

Lyman School District

Activities Handbook

2026-2027

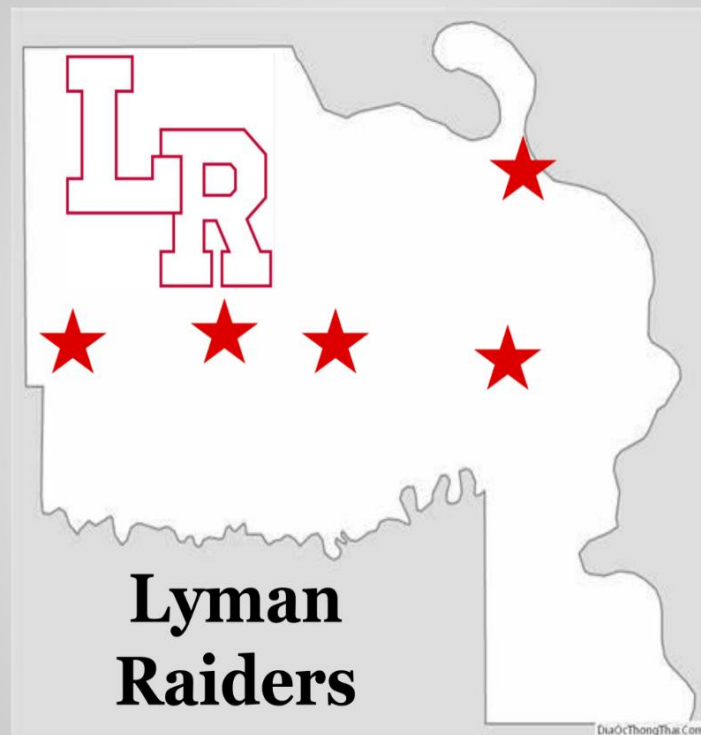


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LYMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT (LSD) ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT MISSION & PURPOSE

Mission

The Lyman School District and its Activities Department is dedicated to providing meaningful opportunities that help students grow and reach their full potential as students, athletes and other extracurricular participants.

Through activities and programs, students are encouraged to develop academically, socially, and personally while exploring their interests, talents, and passions. We promote character, respect, teamwork, leadership, sportsmanship, perseverance, and pride. By fostering these values, we help students build confidence, experience success, and develop the skills needed to navigate both challenges and achievements throughout life.

Go Raiders!

Purpose

A. For the Student:

Co-curricular programs provide opportunities to build strong school morale, demonstrate sportsmanship toward visiting fans, officials, and athletes, and practice fair play and courtesy. These programs are an integral part of the school curriculum, educational in both purpose and conduct.

B. For the Participant:

Competition offers students the chance to develop skills, learn team concepts, build fitness, form friendships, and practice good sportsmanship. Co-curricular participation reinforces the understanding that the rules governing these activities mirror the expectations of everyday life.

C. For the Community:

Co-curricular programs encourage positive school-community relations. They provide entertainment, foster community pride, and offer opportunities for fans to promote a positive impression of the Lyman School District.

The School Provides

1. Opportunities for all students to participate in some phase of activities.
2. Leadership through coaches and supervisors.
3. Necessary equipment and facilities.

The Student Provides

1. Sacrifice, self-discipline, desire, determination, and dedication.
2. A positive attitude, including:
 - a. High regard for and adherence to training rules.
 - b. Proper care and responsibility for equipment.
 - c. Conduct that reflects positively on the school, student body, and community.
 - d. A commitment to team goals over individual achievement.

The Parents Provide

1. Positive encouragement for their child.
2. Support and reinforcement of training rules.
3. Support for the program in which their child is participating.

V. Co-Curricular Coaches and Supervisors Provide

1. Standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
2. Emphasis on the values gained through fair participation.
3. Courtesy toward visiting teams, officials, and participants.
4. A respectful environment between host and visitor.
5. Respect for the integrity and judgment of officials.
6. Thorough understanding and enforcement of game rules and eligibility standards.
7. Leadership that encourages initiative and good judgment among participants.
8. Recognition that activities should promote physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being.
9. Clear communication with athletes, parents, and administration. Coaches must follow the chain of command outlined below.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Lyman School District 42-1 does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in its educational programs and activities. Inquiries concerning Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 should be directed to:

Superintendent of Schools

201 S. Birch

Presho, SD 57568

605-869-2662

Complaints can also be filed:

US Department of Education

Office of Civil Rights

10220 North Executive Boulevard 8th Floor

Kansas City, MO 64153-1367

816-891-0552

FERPA STATEMENT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. A copy of these policies and regulations may be obtained in the building principal's office or the superintendent's office of the Lyman School District 42-1. Complaints regarding a violation of rights according to parents and students should be submitted to:

Superintendent of Schools

201 S. Birch

Presho, SD 57325

605-869-2662

Family Policy Compliance Office

US Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20202-4605

DUE PROCESS

All students and district employees are guaranteed due process rights as set forth by SDCL 13-32-4. Lyman School District 42-1 is in compliance with the standards established by the State Board of Education. Those standards are:

- I. Adequate notice of charges made.
- II. Reasonable opportunity to prepare for and meet the charges will be given.
- III. An orderly hearing adapted to the nature of circumstances of the situation will be conducted.
- IV. A fair and impartial decision will be rendered.
- V. Article 24:07 of the Administrative Rules of SD will be used to outline procedures and the definition of the due process.

ELASTIC CLAUSE

The Activities Handbook does not include everything that may happen during the school year. If any situation not specifically covered should arise, the administration will make every effort to act fairly and quickly. The best interests of the student, school, and community will be considered. Each situation is different and will be handled on an individual basis.

LYMAN RAIDER PRIDE

The team name of Lyman School District is the “Lyman Raiders”. The school colors are red black and white.

LSD and the surrounding community take pride in our conduct, cooperation, and support of all LSD athletics, fine arts programs, and activities. Energy, positivity, and excitement are essential in showing school spirit and maintaining positive morale.

All are encouraged to be a part of Raider Nation and our programs, as a student or supporters, so we can continue to reach our full potential...together.

PARTICIPATION

Kindergarten to 5th Grade

K-5 students will not be included in school athletic programs. Parents are encouraged to involve their young people in activities and programs that are offered in the communities of the District.

6th to 8th Grade

Students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th are eligible to be involved in school-scheduled activities at the middle school level. All middle school students are encouraged to participate and be involved in the offerings that LSD presents.

Sixth through eighth graders may be involved in middle school band, choir, and art when offered during the school day. Seventh and 8th graders can athletically participate in golf, cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, E-sports and track and field and other extra-curricular activities that may be offered including oral interpretation and drama as sponsored by the South Dakota Activities Association (SDHSAA).

7th and 8th Graders and High School Level

The SDHSAA allows 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to compete at the high school and varsity level. Some 7th and 8th grade students may be moved to the high school level. Note policy link below.

The full policy is located here: [Lyman Student Handbook](#) (p.16).

The practice of 7th and 8th grade students competing at the high school level will be the exception, not the expectation. If a student is moved to the high school level permanently, then they cannot compete at the 7th and 8th grade level for that activity's season.

Athletic Participation Philosophy

LSD's philosophy on athletic participation and the various levels of a program is as follows:

- I. Varsity - Select squads, highly skilled, highly competitive

- II. Junior Varsity - Higher level of competition, prepare for the varsity level, may involve some screening
- III. C-Team - Maintain a large roster, provide fair playing time, stress fundamentals and skills development
- IV. Middle School - Involve large numbers, introduce team concepts, provide playing time, competitive play, stress fundamentals and skills development

COMMUNICATION

24-Hour Rule

Unless it is an emergency, parents/guardians must wait **24 hours** before communicating with a coach regarding an issue. This waiting period allows all parties time for reflection, clarity, and sound judgment. If the concern remains after 24 hours, follow the Chain of Communication to work toward resolution. This communication shall be through school provided email or initiated by contacting the District's Director of Activities who will communicate with the appropriate Coach or Advisor. The Chain of Command will be referred to in all cases.

*****Communication with coaches immediately before or within 24 hours after games is prohibited unless it is emergent in nature. *****

Communication Do's:

- Parents are encouraged to discuss topics related to their child's **safety, well-being, health, behavior, and overall development** with a coach. Conversations should focus on constructive communication related to your child/athlete only.
 - **Safety and Well-being:** This is a top priority. Discuss any concerns about physical safety, potential injuries, or return-to-play protocols after an injury.
 - **Health and Personal Issues:** Inform the coach of any health conditions, illnesses, or family difficulties that may affect your child's behavior or performance.
 - **Scheduling and Logistics:** Communicate about travel plans, financial expectations, scheduling conflicts, or tardiness to practices/games.

- **Skill Improvement and Development:** Specific areas your child needs to focus on to improve and what they can do to potentially earn future opportunities.
- **Team Culture and Communication Expectations:** Coach's philosophy on player development and team goals.

Communication Don'ts:

- **Game strategy and play calls:** Do not question the coach's tactical decisions.
- **Playing time:** Avoid demanding more playing time. Instead, focus on how your child can improve to potentially earn more time.
- **Other players:** Do not compare your child to other athletes or discuss the performance of other players.
- **Immediate post-game discussions:** Wait at least 24 hours after a game to discuss concerns when emotions have cooled down.
- **Coaching decisions in public:** Schedule a private meeting to discuss concerns respectfully, not during practice or a game

Communication Best Practices:

- **Encourage your child to speak first to their Coach:** This helps them develop self-advocacy skills.
- **Schedule a private meeting** at a mutually convenient time.
- **Remain calm, professional, and collaborative,** focusing on facts and potential solutions.
- **Listen** to the coach's perspective and try to understand their point of view.

Chain of Communication

The Chain of Communication ensures that all parties—participants, advisors, and parents/guardians—engage in an organized, effective process for sharing information and addressing concerns.

The process is as follows:

1. The student initiates a conversation with the advisor/coach.

2. If unresolved, the student and parent/guardian meet with the advisor/coach.
3. If still unresolved, the student and parent/guardian meet with the Activities Director.
4. If still unresolved, the student and parent/guardian meet with the Superintendent.

Note: Coaches will communicate with the Activities Director/Principal and provide summaries of all conversations with parents to maintain clear administrative communication regarding potential issues.

Parent/Guardian and Advisor Communication

Parents/guardians can expect to hear information from the advisor regarding:

- I. Coaching philosophy,
- II. Expectations for participants,
- III. Necessary paperwork,
- IV. Location, dates, and times of all practices, competitions, and contests,
- V. Special equipment needed,
- VI. Off-season work, camps, and events,
- VII. Or any other pertinent information.

Communication Expectations – Coaches and Advisors

The Lyman School District expects all communication between coaches/advisors and students or parents/guardians to be conducted through District-approved communication channels. Approved channels include District communication tools and applications that have been authorized for use by the District.

Coaches and advisors are expected to use these approved channels for team or activity announcements, schedules, changes, reminders, individual communications, and other school-related correspondence with students and parents/guardians. Personal communication platforms or accounts shall not be used for official District, team, or activity communication unless specifically authorized.

Any social media account or platform established or maintained for a specific District sport, team, club, organization, or activity must receive prior approval from the Superintendent. Such accounts must be used in a manner consistent with District policies, expectations for professional conduct, student privacy requirements, and applicable laws and regulations.

The District expects coaches and advisors to maintain appropriate professional boundaries and ensure that all electronic and digital communications with students and families are transparent, professional, and related to legitimate school, athletic, or activity purposes.

Advisors can expect to hear information from parents/guardians regarding:

- I. How parents/guardians can support and help the program,
- II. Advanced notification of any schedule conflicts,
- III. Concerns about the participant's behavior, mental or physical being, academics, or other involvements,
- IV. Issues with interactions or how the participant is treated,
- V. How the participant can improve.

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with advisors include:

- I. Playing time, competitions, or performances,
- II. Strategy, play calling, or structures,
- III. Other participants and their skills.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Policy

Students participating in school-sponsored activities must not miss additional classes beyond those required for the activity.

Attendance:

A student must be in school no later than the start of the 3rd period to participate in extra- or intra-curricular activities, including practice. This includes all school-sponsored activities that are not part of the regular day. Medical appointments are excused if the student has a slip signed by the medical practitioner. Special cases may be reviewed by the administration.

Practice Times

Practice time is extremely valuable. Activity advisors will work with the activities director when forming practice schedules. The District expects no practices start before 6:30am with students arriving at the facilities no earlier than 6:15 am and that no practice goes after 9:00pm.

Church Night

Wednesday night is designated as church night. No activities (fine arts and athletics) will extend past 6:15pm. There are a few SDHSAA-controlled activities held on Wednesday night that we have no control over, and we ask for your cooperation in those situations.

Sunday Events

There will be no school-related activities or practices held on Sundays unless first approved by the Superintendent. These practices/events will not begin prior to 4:00pm. This includes all LSD activities. If practices are approved, students will not be required to attend and will not be reprimanded if electing to not attend.

Weather

When school is dismissed due to inclement weather, practices will not be held for middle school or high school activities. In certain situations, with approval from the Superintendent, high school activities may be allowed to practice or participate in contests. At all times, the safety of the participants should be the primary concern.

EQUIPMENT

Activity Clothing and Equipment

Students receiving articles of clothing or equipment to be worn or used during activities are responsible for those items and are expected to take proper care of them. Advisors issuing these items will be responsible for checking them out to students at the beginning of that activity and collecting the items to check them back in after the activity.

Missing items will be charged to the individual student who checked out the clothing/equipment. If the student is a senior, their diploma will be held until the equipment is returned or paid for.

Lockers

Student/athletes are provided lockers, but the school is not responsible for the loss of valuables or personal items in school lockers and locker rooms during practice, competitions, or performances. Students may bring their own padlocks.

FACILITIES USE

Facilities owned or operated by LSD are to be used at all available times to help develop and improve our students and their skills in their various activities. LSD facilities are available to advisors and programs, staff members, and community members, and spaces can be reserved through the business office. The facilities' use policies are as follows:

[Wellness/Open Gym Expectations](#)

[Wellness/Open Gym Waiver](#) **Open Facilities**

Open facilities (gyms/mats/fields/weight room) will be sponsored by LSD under the SDHSAA guidelines. Open facilities are supervised by advisors and LSD equipment will be used.

IN & OUT OF SEASON

TRANSPORTATION

When traveling, students are expected to act appropriately and abide by all school and bus rules and expectations. All participants are expected to ride and travel with the group, team, or program in school district transportation.

- Parents/guardians can excuse their child and drive the child to the event only under extenuating circumstances. This must be approved ahead of time by administration
- Parents/guardians can also excuse their child to ride home with them by signing out the child with the advisor after an event.
- Under extenuating circumstances, parents/guardians can also have their child return home from an event with another parent or adult family member. Parents/guardians must have this approved with administration.

Summer Transportation

The school will help supply vehicles for transportation for summer camps and leagues. The cost of the fuel for these trips will be at the expense of the team or organization except for the 1st trip of the summer – which will be covered by the school. Drivers will receive no compensation for summer events.

SUPERVISION

Supervision of Practice, Competitions, and Performances

Advisors need to have their full attention on participants and their program; therefore, no one except program members should be in the practice or preparation area.

The advisor should be the last to leave, making sure equipment is cared for, lights are off, and doors are locked. Once all students have been accounted for and have left the facility, then the advisor can leave.

Supervision and Responsibilities on Trips

Advisors have many responsibilities while traveling, including but not limited to:

- I. Riding the bus to and from events.
- II. Supervising students and their conduct the entire trip, not just when traveling.
- III. Modeling and acting with appropriate behavior, actions, and words.
- IV. Ensuring all students are acting appropriately,
- V. Overseeing all matters of the trip including the students, the destination, times, and stops.
 - A. All activities-based trips will be scheduled through the activities director and a vehicle request form must be filled out and turned in to the business office.
 - B. Advisors inform students of when they are leaving, when they expect to be back, and where they will leave and drop off from.
 - C. Advisors are responsible for filling out a travel roster form with pertinent information about the trip and sharing that form and information with administration and staff three days before the trip.

- VI. Managing students on the bus, including discipline, noise, and movement.
 - A. Advisors enforce the expectation that students should use headphones when listening to sound from a device.
 - B. Advisors enforce school and program expectations, including no smoking or use of nicotine on the bus or in a school vehicle.
 - C. Eating and drinking on a bus is not desired, but when it does occur, the advisor encourages students to use available garbage containers. After the trip, advisors should check the bus to make sure it's clean before leaving.

Drivers have many responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- I. Managing the vehicle and overseeing speed, loading and unloading, and safety.
- II. Acting as the final authority in determining the safety of driving conditions.

Students are responsible for collecting the work and assignments that they will miss when traveling before they depart. It is encouraged that the work is completed and turned in before leaving on the trip.

ELIGIBILITY

All activities offered by LSD are under the direct supervision of the SDHSAA. The following guidelines are a combination of those established by the SDHSAA and the Lyman School Board, and all LSD programs are conducted within these guidelines.

General Eligibility

The eligibility policy adopted by the Lyman School Board per the SDHSAA states a student is not eligible if:

- I. They have reached their 20th birthday.
- II. They have attended more than 4 first semesters and 4 second semesters of school in grades 9-12.
 - A. Enrollment in school for 15 school days or participation in an inter-school contest shall constitute a semester.
- III. They are not enrolled in and attend a minimum of 25 hours of high school and/or dual credit work per week during the current semester.

- IV. They have graduated from a regular four-year high school or institution of equivalent rank.
- V. They have not enrolled by the 16th school day of the current semester. The date of regular entry into classes is considered the date of enrollment.
- VI. They have transferred from one high school to another without a corresponding change in the residence of their parents.
- VII. They are not properly registered to participate, which includes having an up-to-date physical on file and the appropriate consent forms and paperwork completed.
- VIII. They have participated in a contest under an assumed name.
- IX. They have participated in activities in any institution of learning of higher rank than a standard secondary school.
- X. They have violated their amateur standing.
- XI. They have competed on an unattached basis as an individual or as a member of a non-school program while an activity is in session.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

This policy will apply to all students in extracurricular activities in grades 6-12. This includes anyone associated with the team including managers and statisticians.

Below is the Academic Eligibility Policy:

1. All South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) requirements and policies must be met.
2. Students will be eligible for the first two (2) weeks of each semester of the school year. Upon week three (3) and week 20 (second week of second semester) of the school year, a grade report will be run Monday morning. A grade report will be run every subsequent Monday of the school year with the exception listed in #3 below.
3. The first two weeks of Quarter 2 and Quarter 4, there will be no grade checks. Students with no failing grades for Quarter 1 and Quarter 3 will be eligible those two (2) weeks. Students that failed a Quarter 1 or Quarter 3 class will be ineligible for the first week of Quarter 2 and Quarter 4.

**Students with a failing grade either Quarter 1 or Quarter 3 may remain ineligible the second week of Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 if they still have incomplete work from the previous quarter.*

4. Students will be ineligible if:

- They have one (1) or more failing grades in a class. The student is ineligible for all school-sponsored activities held Tuesday through Monday of that week. If the next week the student continues to have a failing grade in that same class, the student, teacher, coach/advisor and administrator will meet to discuss circumstances and factors leading to the failing grade.
- Students and the Parents of students with failing grades will be contacted and informed of the failing grade and details of the ineligibility period. This contact will be made by the instructor initially and followed by administration (Principal/Activities Director).
- Students will still be allowed to practice and attend home events. They will not attend events in which they would be required to be absent from school.
- Eligibility will be reinstated if they have no failing grades when the next eligibility report is run.
- Failing grades due to missing or incomplete work as a result of an excused/exempt absence will not result in eligibility during the time period in which a student is allowed per school policy to complete that work. (1 day for every day absent + 1 day).

VIOLATIONS

Students who participate in LSD activities take on the responsibility of representing more than just themselves; they represent the community of Lyman as a whole. Students are required to fulfill requirements stipulated in LSD handbooks, including the LSD Activities Handbook. These requirements and guidelines pertain to any LSD-sponsored activity, including athletics, fine arts, student council, FFA, and HOSA.

Here is a link to the [Lyman Student Handbook](#) relating to this topic.

LSD participants and their parents/guardians must read the regulations and guidelines in the LSD Activities Handbook. The participant and a parent/guardian must complete the Handbook Agreement Form acknowledging that they have read and understand the regulations and agree to abide by them.

LSD developed guidelines for those participating in LSD activities to ensure an environment of safety, respect, and achievement. The purpose of these guidelines is to:

- I. Encourage proper school conduct at home and away from school,
- II. Help students develop a positive attitude,
- III. Teach self-discipline and resist peer pressure,
- IV. Confirm and support existing laws,
- V. Emphasize the school's concerns for the health and safety of students and the longer-term effects that can occur.

Each activity advisor may have specific requirements or stipulations for their program in addition to the ones in the LSD Activities Handbook.

Failure to meet these requirements or any requirements that the advisor creates could result in the student being disciplined as outlined by the LSD Activities Handbook or the advisor's requirements. These requirements go into effect while the participant is in their season, from the first day of practice to the last day in that program.

Social Media Guidelines

Lyman School District supports students' rights to free speech, expression, and association—including the use of social media. However, students participating in district activities must remember that participation is a privilege. Students are expected to represent themselves, their activity, the district, and the community in a positive and responsible manner at all times.

ACTIVITY SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Any social media account or platform established or maintained for a specific District sport, team, club, organization, or activity must receive prior approval from the Superintendent. Such accounts must be used in a manner consistent with District policies, expectations for professional conduct, student privacy requirements, and applicable laws and regulations. The district's and its schools' names, logos, mascots, insignia, marks, photographs, and other identifying materials may not be used by outside individuals or organizations in a manner that states or implies district sponsorship, endorsement, authorization, or affiliation, including for fundraising, advertising, merchandise, or commercial social-media activity, without prior authorization.

Do:

1. Promote your team, teammates, coaches, and yourself. Recognize hard work and accomplishments.
2. Use social media for positive messaging that supports sportsmanship and teamwork.
3. Post respectful images that reflect your personality appropriately.

Don't:

1. Disrespect opponents or respond to negative or inflammatory comments.
2. Post content that is inappropriate or harmful to your future.
3. Post incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, such as hazing, sexual harassment, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, smoking, selling/possessing/using controlled substances, or anything else deemed inappropriate.

Suspensions

Students who receive in-school suspension are expected to participate in practices but will be suspended from any competitions or performances. Students who receive out-of-school suspensions for any period of a ½ day or more are suspended from participation in all school activities, including practices, competitions, and performances, until the day following the end of the suspension.

A student who has been suspended from a program due to a handbook violation will be allowed to practice but will not compete during the suspension period. A student who has been suspended from a program will not be able to travel with the program if it requires missing school.

The principal will determine the suspension start date based on the violation, the day it occurred, the day it was reported, and the factors involved. Suspensions may or may not include a competition or performance.

If a student receives a suspension but is not able to complete the suspension due to the season being over, the participant quitting, or any other reason, the suspension will carry into the next activity the student participates in.

AWARDS

Athletic Awards Night

Athletic Awards ceremonies will be scheduled by respective program coaches or advisors. The LSD will supply two award that must be approved by the Activities Director prior to ordering.

LSD Lettering Policies

Specific lettering requirements for each activity are left to the discretion of each head advisor. The first time a student letters, they will be given a letter "L".

It is understood that for a participant to earn an athletic award or letter at Lyman High School, they must have complied with all rules and regulations for participation as established by Lyman High School and the SDHSAA. The participant must complete the season unless released by the advisor for reason of illness, injury, or extraordinary circumstances. In this case, lettering will be at the discretion of the head advisor and their staff.

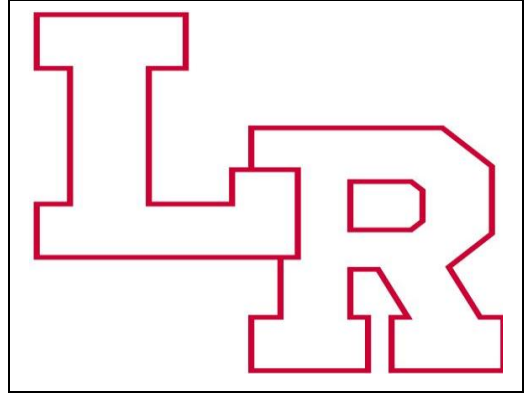
Awarding varsity letters to students for contributions made in their activity will be an advisor's decision; however, there are some guidelines that the coaches should follow.

- I. The policy should be made known to the participants before the season begins.
- II. Participants must complete the season to earn a letter.
- III. Seniors who complete three consecutive years in the program will earn a letter.
- IV. The head advisor and activities director will use discretion in the following categories: injuries, conduct, attitude, citizenship, post-season play, managers, student transfers, or any condition not covered.

Lyman School District

Code of Conduct for Activities

Co-Curricular Activities Philosophy



I. Purpose

A. For the Student:

Co-curricular programs provide opportunities to build strong school morale, demonstrate sportsmanship toward visiting fans, officials, and athletes, and practice fair play and courtesy. These programs are an integral part of the school curriculum, educational in both purpose and conduct.

B. For the Participant:

Competition offers students the chance to develop skills, learn team concepts, build fitness, form friendships, and practice good sportsmanship. Co-curricular participation reinforces the understanding that the rules governing these activities mirror the expectations of everyday life.

C. For the Community:

Co-curricular programs encourage positive school-community relations. They provide entertainment, foster community pride, and offer opportunities for fans to promote a positive impression of the Lyman School District.

The School Provides

4. Opportunities for all students to participate in some phase of activities.
5. Leadership through coaches and supervisors.
6. Necessary equipment and facilities.

The Student Provides

3. Sacrifice, self-discipline, desire, determination, and dedication.
4. A positive attitude, including:
 - a. High regard for and adherence to training rules.
 - b. Proper care and responsibility for equipment.
 - c. Conduct that reflects positively on the school, student body, and community.
 - d. A commitment to team goals over individual achievement.

The Parents Provide

4. Positive encouragement for their child.
5. Support and reinforcement of training rules.
6. Support for the program in which their child is participating.

V. Co-Curricular Coaches and Supervisors Provide

10. Standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
 11. Emphasis on the values gained through fair participation.
 12. Courtesy toward visiting teams, officials, and participants.
 13. A respectful environment between host and visitor.
 14. Respect for the integrity and judgment of officials.
 15. Thorough understanding and enforcement of game rules and eligibility standards.
 16. Leadership that encourages initiative and good judgment among participants.
 17. Recognition that activities should promote physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being.
 18. Clear communication with athletes, parents, and administration. Coaches must follow the chain of command outlined below.
-

Parent/Athlete Concerns: Chain of Communication

The Chain of Communication ensures that all parties—participants, advisors, and parents/guardians—engage in an organized, effective process for sharing information and addressing concerns.

The process is as follows:

5. The student initiates a conversation with the advisor/coach.
6. If unresolved, the student and parent/guardian meet with the advisor/coach.
7. If still unresolved, the student and parent/guardian meet with the Activities Director.
8. If still unresolved, the student and parent/guardian meet with the Superintendent.

Note: Coaches will communicate with the Activities Director/Principal and provide summaries of all conversations with parents to maintain clear administrative communication regarding potential issues.

Parent/Guardian and Advisor Communication

Parents/guardians can expect to hear information from the advisor regarding:

- VIII. Coaching philosophy,
- IX. Expectations for participants,
- X. Necessary paperwork,
- XI. Location, dates, and times of all practices, competitions, and contests,
- XII. Special equipment needed,
- XIII. Off-season work, camps, and events,
- XIV. Or any other pertinent information.

Advisors can expect to hear information from parents/guardians regarding:

- VI. How parents/guardians can support and help the program,
- VII. Advanced notification of any schedule conflicts,

- VIII. Concerns about the participant's behavior, mental or physical being, academics, or other involvements,
- IX. Issues with interactions or how the participant is treated,
- X. How the participant can improve.

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with advisors include:

- IV. Playing time, competitions, or performances,
- V. Strategy, play calling, or structures,
- VI. Other participants and their skills.

Communication – 24-Hour Rule

Unless it is an emergency, parents/guardians must wait **24 hours** before communicating with a coach regarding an issue. This waiting period allows all parties time for reflection, clarity, and sound judgment. If the concern remains after 24 hours, follow the Chain of Communication to work toward resolution.

This communication shall be through school provided email or initiated by contacting the District's Director of Activities who will communicate with the appropriate Coach or Advisor.

Communication with coaches immediately before or after games is prohibited.

Communication Do's:

- Parents are encouraged to discuss topics related to their child's **safety, well-being, health, behavior, and overall development** with a coach. Conversations should focus on constructive communication related to your child/athlete only.
 - **Safety and Well-being:** This is a top priority. Discuss any concerns about physical safety, potential injuries, or return-to-play protocols after an injury.
 - **Health and Personal Issues:** Inform the coach of any health conditions, illnesses, or family difficulties that may affect your child's behavior or performance.
 - **Scheduling and Logistics:** Communicate about travel plans, financial expectations, scheduling conflicts, or tardiness to practices/games.
 - **Skill Improvement and Development:** Specific areas your child needs to focus on to improve and what they can do to potentially earn future opportunities.
 - **Team Culture and Communication Expectations:** Coach's philosophy on player development and team goals.

Communication Don'ts:

- **Game strategy and play calls:** Do not question the coach's tactical decisions.

- **Playing time:** Avoid demanding more playing time. Instead, focus on how your child can improve to potentially earn more time.
- **Other players:** Do not compare your child to other athletes or discuss the performance of other players.
- **Immediate post-game discussions:** Wait at least 24 hours after a game to discuss concerns when emotions have cooled down.
- **Coaching decisions in public:** Schedule a private meeting to discuss concerns respectfully, not during practice or a game

Communication Best Practices:

- **Encourage your child to speak first to their Coach:** This helps them develop self-advocacy skills.
- **Schedule a private meeting** at a mutually convenient time.
- **Remain calm, professional, and collaborative,** focusing on facts and potential solutions.
- **Listen** to the coach's perspective and try to understand their point of view

Social Media Guidelines

Lyman School District supports students' rights to free speech, expression, and association—including the use of social media. However, students participating in district activities must remember that participation is a privilege. Students are expected to represent themselves, their activity, the district, and the community in a positive and responsible manner at all times.

Do:

1. Promote your team, teammates, coaches, and yourself. Recognize hard work and accomplishments.
2. Use social media for positive messaging that supports sportsmanship and teamwork.
3. Post respectful images that reflect your personality appropriately.

Don't:

1. Disrespect opponents or respond to negative or inflammatory comments.
2. Post content that is inappropriate or harmful to your future.

3. Post images that are negative, inappropriate, or suggest dangerous or potentially illegal behavior.

Communication Expectations (Students and Parents)

The Lyman School District expects all communication between coaches/advisors and students or parents/guardians to be conducted through District-approved communication channels. Approved channels include District communication tools and applications that have been authorized for use by the District.

Coaches and advisors are expected to use these approved channels for team or activity announcements, schedules, changes, reminders, individual communications, and other school-related correspondence with students and parents/guardians. Personal communication platforms or accounts shall not be used for official District, team, or activity communication unless specifically authorized.

Any social media account or platform established or maintained for a specific District sport, team, club, organization, or activity must receive prior approval from the Superintendent. Such accounts must be used in a manner consistent with District policies, expectations for professional conduct, student privacy requirements, and applicable laws and regulations.

The District expects coaches and advisors to maintain appropriate professional boundaries and ensure that all electronic and digital communications with students and families are transparent, professional, and related to legitimate school, athletic, or activity purposes.

Lyman School District

Code of Conduct and Activities Handbook Agreement Form

Student Acknowledgment

As a student participant representing Lyman School District, I understand that participation in activities is a privilege that requires adherence to the policies and expectations set forth in the Code of Conduct and Activities Handbook. I affirm that I have reviewed the contents in full and agree to follow all policies and terms.

Student Participant Printed Name:

Student Participant Signature:

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment

As a parent/guardian of a Lyman School District participant, I affirm that I have reviewed the Code of Conduct and Activities Handbook in full and agree to support the enforcement of all policies and terms. I agree to partner with advisors, staff, and administration in upholding these expectations.

Parent/Guardian Signature(s):

Parent/Guardian 1:

Parent/Guardian 2:

Date: _____

LYMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Lyman will exhibit sportsmanship!

Spectator Code of Conduct

Lyman is committed to promoting positive sportsmanship at all events. To ensure a respectful and enjoyable environment for all, spectators are expected to follow the guidelines below.

Expectations for Spectators

- **Display good sportsmanship.** Always show respect for players, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators. Comments directed at players or coaches will *not* be tolerated.
- **Act responsibly toward opponents and their fans.** Do not taunt, berate, or engage in negative behavior. Jeering or booing opponents violates this Code of Conduct.
- **Cheer positively.** Always encourage fair play. Profanity, offensive gestures, or inappropriate cheers are unacceptable.
- **Respect referees and their judgment.** South Dakota is experiencing an officiating shortage. If you are interested in becoming an official, please visit the SDHSAA site for more information.

- **Honor locker room privacy.** Locker rooms are private spaces for players, coaches, and officials.
- **Be supportive after the game—win or lose.** Acknowledge good effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Spectators who violate this Code of Conduct may be reminded of these expectations. If inappropriate or disruptive behavior continues and interferes with the game, officials may stop game play. Game officials, coaches, or school administrators may identify violators, who will be removed from the athletic complex. Failure to comply may result in referral to law enforcement.