

# STUDENT ATHLETE CONTRACT

## Liberty Middle School

Student Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

It is a privilege to participate on athletic teams at Liberty Middle School. As a member of an athletic team at Liberty Middle School, the student athlete is held to this contract for the entire school year. By signing this contract, the student athlete and parent/guardian accept the responsibility in abiding by these regulations and the consequences set forth if they are broken. This policy will be enforced as written by all athletic programs affiliated with Liberty Middle School. No coach or advisor may weaken the consequences nor make these consequences more severe. This contract is written in compliance with Madison City Schools Board Policy, AHSAA policies, and National Federation guidelines.

### 1. General Guidelines

**a.** In order to be eligible to participate on athletic teams at Liberty Middle School, student athletes will maintain a minimum of a 70 grade in each class for each progress report grading period. Coaches will check the grades for each of their student athletes when progress reports are released. A committee consisting of student athlete, parent, coach, teacher, and administrator may be convened to discuss a student athlete's grades that are below standard. Student athletes should make an effort to attain better than minimum grades as student athletes are students *before* they are athletes.

**b.** Student athletes must be present in school for a minimum of half a day to participate in an activity for that day.

**c.** To be eligible to try out for and participate on athletic teams at Liberty Middle School, student athletes must have all of the following forms on file with the school: updated physical, AHSAA concussion form, AHSAA student release form, and Madison City Schools Insurance Waiver. *All* of these must be completed and on file before a student athlete is allowed to try out for any sport at Liberty Middle School.

**d.** Once a student athlete has made a team, he/she must complete the online STAR Sportsmanship Program as well as have birth certificate and Student Athlete Contract on file. These forms, in addition to all of the aforementioned forms, must be on file before that sport's first contest in order for the student athlete to be eligible to participate.

**e.** The AHSAA prohibits same-sport participation by LMS student athletes on an outside team or in an outside group activity during the school's season for that sport. Private individual instruction for LMS student athletes is allowed during their sport's season provided it is one-on-one instruction between that student athlete and one instructor and cannot be instruction with another player or groups of players. Violation of this outside participation rule will result in a fine (to be paid by the student athlete), program probation, and the student athlete being deemed ineligible. If you have any questions regarding this rule, contact the head coach or athletic director.

**f.** An LMS Athletic Fee (\$125) must be paid by every student athlete for each sport that he/she participates in. All monies raised or collected for the team will not be refunded.

### 2. Conduct/ Behavioral Standards

Liberty Middle School student athletes are bound by a strict moral and behavioral code. This contract applies to behavior both in school and out of school.

**a.** Both on and off campus, student athletes will conduct themselves in a manner that honorably represents their school, family, community, and themselves. Any behavior or infraction on the part of a student athlete that goes against the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct is subject to discipline from school administration as well as additional discipline from the head coach of the student athlete's team.

**b.** On occasion, an athletic contest will result in a student athlete missing instructional time. When this happens, student athletes are responsible for all missed work and will make arrangements with their teachers to make up missed assignments in a timely manner.

**c.** When provided, student athletes will ride to and from their team's contests via school transportation. A student athlete may be released only to his/her own parent/guardian. The exception to this is when written documentation from a student athlete's parent/guardian is provided to the coach giving permission for that student athlete to be released into another parent/guardian's care.

d. Student athletes will be personally responsible for all school equipment/uniforms that are issued and will return items in the same condition they were issued in when called for by the coach at the end of the season. Student athletes and/or parents are financially responsible for any damage to uniforms, equipment, and facilities due to misuse and negligence.

e. Special guidelines may be established by coaches for game day/practice attire. Student athletes must follow all established rules by the coach pertaining to game day/practice attire (Example: girls' soccer players will be required to wear sliding shorts under practice and game clothes).

f. Student athletes are responsible for helping to maintain a clean locker room and athletic facilities. This includes both indoor and outdoor facilities.

g. Student athletes are encouraged to be self-advocates in regard to ways in which they can improve skills and performance.

### 3. Consequences/Penalties

a. If a student athlete's grades fall below academic requirements, he/she will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation can include but is not limited to the following consequences: athletic committee meeting, athletic study hall, suspension from practice, suspension from games, and removal from the team.

b. Student athletes who receive detention for any reason may be assigned discipline by their team's coach. Student athletes who receive multiple assignments of detention are subject to game/competition suspensions and possible dismissal from the team.

c. Student athletes who receive an assignment of In-School Suspension are subject to a minimum of a one-game/competition suspension. Student athletes who receive multiple assignments of In-School Suspension are subject to further game/competition suspensions and possible dismissal from the team.

d. Student athletes who receive an assignment of Out-of-School Suspension are subject to a minimum of a two-game/competition suspension and possible dismissal from the team. Student athletes who receive multiple assignments of Out-of-School Suspension will be dismissed from the team.

e. If a student athlete uses electronic communication (text, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) to make statements or post/send photos that reflect negatively on themselves, teammates, coaches, other students, teachers/staff, administration, or the school, he/she will be disciplined based on the severity of the comments. A meeting with administration, athletic director, coaches, parent/guardian, and student athlete may be called to determine the appropriate punishment for the infraction.

\*\*\*Note: Dismissal from the team for the first infraction of this type is possible\*\*\*

f. A student athlete who is removed from the field of play/competition due to unsportsmanlike conduct is subject to discipline from the coach and school in addition to the consequences given by the AHSAA and is also responsible for paying the resulting fine.

\*LMS dance teams and cheerleading squads will also have a demerit system in place along with this contract.

If a student athlete quits or is dismissed from a sport during the season, he/she is not eligible to participate in any LMS athletics for the rest of the school year. We want to stress to our student athletes the importance of completing a job once they have started it. The exception to this is if there is a situation where the continuation of the activity might be harmful physically or mentally to the student athlete. If this situation occurs, the student athlete may meet with the coach, athletic director, and administration and ask to be released from the sport. In this type of instance, a determination may be made by school officials that would allow the student athlete to cease participating in that particular sport and participate in another LMS sport during the same school year.

**I have read and understand what is expected of Liberty Middle School student athletes. I accept the guidelines and policy in this student athlete contract.**

**Signature of Student Athlete:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_