sport, dedicated to preparation, and committed to motivating student-athletes to optimum performance.
- To responsibly use and care for school-owned equipment associated with their sport.
- To know and abide by all Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) rules.
- To use only official school colors and logos when ordering uniforms and/or practice gear.
- To report to the Athletic Director.
- The Athletic Director holds Liberty coaches accountable through a clearly articulated set of expectations and a yearly detailed evaluative process. All Liberty coaches are committed to supporting the school mission and the philosophy of the Athletic Department.

Responsibility of a Parent at Liberty Technology Magnet High School

- Create a positive atmosphere of support for teams. Please refrain from "bleacher gossip" that would not serve as encouragement to other student-athletes.

- Refrain from being derogatory or abusive toward all coaches, officials, and players.
- Ensure that student-athletes arrive to practice on time and are picked up on time.
- Encourage student-athletes to balance time commitments to both team and schoolwork.
- Schedule family vacations outside of athletic commitments as much as possible.
- Guide student-athletes in both winning and losing with grace and poise.
- If capable, assist in the financial support for team extras.

Responsibilities of a Student-Athlete at Liberty Technology Magnet High School

- Participation is an honor and a privilege. Work hard.
- Always conduct yourself in a way that positively represents our team and school.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Demonstrate loyalty to teammates and coaches.
- Be coachable. Respect and accept the decisions of the coaching staff. Accept constructive criticism.
- Balance responsibilities to team, schoolwork, and family.
- Be committed to academic excellence.
- Encourage teammates to excel.
- Put the team before self.
- Refrain from drugs/alcohol/tobacco to strive for peak physical condition.
- Arrive at practice on time.

LIBERTY SPORTS

Fall Sports:

Girls' Volleyball
Cheerleading
Football
Girls' Cross Country
Boys' Cross Country
Girls' Soccer
Boys' Golf
Girls' Golf

Winter Sports:

Boys' Basketball
Girls' Basketball
Cheerleading

Spring Sports:

Baseball
Girls' Softball
Boys' Tennis
Girls' Tennis
Boys' Track & Field
Girls' Track & Field
Boys' Soccer

Affiliations

Liberty Technology Magnet High School is a Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) member for all varsity sports. As such, we agree to abide by their policies and by-laws in addition to our own. All sports will follow the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules.

TSSAA Eligibility Requirements

A summary of TSSAA Eligibility Rules is provided below for your information. All coaches are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following these rules. Without strict compliance, the student-athlete's standing and the athletic program at Liberty Technology Magnet High School could be in jeopardy. If you are unsure about your status relative to one of these rules, please contact the Athletic Director.

TSSAA By-Laws (Eligibility)

1. A student must earn **five credits** the preceding school year if less than 24 units are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year.
2. A student must be enrolled before the **20th school day of the semester**, in **regular attendance**, and carrying at least **five full courses** during the present semester.
3. A student is permitted **eight** semesters of eligibility, beginning with the ninth grade.
4. A student shall be ineligible in high school if he or she becomes **19 years of age** on or before August 1st.
5. Athletes must live **at home** with their parents.
6. In order for a transfer student with an athletic record to be eligible at another school, there must be a **bona fide change of residence** by the athlete's parents.
7. All transfer students must be **approved** by the Executive Director of TSSAA before participating in any game.
8. A student who engages in **three or more days of practice** (including spring practice) with a high school in which he or she is enrolled shall be ineligible in that sport for 12 months if the student enrolls in another school without a corresponding change in the residence of his or her parents.
9. A student whose name is listed on the **school eligibility report** cannot participate in an independent game or meet until the season has closed in that particular sport. This does **not** include golf, tennis, or bowling.
10. A registered athlete cannot accept any **money** for athletic skills in any TSSAA-sponsored sport.
11. When an athlete is charged **tuition** to attend a school, it must be paid by the parent or bona fide guardian or other family member.
12. A student may not participate in an **all-star game** unless it is sanctioned by the TSSAA and unless he/she has completed high school eligibility in that sport.

13. An athlete **may accept** a medal, trophy, high school letter, sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer, or blanket for any athletic participation but nothing else of commercial value, and these awards must carry the school's letter or other appropriate award emblem.
14. All expenses to an **athletic camp** where specific instruction is offered must be paid by the athlete or his parents.

JMCSS Academic Eligibility Requirements

The athletic program is not a reward for good behavior or academic success. It is an extension of a well-rounded educational process, playing an integral role in shaping the total person. Teamwork, commitment, sacrifice, work ethic, and sportsmanship are but a few of the many intrinsic values that can be learned and reinforced on the field, court, or track of the competition. All students are encouraged to participate in as many sports as their ability will allow. Athletics and academics should not conflict but complement.

School Attendance

Student-athletes must follow the school's attendance policy. Athletic eligibility may be in jeopardy if a student-athlete does not meet the JMCSS attendance requirements.

Suspensions/Detentions

A student athlete who is suspended from school shall not participate in any athletic activity during the suspension. Prolonged athletic inactivity or dismissal from the team will also be considered depending upon the nature of the offense.

Hazing

Hazing is an intentional or reckless act by a student or group of students that is directed against any other student(s) that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of the student(s), or that induces or coerces a student to endanger his or her mental or physical health or safety. Coaches and other employees of the school district shall not encourage, permit, condone, or tolerate hazing activities. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization. Hazing of any kind will **not be tolerated** and will be dealt with according to JMCSS policy 6.304.

Physicals, Concussions, and Emergency Contact Forms

Student-athletes must have a valid and current TSSAA physical before participation in any sport. In accordance with Tennessee State law, the NFHS player/parent concussion information forms must be read, with checklists forms completed, before participating in any sport. These forms will be kept on file with the Athletic Director.

Making a Team

All student-athletes wishing to make a team should be provided the following prior to tryouts:

- Try out practice schedule
- Criteria used to select the team
- Practice and game commitment if they make the team
- Behavior commitments

In the case where cuts are necessary to field the team, the following factors will be weighed by our coaching staff:

- Physical attributes of the candidate: strength, agility, running, jumping, throwing, stamina etc.
- Attitude and work ethic
- Skills particular to the sport
- Skills particular to a position
- Specific needs of the team
- Previous experience in the sport
- The number of positions available on the team
- School behavior

Before cuts, each student-athlete shall have had a chance to compete and demonstrate their athletic ability in practices, scrimmages, or games.

Participation

JMCSS student-athletes are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of athletic opportunities. Student-athletes may participate in as many school sports as they can manage. If a student-athlete is involved in both school and AAU/club teams, school teams must take priority over AAU/club teams and any other non-school team. According to TSSAA rules, when a student-athlete is actively in season in any sport at JMCSS, they cannot play or practice in the same sport on any other team. This includes church leagues, recreational leagues etc. When a student-athlete joins a school team, they are responsible for upholding team commitments. Accountability is essential in maintaining A cohesive and functional athletic program.

Scheduling Policies

The Athletic Department at Liberty Tech desires to help student-athletes achieve balance in their commitments. We will do our best to protect academic time by limiting school absences and early departures due to athletic contests. However, there will be some infrequent occasions when academic time may be missed due to the following nature: nature of the sport, amount of daylight, travel distance, postseason tournaments, and needs of the opposing school. JMCSS student-athletes are responsible for making up missed assignments promptly.

- All athletic schedules must be approved by the district athletic director.
- School absences or early check-outs due to athletic events must be pre-approved by the athletic director and principal.
- There will be no athletic contest scheduled for Wednesday or Sunday. Exceptions to this rule are postseason tournaments. The team head coach must get approval for any regular season athletic contests on Wednesday or Sunday before they are scheduled from the district athletic director.
- Coaches should publish and adhere to the beginning and ending practice times. Sunday practices may not start before 1:00 PM and will conclude by 5:00 PM in the event of inclement weather or pending inclement weather, the team head coach, athletic director, and principal will decide whether a game will be canceled or postponed. This decision will be made as soon as possible to communicate with others quickly. Though every decision will not always be perfect, it will always err on the side of safety for the players.

Difficult Situations

Parenting, teaching, and coaching are demanding jobs. The Athletic Department supports A partnership between parents and the coaching staff. Many potential problems can be avoided by keeping the lines of communication open between student-athletes, parents, and coaches. For this reason, we encourage you to communicate with us about

issues of concern. We do ask that you trust our coaches. Coaches will make the best decisions regarding the playing time of student-athletes based on the coach's best assessment of what is best for the team. Though it can be challenging as a parent not to compare your child's playing time to that of another, please understand that our coaching staff is committed to your child's continued improvement to prepare them for increased playing time and unique opportunities to help the team. An important goal in athletics is to instill in our student-athletes a sense of ownership and responsibility for their actions. Student-athletes must learn the necessary communication skills and conflict resolution techniques that will equip them for more difficult situations and provide a way to conduct themselves that will bring honor. Student-athletes and coaches should make every effort alike to address one another with respect. Please review the order of conflict resolution and athletics:

- **1st Step:** Player and Coach
- **2nd Step:** Parent, Player and Coach
- **3rd Step:** Parent, Player, Coach, and Athletic Director
- **Final Step:** Parent, Player, Coach, Athletic Director, and Administrator

Topics of playing time, team strategy, other student-athletes, or players position on the team are generally not helpful conversations between a coach and a parent. However, asking about ways to help your child improve, expressing concerns about your child's behavior, requesting additional academic support, informing coaches of distractions in your child's or family's life, or requesting ways to be more involved as a parent to help the team are all very appropriate, appreciated and encouraged conversations. We encourage you to voice your concerns in a civil manner directly to us rather than to others. Our desire is to have a supportive partnership between our coaches and parents. Please be advised by the following should you need to meet with a coach:

- Call the coach or e-mail them to set up an appointment.
- Feel free to ask the athletic director to be present as a mediator, not to take sides.
- A parent should never approach a coach after a game unless the intention is positive or complimentary. If you have concerns following a game, please wait until the next day to schedule a meeting. Human nature would remind us that neither the parents nor the coach is at their best immediately following a tense, hard-fought game period waiting a day to address concerns allows tempers to cool and thoughts to become more rational and civil.

Transportation Policies

The school would provide transportation unless multiple teams play on the same day or bus drivers are not available. If no school transportation can be provided, alternative arrangements will be made by the head coach and athletic director. If cars are needed, the head coach must receive a permission slip from all student-athletes involved stating that the student-athlete has permission to ride in a car with an adult or another student. Written permission must be given for student-athletes to drive their vehicle or transport others. Consent cannot be given over the phone. Student-athletes must return to the school with which they came to the contest unless a parent has otherwise notified the head coach or assistant coach. The athletic director must approve permission to rent charter buses.

Athletic Trainers

Injuries may occur in any sport. JMCSS contracts with Sports Plus to provide treatment and therapy for athletic injuries for our student-athletes. If a student-athlete is injured while participating in a school sport, they may see the Sports Plus athletic trainer assigned to JMCSS. If any injury requires surgery, contact the athletic director for information on filing with TSSAA catastrophic insurance.

Uniform and Equipment Care

JMCSS student-athletes are responsible for the maintenance, upkeep, and protection of all issued uniforms and equipment. The student-athlete is responsible for lost or damaged uniforms and equipment and will be responsible for reimbursing any damage or replacement cost to the Athletic Department.

Communication

The Athletic Department utilizes several different methods of communication in its correspondence with parents, student athletes, and the community. The head coach will submit information such as scores, stats, and special stories to local newspapers. The Athletic Department will post announcements, scores, and other information on Twitter, Facebook, and other forms of social media.

Athletic Booster Club

The Athletic Booster Club is a nonprofit booster club run by parents and overseen by the Athletic Department and administration at Liberty Tech. Its purpose is to increase school spirit, boost participation from the Liberty fan base and community, and raise funds for equipment and resources. The booster club funds are used to supplement coaches' athletic budgets and the high school to purchase equipment, uniforms, and other items necessary to support the athletic teams at Liberty Tech.

SIGNATURE PAGE

I acknowledge that I have read and will abide by all that is included in this JMCSS/Liberty Technology Magnet High School Athletic Handbook.

_____	_____	_____
Parent Name (Print)	Parent Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Student Name (Print)	Student Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Head Coach Name (Print)	Head Coach Signature	Date

Asst. Coach Name (Print)	Asst. Coach Signature	Date
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