

LONGFELLOW/LDI BASKETBALL

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The basketball program at Longfellow/LDI is designed to provide students the opportunity to compete in athletics and grow as a person...physically, socially, mentally, and emotionally. Through emphasis on basic fundamentals, our goal is to help student/athletes reach their highest potential. We hope to infuse and reinforce character traits such as: trust, commitment, responsibility, respect, reliability, conscientiousness, integrity, acceptance, self-discipline, work ethic/drive, assertiveness, accountability, determination, compassion, selflessness, perseverance and the mental toughness to overcome adversity. It is our belief that all athletes can grow as a person and achieve success if we focus on and pursue these values.

BASIC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- First: School athletics are a privilege, not a right. Performance and conduct in the classroom come first, sports come second. Guidelines for participation can be found on Longfellow's district webpage...scroll over "Activities & Athletics", scroll down to "Co-curriculum Code & Sports Physical Form" and click on it, and click on "Co-curricular Activities Code." Students not Meeting these requirements will not be allowed to play in games until performance levels in the classroom are met.
- Second: In order to play in games, athletes must commit to being at practice. "No practice, no play." Any unexcused absence(s) will result in loss of playing time and/or game suspension, this includes any school-related detention(s)/suspension(s). Athletes are expected to inform their coach, in writing (prior to missing practice), about any conflicts that may occur during the season. There must be a valid reason for the absence. Excused absence(s) from practice may result in reduced playing time, compared to another athlete's participation. Playing time will be "fair, but not necessarily equal."

Typical protocol for rules violations due to improper behavior or unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- First instance: Reduced playing time.
- Second instance: Call home to parent(s) and referral to the Athletic Director for a one game suspension.
- Third instance: Call home to parent(s) and referral to the Associate Principal for a one/two game suspension and possible removal from the team.
- Fourth instance: Removal from the team.

ELIGIBILITY

All athletes are eligible to participate if they meet these basic requirements:

1. A valid WIAA physical card on file in the office.
2. Completion of the “On-line Athletic Registration” that can be found on Longfellow’s Website. This will ask for information about your dentist, Dr., insurance, concussions, etc.
3. Compliance with academic grade and conduct standards (as previously mentioned).

* “It is the philosophy of this Association that a student owes loyalty and allegiance to the school and team of which he/she is a member during the season of a given sport. A student becomes ineligible in a sport for the remainder of the season for competing in a non-school game, meet or contest in the same sport during the season of practice and competition established by the school. The penalty may be reduced upon request of a school on the basis of documented extenuating circumstances.”

ABILITY LEVEL GROUPING

The coaches will determine how many levels of competition there will be, according to the number of athletes that are participating. Depending on the number of athletes, players may be divided in to three teams. GREEN and WHITE teams are competitive and travel to play local schools. If necessary, a RED team, that is intramural in nature, may be formed. The

RED team would play games against other Longfellow/LDI athletes, before home games, if possible. It is up to the coach's discretion to designate/assign/choose athletes to be part of the team that is most appropriate for their ability level, perpetuates athletes to achieve optimal success, and reach their fullest potential. Selection is not based on status, popularity, favoritism, or prior success/accolades. Several factors are taken into consideration including, but not limited to: character observed during and outside of school, skills/performance demonstrated during tryouts, coachability, commitment, etc. Teams are never "set in stone" and players may move from one level to another, based on progress/performance throughout the season.

"GREEN" Team: This is for players with upper level skills. (Competitive, Traveling) Around 7-10 players.

"WHITE" Team: This is for players with middle level skills. (Competitive, Traveling) Around 10-20 players.

"RED" Team: This is for players with beginner/basic level skills. (Intramural).

Every season is different. Here are some examples/combinations of what we have done in the past, based on players ability levels:

20 players	Green-8	White-12
25 players	Green-10	White-15
25 players	Green-8	White-13, with 4 players that "float" between levels
30 players	Green-10	White-20, with 4 groups of 5 players (each group "sits out" once every 4 games on a rotating basis)
32 players	Green-8	White-Two teams of 12
32 players	Green-10	White-16 Red-6
40 players	Green-8	White-Two teams of 13, with 6 players that "float"

PRACTICE

Physicals and the on-line athletic registration need to be completed prior to the first day of practice. Players are responsible for having the appropriate

clothes and shoes for practice, otherwise it will be considered an “unexcused absence.” For the first few days of the season, athletes can expect to practice from 3:00-5:00 PM. Once teams are decided, athletes/parents will be given a “tentative” practice schedule. Attendance, at practice, is mandatory for participation in games. Reasonable excuses for missing practice include, but are not limited to: absence from school, seeking extra help from teachers after school, religious instruction, and travel out of town with parents. It is expected, if necessary to miss practice, that athletes will provide their coach “written word” from a parent or guardian. Understand that excused practices may still result in less playing time. Playing time will be “Fair, but not equal.”

TRAVEL

Transportation will be provided for all athletes to away games. Athletes are expected to ride the bus to and from the game site, unless they have a “Transportation Decline Form” completed and returned to their respective coach. These forms are located in the Longfellow office, should only be used for special circumstances, and should be filled out at least one day prior to the athletic contest. On game day, athletes are allowed to have their parents decline transportation by approaching their respective coach and signing a decline form. Aunts/Uncles, Brothers/Sisters, Grandparents, cousins, friends of the family, or anyone other than the athlete’s parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are **NOT** allowed to decline transportation...**NO EXCEPTIONS.** (automatic 2 game suspension)

UNIFORMS

Athletes will be issued game uniforms and a “practice” jersey. Athletes are expected to bring their “practice” jersey each day. Athletes are responsible for the care of these school-issued uniforms/jerseys and expected to return them in excellent condition at the conclusion of the season. Game uniforms should only be used for game purposes and not worn in a casual manner, to reduce the wear and tear. T-shirts worn underneath the uniform should represent Longfellow/LDI’s school colors.

FUNDRAISER

Your son/daughter may be asked to help promote/sell items for a fundraiser. Money from the fundraiser will be used to buy/replace uniforms, basketballs, "slip-not" mats, etc.

PLEASE SIGN THE BOTTOM PORTION OF THIS HANDOUT AND RETURN IT TO YOUR COACH, PRIOR TO THE FIRST PRACTICE. PLAYERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE WITHOUT THIS FORM BEING SIGNED, BY BOTH THE PLAYER AND PARENT/GUARDIAN, AND RETURNED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COACH.

As a player who has made a commitment to the basketball program at Longfellow/LDI Middle School, I have fully read and had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the meaning of each of these rules/policies. I acknowledge, understand, and will abide by these expectations.

As a parent/guardian, I have fully read this summary and understand the basic purpose, rules, policies, and expectations of the basketball program at Longfellow/LDI Middle School.

PLAYER SIGNATURE

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE _____

