

“SAY NO TO DRUGS”

Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools Athletic Handbook (Updated June 2017)

General Information

Athletic Classification - C

Colors - Red & White

Nickname - Cardinals

League Affiliation - Ski Valley

Varsity/JV Sports Offered

Football	Boys & Girls Basketball	Girls Volleyball
Boys & Girls Track	Boys Baseball	Girls Softball

Middle School Sports Offered

Girls' Basketball	Boys' Basketball	Track
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Ski Valley Conference

Bellaire – Central Lake – Forest Area – Gaylord St. Mary – Inland Lakes – Johannesburg-Lewiston – Mancelona – Onaway – Pellston

Northern Michigan Football Conference, South Division

Central Lake – East Jordan – Gaylord St. Mary – Harbor Springs – Inland Lakes – Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools – St. Ignace

Northwoods Golf Conference

_____ Fairview - Gaylord St Mary's - Inland Lakes - Johannesburg - Lewiston - Rogers City - Mackinaw City - Mancelona - Woverine

Philosophy of Athletics – Interscholastic competitive athletics are an integral part of the Johannesburg-Lewiston program. While it is conceded that the fundamental purpose of the school is to provide academic education for students, it is equally accepted that sound interscholastic athletic programs are vital to the effort by the school to provide comprehensive educational experiences for all students. To this end, community support for the schools should include support for all facets of the school program, including athletics. Other goals of the program are:

1. To provide the stimulus for student athletes to develop academically, socially, emotionally and physically. In fact, recent studies show students competing athletically also improve socially and academically.
2. To provide opportunities that will allow the program to serve as an environment where student-athletes may cope with problems, deal with success and failure, and in general, handle situations similar to those they will encounter in everyday life.
3. To provide healthy and safe competition for our student-athletes.
4. To encourage students to participate in the athletic program.
5. To teach fundamentals and skills that applies to each sport.
6. To develop respect for the rules of the game.
7. To accept discipline, accept the authority of the coach, and play the game for enjoyment.
8. To develop a positive attitude in each athlete toward his fellow teammates.
9. To establish a winning attitude.
10. To develop positive school spirit, unity and good sportsmanship in the student body and in the community in general.

In order to achieve these purposes, The Johannesburg-Lewiston athletic program shall be organized in a manner most consistent with the needs, interests, maturity, and abilities of students and shall be structured as educational activities with competent leadership, established objectives and standards of behavior. The program shall be viewed as the means through which optimal physical, mental, emotional, and social growth of the participants is fostered. The welfare of students shall be given precedent over pressure to win. Success of a team shall be given precedent over pressure to win. Success of a team shall be judged by the conduct of coaches, athletes, and spectators and by the giving of one's self for the benefit of others rather than by the number of contests won or lost.

Code for Athletics –

1. Know and adhere to the athletic code of the school.
2. Adhere to attendance and academic requirements necessary for participation in the athletic program.
3. Demonstrate understanding and commitment to the philosophy of Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools sponsored athletics.
4. Observe completely all policies regarding conduct, doing so as a duty to school, team, and self.
5. Counsel with the athletic director over questions of eligibility.
6. Practice and play fairly, giving complete effort in all circumstances and credit in victory to teammates and to opponents in defeat.
7. Accept favorable and unfavorable decisions as well as victory and defeats with equal grace.
8. Demonstrate respect for opponents and officials before, during, and after contests.
9. Conduct detrimental to the school and/or community will be grounds for disciplinary action.
10. Unauthorized possession or misuse of athletic equipment belonging to Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools can be grounds for disciplinary action.
11. No substance abuse in any form.

Athletic Eligibility Rules – Coaches have training regulations, which must be rigidly kept in order to participate in inter-scholastic athletics. Athletes must do satisfactory work in 66% of their classes to meet High School Athletic Association scholastic requirements. The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) makes the rules for age, limit of semesters, transfers, awards, coaching, accident benefit plans and many other areas related to athletics. In agreeing to participate in MHSAA, the Board, all school personnel, and all athletes agree to abide by all of its rules and policy decisions.

All students who compete in athletics must establish eligibility according to the regulations of MHSAA. Briefly, they are:

1. They must not have reached their 19th birthday unless it occurs on or after September 1st in which case they will be eligible for the balance of that school year.
2. They must have a physical examination record on file in the Athletic Director's office before they begin the season.
3. They must not have been enrolled for more than 8 semesters in grades 9-12. They must not have graduated from any high school.
4. They must currently be passing 66% of the credit load potential for a full-time student. For JLHS students, this translates to passing 5 out of 7 classes at all times. Students who have a reduced schedule due to released time or dual enrollment must also be passing a minimum of 5 H.S. classes at all times.
5. They must not have accepted money or merchandise awards for athletic performance but they may accept trophies, medals, letters, etc., of a value not to exceed fifteen dollars.
6. They must not have participated in any outside competition in a sport during the season after they represented our school in that sport, nor participated in any outside basketball competition after February 15th, if they represented our school after that date; nor have participated in any all-state or exhibition football or basketball games.
7. They should provide their own hospitalization insurance prior to participation in any competitive sport program.

Johannesburg-Lewiston Area School Further States:

1. Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools encourage all students to pass all classes. Athletic eligibility will be based on the ineligibility list, which is distributed every two weeks. Students who are eligible on Monday will be eligible for the entire week.
 - A report of failing students will be run every two weeks after 11:30 a.m. on Friday (or the last day of school for that week).
 - Students who are not passing 66% of the credit load potential for a full-time student will become ineligible the following Monday. This translates to passing 5 out of 7 classes (or failing 3 or more classes). Students will remain ineligible for the remainder of the week. An ineligibility check will be conducted every Friday to determine weekly eligibility. The student will remain ineligible until they are passing a minimum of 5 classes. Once a student is passing 66% of the credit load potential, or 5 out of 7 classes, they will become eligible the following Monday. Continued eligibility will be determined by the ineligibility list that is distributed every two weeks.
 - Ineligible students are not permitted to dress for competition. Students may be required to attend events as per coaches' decision.
2. Appeals of this policy can be taken to the Appeals Committee for consideration. The Appeals Committee will consider the following:
 - Extenuating circumstances - Example: prolonged illness.
 - Demonstrated Academic improvement.
 - Recommendation from staff and faculty.
 - Discipline and/or attendance.
3. All students are eligible at the beginning of the school year if they passed 66% of the credit load potential for a full-time student during the second semester of the previous school year. Students who did not pass 66% of the credit load potential during the previous semester are not eligible to participate until the 61st scheduled school day of the current school year, provided they have been doing passing work cumulatively for the previous 60 days. Incoming freshmen are immediately eligible for participation. Transfer students are eligible in accordance with all MHSAA eligibility standards. Ineligibility lists will begin to be distributed after the second week of school.

The Following Rules Apply to Athletes -

1. Prohibited use of obscene or profane language.
2. If the student was under doctor's care or if absence was prolonged, a doctor's permit may be required.
3. Athletes must be in attendance at school by 12:25 to participate in either practice or a game. Any variances from this rule must receive prior approval from the Athletic Director. If an athlete leaves school without permission, the athlete will not be eligible for either practice or a game.
4. The personal appearance of all players should be such as to be a credit to the school. The school reserves the right to restrict their playing if students fail to meet the requirements.
5. Students who participate in athletic activities are to refrain from the use of tobacco, vapors or other smoking devices, alcohol, and drugs, other than those prescribed by a licensed physician. Violation of the above will be handled as follows:
 - **1st offense - Suspension for 25% of the season and undergo a substance abuse assessment and abide by the substance abuse recommendation for treatment. Failure to complete a substance abuse assessment will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.**
 - **2nd offense and each offense thereafter - Removal from all athletic activities for a period of one calendar year.**
6. All criminal offenses will be handled in the following manner:
 - **If an athlete commits a misdemeanor, this will result in a suspension of 25% of the season. For the second offense and each offense thereafter, the athlete will be removed from all athletic activities for a period of one calendar year.**
 - **If an athlete commits a felony, he/she will be removed from all athletic activities for a period of one calendar year.**
7. If the violation occurs near the end of a particular season or semester, the suspension or expulsion will be applied to the next sport season or the next semester.

8. Self-Admittance: If a student voluntarily seeks or requests help for substance abuse on his/her own and not in response to a suspected violation of our athletic code; he/she may be exempt from the suspension provisions of this policy provided that he/she undergoes a substance abuse assessment and abides by the substance abuse recommendation for treatment. The self-disclosure will be made to the coach, athletic director, principal or superintendent. Furthermore, as we acknowledge concepts such as honesty and integrity as ultimate reflections of good character, we encourage student-athletes to self-admit to violations of the athletic code. Student-athletes who self-admit to violations may be considered for a one-half reduction in suspension one time and one time only providing the self-admit happens the first time he/she is asked by the head coach, athletic director or an administrator. In any situation where an athlete has, as a result of self-admittance, received a reduced penalty under the provisions of this section, a failure to comply with the required program will terminate the reduced penalty status. The penalty for the original violation shall be the same as though there had been no self-admittance. This provision shall apply only once to any student-athlete during his/her years at Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools (grades 9-12).
9. Any coach may expand on the rules or have additional rules for his/her particular activity, but only under the following conditions:
 - Requirements are to be approved by the Athletic Director and the principal and are to be on file in the Athletic Director's office prior to the activity.
 - Participants must be notified of the rules and the requirement.

Removal From Participation – Removal from participation may include but is not limited to the following:

1. 10 discipline write-ups in a semester as a result of violating the rules of the Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools student handbook.
2. Repeated violation of school, athletic, or team policies.
3. Personal misconduct that involves breaking the law.
4. Verbal or physical attack on a team member, opponent, contest officials, coach, or any other personnel.
5. Continued acts of unsportsmanlike conduct.
6. Excessive weekly ineligibility as stated by the athletic director and coach.
7. Not participating in athletic practices or contest.

Students who are removed from participation for any of the reasons listed above may appeal the decision to the Athletic Appeals Committee.

Miscellaneous Rules and Regulations –

1. Quitting a sport: Any athlete who quits a sport or is removed from a team must follow the proper procedures.
 - If the athlete quits he/she must set up an appointment with the coach and athletic director to state his/her reasons for quitting. Furthermore all equipment must be turned in and all financial obligations be taken care of. In the event the proper procedure is not followed, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in any other sport for the remainder of the school year. If this happens at the end of a school year, this will carry over to the next season of the following school year.
 - In the event an athlete is removed from the team, the athlete is required to return all equipment and take care of all financial obligations. Furthermore the athlete will have to appear before an athletic appeals committee to review the reason for dismissal from the team before he/she can participate in athletics for the remainder of time at Johannesburg-Lewiston High School.
2. Students who continually are tardy the day of games or are assigned detentions on a regular basis will be subject to the following rules:
 - Arriving late to school more than five times on game days, suspension from the next athletic event (single game, doubleheader or match).
 - If this problem continues, the student-athlete must meet with the athletic committee. Until the time of this meeting, the athlete can practice and play. The athletic committee will determine the punishment, which could include removal from the team.
3. Students suspended out of school for disciplinary reasons are not allowed to participate in any athletics event.

Athletic Appeals Committee – Any athlete or team member suspended or removed from a team under this section will have the opportunity to appeal the decision to an athletic appeals committee. The athletic appeals committee will be comprised of 3 varsity coaches not affiliated with the sport in question, the athletic director, and the principal.

Transportation To And From Events –The Following rules apply for away athletic events:

1. Players and managers are expected to ride the bus to and home from away athletic events.
2. If the player does not ride the bus to the event, he/she will not be allowed to compete in the Event.
3. After an away event, parents must be present and provide written approval to the coach in order to take their child home.
4. The player and parent must obtain permission prior to leaving the event from the coach in charge. The coach should consult with the athletic director, if possible, before agreeing to other arrangements.

Approval for other transportation may be granted by Athletic Director if request is in writing ahead of time.

Harassing, Disrespectful or Threatening Behavior – Harassment of students is prohibited, and will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate conduct by other students as well as any other person in the school environment, including employees, board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers. This policy applies to all activities on school property and to all school-sponsored activities whether on or off school property.

Harassment is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well being. This includes such activities as stalking, name-calling, taunting, and other disruptive behaviors. Harassment through any means, including electronically transmitted methods is subject to disciplinary action by the district. If the investigation finds harassment occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to: expulsion of students, discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any officer position and/or a request to resign for board members.

Awards – The athletic award is given by Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools in special recognition of athletic performance. To qualify for this honor, a student must meet the established qualifications of the school or be recommended by the coach of the sport in which he/she participated:

1. Award winners should set an example of the highest standards at all times, which includes adherence to the items in the Athletic Code.
2. Any player who quits a sport and is not allowed back on the team, or does not finish the season in good standing, will not receive a letter for the sport for that particular season.
3. The student is awarded a chenille JL for their varsity award. They are awarded metal emblems for their letter for each varsity letter won thereafter.



JLHS Fight Song –

J-L High School hats off to thee.
To our High School we will ever be
Firm and strong; united are we.
Rah, rah, rah, rah, rah, rah, rah
Rah for J-L High.

J-L High School we will be fair
Here, there, and everywhere.
Let us call for a victory;
Let's hear our cry.
Rah, rah, rah, rah, rah, rah, rah
Rah for J-L High.

Red and White Fight Fight
Red and White Fight
Fight fight with all your might
Red and White Fight!