

# LANDMARK ACADEMY ATHLETICS



## STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK 2025

### Our Mission

Landmark Academy, recognizing the unique giftedness of the individual student, will work in cooperation with parents and the community to provide a nurturing and challenging environment that encourages academic excellence, character development, and a love for lifelong learning.

## **Landmark Academy Core Values**

- We will promote a safe (physically and emotionally) and nurturing environment
- We believe in the unique giftedness and value of each individual
- We exist to provide academic excellence for our students and staff
- We strive hard to have cooperation and collaboration with parents and all staff
- We firmly believe that character matters

The school district of Landmark Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, height, weight, religion or marital status in its programs, clubs, or athletics. Any concerns in this matter please contact the school immediately.

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## **INFORMED CONSENT:**

BY THE NATURE OF PARTICIPATING IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS OR CLUB ACTIVITIES INCLUDES A RISK OF INJURY, WHICH MAY RANGE IN SEVERITY. ALTHOUGH SERIOUS INJURIES ARE NOT COMMON, IT IS HOWEVER, IMPOSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE THE RISK. STUDENT ATHLETES HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP REDUCE THE CHANCE OF INJURY. PLAYERS MUST OBEY ALL SAFETY RULES, REPORT ALL PHYSICAL PROBLEMS TO THEIR COACHES, FOLLOW A PROPER CONDITIONING PROGRAM, AND ALONG WITH PROVIDING THEIR OWN EQUIPMENT DAILY.

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### ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Landmark Academy is a Public Charter School. Landmark is chartered through Saginaw Valley State University. The administrative organization is as follows:

School Superintendent  
MS/HS Principal  
Athletic Director

Debby Wilton  
Jeff Glombowski  
David Nienhuis

## **PARENT / COACH COMMUNICATION**

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide an overall greater benefit to the children. As parents, when your children become involved in athletic or club programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### **Communication you should expect from your student's coach:**

Philosophy of the coach.  
Expectations for players on the team.  
Locations and times of all practices and contests.  
Team requirements (such as fees, special equipment, off- season workouts)  
Procedure should your student be injured during participation.  
Discipline results in the denial of your student's participation.  
Fundraiser activities.

### **Coach expectations of parents:**

Concerns expressed directly to the coach.  
Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.  
Specific concerns regarding the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.  
Health concerns or conditions of the student.

### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:**

The treatment of your student.  
Ways to help your student improve.  
Concerns about your student's behavior.  
It is very difficult to accept your student not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your student's coach. Other things, such as those listed below must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:**

Playing time., Team strategy., Play calling.  
Other student/ athletes (unless a problem exists between your student/athlete and another)  
There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent/guardian. These are encouraged; it is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

### **Should you have an appropriate concern, the procedures to follow (24 hour rule):**

Set up an appointment with the Coach first. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. *Please use the 24 hour rule.*** These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote a healthy resolution.  
If you reach out to the Athletic Director first, He/She will kindly remind you that you must make an appointment with the coach.

The next step.... What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution? Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director and the coach to discuss the situation.

At this meeting the appropriate next step will be determined.

## **LANDMARK ACADEMY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT / ATHLETES**

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills and lessons. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor according to six core character traits: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. This Code applies to all student/ athletes involved in interscholastic sports at Landmark Academy. I understand that in order to participate in high school athletics, I must act in agreement with the following:

### **TRUSTWORTHINESS**

**Trustworthiness**~ be worthy of trust in all I do.

*Integrity*~ Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; do what is right even when it is unpopular or personally costly.

*Honesty*~ Live and compete honorably; don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.

*Reliability*~ Fulfill commitments; do what I say I will do; be on time to practices and games. Be a team player.

*Loyalty*~ Be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal glory.

### **RESPECT**

**Respect**~ treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of other student/athletes. Respect teachers, staff, coaches, opponents, officials, and fans at all times.

*Class*~ live and play with class; be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance, show sincere respect in pre and post game rituals.

*Disrespectful Conduct*~ do not engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of sexual or racial nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.

*Respect Officials*- treat officials with respect; do not complain about or argue with official calls of decisions during or after an athletic event.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

**Responsibility**~ To be reliable and dependable to perform duties and obligations and the best of your ability.

*Importance of Education* ~ Be a student first and commit to getting the best education I can. Remember that colleges and universities will not recruit student/athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.

*Role-Modeling*~ Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and that I am expected to represent my school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field or court. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the coach and school administration.

*Self-Control*~ Exercise self-control; do not fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.

*Healthy Lifestyle*~ Be conscious of our health and lifestyle choices; do not use illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.

### **FAIRNESS**

*Be Fair*~ Live up to a high standard of fair play; be open minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

## **CARING**

*Concern for Others*~ Demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to myself or others.

*Teammates*~ Help promote the well-being of teammates by positive counseling and engagement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

## **CITIZENSHIP**

*Play by the Rules*~ Maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all game and competition rules.

*Spirit of Rules*~ Honor the game and its rules; avoid temptations to gain competitive advantages through improper gamesmanship that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship. Play with class and represent Landmark Academy at all times.

### **To the Parent/ Guardian:**

Landmark Academy appreciates all the assistance that parents contribute to our school. Parent involvement in extracurricular events and activities is also greatly appreciated. It should be remembered that participating in athletics is a privilege, not a right. The major focus of athletics is to teach skill, positive attitudes, knowledge of the sport, and sportsmanship. The lessons that student/athletes learn by being part of a team include but are not limited to: responsibility, cooperation, dedication.

### **To the Athlete:**

The privilege you have earned to be a part of an interscholastic athletic team or club at Landmark Academy is a true extension of your work in the classroom. We hope you will benefit as much from your athletic experience as you do from your academic accomplishments. As a high school athlete, the positive values learned on the playing field or court will last a lifetime. To better represent Landmark Academy and successfully represent yourself we want you to reinforce the need for sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in competition at all times.

## **GOALS FOR THE ATHLETE**

Realize that academics come first and are mandatory in order to stay eligible.

Fully understand the importance of academics and sportsmanship in athletic competition.

Take full responsibility and understand the importance for the following at all times:

- a) Grades
- b) Sportsmanship
- c) Work Ethic
- d) Attitude
- e) Actions before, during, and after competition
- f) Punctuality/Commitment
- g) Respect
- h) Know and understand the Student/Athlete code of conduct regarding but

not limited to:

- Training Rules
- Violations of Code of Conduct
- Appeal Process
- Sportsmanship
- Eligibility
- Equipment
- Dress Code

## **SPORTSMANSHIP CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Mission**

Landmark Academy will make every effort to ensure that all individuals associated with our athletic programs and contests conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

### **Guidelines**

The following actions on the part of players, coaches, parents, and/or spectators will not be tolerated:

- ~Physically or verbally abusing any official coach, player or spectator
- ~Inciting participants or spectators to violent behavior
- ~Using profanity, vulgarity or obscene gestures (verbal or written)
- ~Mistreatment of facilities or equipment

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GOALS**

The program will always look into the opportunities to provide the most up to date sports offerings for the needs of all students, with keeping in mind the possibilities under the availability of facilities and finances. Landmark Academy requires that all student/ athletes represent themselves and Landmark with dignity and respect at all times. To provide an outlet for student/ athletes to learn and grow lessons that they will endorse for a lifetime.

## **THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

Coordinating the use of facilities and resolving conflicts regarding their use.

Hiring and making contact with officials in reference to games. Rescheduling and rehiring of officials for canceled games.

Requisitioning of payment for officials

Inventory of equipment for each sport and ordering of necessary replacements.

Provide supervision at all home games.

Publish and encourage the enforcement of a code of behavior for all athletes, coaches, and students.

Attend away games as a supervisor (when possible)

Collect all student/athletic physicals and keep them on file for the duration of the school year.

Activity participating in extracurricular support of the Athletic Program. Example: Booster Club

To be concerned with sportsmanship, morale improvement, and establishment of a winning tradition at Landmark Academy.

Verify student eligibility.

Official grade checks.

Official work ethics check.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETES**

Landmark Academy will follow the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc. and comply with all rules on eligibility for student/athletes. Landmark Academy will also hold student/athletes accountable to the grading policy currently in place for all students who attend our school. A passing grade is constituted by a C- or better. MHSAA rules and regulation can be further explained in the handbook published by the Representative Council of the Association.

The rules deal with the following, but are not limited to:

Age 19 or under by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year

Passing 66% of classes from the semester prior to competing and maintaining at least passing grades in 66% classes during the semester of competition. Example: 5 out of 7 classes must be passing.

Landmark constitutes a C as a passing grade and students must be passing all of their classes during the semester in which they are competing.

Grades will be checked by each player's coach during the semester in which they compete.

A failing grade(s) does not constitute dismissal from the team but will result in loss of playing time during competition until the failing grade(s) are brought up to passing.

Complete eligibility rules may be located in the student/athlete handbook and will be posted in the Athletic Director's office.

In Addition Landmark Academy Student/Athletes will be held accountable for Work Ethics Ratings in which case they must be passing 66% of their classes with a Proficient or Exemplary Rating.

Athletes will also have their annual sport physical on file before the start of the season. Failure to so will prevent the athlete from participating or even end up not being allowed to join the team.

### **Model Policy for Transfers Following Violations of a School's Student/ Athlete**

#### **Code:**

Landmark Academy will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject as a result of a student or athletic code violation(s) at the student's most recently attended school. Landmark will follow all transfer rules in compliance with MHSAA rules.

### **Landmark Academy Co-Curricular Activities Substance Use/Abuse Policy**

**Philosophy**~ Students who are involved in extracurricular activities are in a leadership role in which they are to represent their school. Involvement is a privilege. Adolescents are affected by the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other mood altering chemicals. Landmark Academy will not condone the possession or use of illicit substances or involvement in other inappropriate behavior by participants in extracurricular activities.

**Rule**~ Students shall not use, possess, buy, sell, or give away illicit substances. This includes illegal steroids or other performance enhancing substances, drugs, inhalants, alcohol, tobacco products, drug paraphernalia, caffeine pills, medication (except under the authorization of a doctor's supervision and in compliance with Landmark's medication policy) , fake and look-alike drugs or alcohol. Larceny, assault, vandalism, or other inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Students found to be in violation of the rule will lose the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities. This rule is in effect for students both at school, outside of school hours, and during vacations (including summer).

#### **Penalties**~

##### **FIRST VIOLATION**

If a participant or his/her parent comes to a school official to seek help for a drug or alcohol problem and not because of a prior violation that has yet to be reported to school personnel, the following procedure will be used:

The student will immediately cease use of illicit substance(s) and~

1. Students will miss 33 percent of the season based on time of meeting with the Athletic Director.

2. Students will still be able to practice but not play in games.

##### **OTHER INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

After confirmation of involvement in larceny, assault, vandalism or other inappropriate behavior and a meeting with the appropriate administrator, the student will: Immediately be suspended from all extra-curricular activities. The length of suspension will be determined by the administrator and will be based on the severity of the violation. The penalty for a first time violation can result in the student being removed from all activities for the duration of the activities and the student being prohibited from participating in other extra- curricular activities for a period of six(6) weeks from the date for the meeting with the administrator.

## **RECURRING VIOLATIONS**

After the confirmation of subsequent violations and a meeting with the appropriate administrator, the student will be suspended from all extra-curricular activities for a period of one calendar year from the date of the meeting with the administrator.

## **APPEAL PROCESS**

Appeal to the Athletic Director

Appeal to the MS/HS Administrator

Appeal to the Superintendent

## **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT/ ATHLETES**

Before participating in any athletic event (including try-outs and practice), an athlete must complete the following paperwork:

- i. Physical examination form signed by a parent and a physician. These are required to be updated on a yearly basis and will then be kept on file in the Athletic Department.
- ii. Personal history of any medications and or health concerns (this should be completed and turned in with physical).
- iii. The signature portion of this handbook signed by the parent/guardian and the student/athlete and returned to his/her coach.
- iv. Driver/travel consent form signed and completed by parent/guardian.

Team members must be present at all practices and games unless receiving prior excuse from the coach. The penalty for unexcused absence from practice may be as follows:

- i. The first violation will result in a warning from the coach and may affect playing time in the following game.
- ii. The second violation will result in a one(1) week suspension from competition. The player will still be expected to practice and attend the missed game(s).
- iii. The third violation will result in removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

Athletes are financially responsible for all school equipment issued to them (including but not limited to losses due to theft). To help prevent theft all students are encouraged to use a steel padlock on lockers at school. These can be rented for the year for a small fee or students may bring their own locks. If a student gains unauthorized possession of an item or school equipment (Landmark's or of another school) that student will be immediately suspended from athletics until the items are returned and may call for further disciplinary action. Athletes may not carry or consume food or beverages in any indoor athletic facilities. Athletes must have all Pay to Participate and equipment returned prior to the end of the season or this will result in withholding of awards, team photos, and so on as seen appropriate by the Athletic Department.

Athletes must demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times including but not limited to: accepting official's decisions without questioning; refraining from inappropriate remarks to officials or opponents, condemning acts of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of teammates, opponents, and/or spectators; must exercise self-control and fair play during practices and games.

If an athlete (for any reason) terminates his/her membership from the team, it is his/her responsibility to return all athletic equipment to the coach. If for some reason, the equipment is not returned then the student will be held financially responsible for the athletic equipment.

Fundraising is an important part of any sports program and therefore is an expectation of all team members to be active participants. Student/athletes will be responsible for any and all items that pertain to the fundraiser (for example: tickets, food, candy, etc.). Student/athletes will also be responsible for any and all money that they collect for the fundraiser. This also pertains to athletes that have been terminated from the team for any reason. Landmark Academy's coaches, staff involved in athletic events, and administration makes every effort to insure the physical safety of our athletes; however, parents/guardians and student/athletes must be aware of the element of risk involved in any interscholastic sports competition and practice and that there is a possibility of injury that cannot be

entirely eliminated from any sports program. Student/athletes must be in attendance at least 4 hours on the day of a game or practice in order to participate. Exempt from this are students who miss for the following reasons; school business, medical or other extenuating circumstances approved by the Athletic Director.

### **Student/ Athlete Pay to Participate Payment Plans**

Landmark Academy understands the financial burden of participating in extracurricular activities. In order to service the whole student body and not limit the ability of any student to participate in athletics; student/athlete Pay to Participate Payment Plans are available at the request of the parent/ guardian or student/ athlete. These are available either through your Landmark Academy coach or athletic director. All students will be required to pay the activity fee in full prior to the first contest. If this cannot be met due to financial issues please get a Pay to Participate Payment Plan. All student/athletes Pay to Participate Payment Plans need to be completed prior to the final two weeks of the season in which the student/athlete is competing.

### **Family/ Multiple Sports Pay to Participate Discount**

Landmark Academy understands that multiple students/athletes from the same family may be participating in sports throughout the duration of the year.

Student/Athletes participating in the same season Family Plans or Multiple Sports Discount:

1<sup>st</sup> Student/Athlete or Sport- \$70.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Student/Athlete or Sport- \$60.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Student/Athlete or Sport- \$50.00

In order to keep the cost efficient for student/athletes and families, a \$350.00 cap per year will be placed on all student/ athlete families in which no immediate family will pay more than \$350.00 to participate for the duration of the year. This only pertains to the athletics that are offered at Landmark Academy and the Pay to Participate Fees and not to any of the Co-Op athletic opportunities in which Landmark partners with other area schools.

### **Payment Location:**

**Please submit payment to the athletic director office. Please make any and all checks out to Landmark Academy with the student's name and sport in the memo section. A receipt will be given for all payments received.**

### **Parent Volunteers**

***If you are interested in assisting in any way please contact your team's Coach or the Athletic Director.***

Parent volunteers are greatly needed and appreciated to assist in a variety of ways to improve our Athletics Program such as but not limited to:

Assist with Fundraisers

Assist with Admissions/concessions for Athletic Events

Assist in suggested ways to create a good athletic program.

Assist by supplying service and equipment as needed and as finances allows.

### **General Requirements for coaching staff:**

Be a member of the Landmark Academy Staff. This is not mandatory but desired.

This allows for the coach to interact with the student/athlete not only on the field or court but in school as well.

Have understanding and knowledge of the sport which he/she is coaching.

It is important to have the knowledge to teach the basic fundamentals and player development and also how to blend these skills into a team concept.

Playing experience in highly organized programs is not a must but is desired.

Willingness to work with student/athletes on a constant basis on the skills which pertain to the sport, character development of each individual, and the total understanding of teamwork.

Effective communication skills with players and parents/guardians.

Positive demeanor that uplifts, motivates and brings positive value to our student/athletes experience

### **Coach Responsibilities:**

Be concerned with the welfare of all students/athletes.

Comply with MHSAA Eligibility Rules and Regulations and with Landmark Academy student/Athlete Handbook.

Be knowledgeable of sport and instruction related to helping student/athletes succeed.

Supervise student/athlete while at practice or games.

Treat all athletes with respect and dignity at all times

Be responsible for all student/athletes participating under his/her supervision and have a physical on file with the Athletic Department.

Complete training in CPR and First Aid. Understand how to care for injuries related to the sport.

Keep record of each player's "Driver/Transportation Approval" and turn it into the Athletic Department.

Inform the Athletic Director of special needs and problems.

Have adequate practice times, schedules, and routines to properly train and condition players in their sport.

Coaches will provide student/athletes with their goals for athletics as well as academic performance.

Unofficial grade checks and working with student/athletes in regards to academic performance.

Unofficial work ethic checks and working with student/athletes in regards to work ethics.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC LANDMARK ACADEMY STUDENT/ATHLETE HANDBOOK**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the student/athlete handbook is to provide a reference for persons interested in athlete and club programs of Landmark Academy School. The athletic policies have been approved by Landmark Academy School District and coincide with those of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). This handbook will outline expectations for student/athletes in regards to academics, eligibility, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The handbook also serves as a reference for parent/ guardians in which to hold your student/athlete accountable.

### **EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

Landmark Academy will:

Provide equal educational opportunities to all students.

Educate students on character development and to accept responsibility for his/her own behavior and ideas.

Provide the student with the knowledge to improve the quality of his/her own life and to aid in the improvement of the quality of the lives of others.

## **ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

The athletic program is an integral part of the total educational experience that one receives at Landmark Academy and can be justified to the extent that it leads to desirable learning experiences and adheres to the total educational mission, hallmarks, and objectives of the school.

Competitive activities should offer opportunities to develop wholesome growth patterns involving physical skills and to foster sturdy concepts of fair play, mutual respect between students and cooperation of individuals.

In the realization that athletics contribute to the emotional and social development of students, the program shall continuously strive to encourage as many students as possible to participate in the activities. It shall also stress the recognition that to compete is a privilege granted by the school as educational staff and that certain disciplines and sacrifices may be necessary to warrant this privilege.

### **Varsity Letters:**

Varsity Letters are earned in the following way. One letter per athlete. Pins and service bars are given to multi-sport and for multiple seasons of completion.

-Compete in a Varsity Sport sponsored by Landmark Academy

-Completion of the entire season

Not just a portion of the season or post season callup

-Completion of all financial obligations and return of all school equipment

### **Athletic Transportation:**

At Landmark Academy, we currently do not provide transportation for athletes to and from competitions. We understand that this can be challenging, and we truly appreciate the support of our athletes and their families in arranging transportation to away events. If transportation poses a difficulty, we encourage you to reach out to other families of athletes on the current team and work with them.