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503.5.A A Code of Ethics and Conduct for Student Activities

Ethics are defined as a code of principles or moral standard of conduct.

For the purposes of this document, the word "everyone" encompasses students, parents, staff, coaches, instructors, referees, media, cheerleaders, and spectators.

Respect:

1. The principle of respect challenges everyone to act in a manner respectful of the dignity of each person involved or present at student activities.
2. The principle of respect also challenges everyone to refrain from the use of profanity, insults, harassment and discrimination. Verbal and/or physical abuse, including hazing, constitutes harassment and shall not be tolerated.

Moral Standard of Conduct:

3. A moral standard of conduct challenges everyone to promote clearly articulated values related to leadership and participation in student activities, and to encourage and model honorable intentions and actions in coaching/instructing, or participating, viewing, cheering, or helping.
4. A moral standard of conduct challenges everyone to actively seek ways to reduce potentially negative aspects of student activities. Everyone is encouraged to participate in a manner that reflects the spirit and the rules of school activities as set for each sport, league or activity.
5. A moral standard of conduct challenges everyone to refuse the use of performance enhancing drugs, and the illicit use of drugs and alcohol at all student activities, including tournaments, competitions, or victory celebrations.

Responsible Coaching/Instruction:

The principle of responsible coaching /instruction carries the basic ethical expectation that the activities of coaches/instructors will benefit society in general and participants in particular. Fundamental to the implementation of this principle is

Exhibit



LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51

the notion that responsible coaching/instruction means that the coaches/instructors:

6. are "well prepared and current" in their discipline. They are responsible for achieving the appropriate level of training competence and for keeping current with relevant information and teaching skills;
7. act in the best interest of the student's development as a whole person, and that they ensure the activities are suitable for the age, experience, and ability of the students;
8. are aware that significant pressures relating to school, family relationships, or financial circumstances may affect a student's performance and that they coach/instruct in a manner that fosters positive life experiences;
9. recognize the power inherent in the position of coach/instructor and do not abuse this power. Sexual relationships and intimacy with participants are not to be tolerated; and
10. communicate to the student and the student's parent(s) information pertaining to the rules and policies of the activities as well as the potential risks of the activities.

Channels of Communication:

11. Concerns relating to the Code of Ethics and Conduct shall be addressed through the proper channels of communication as described in Policy 1003.1 Channels of Communication.

Breach of the Code of Ethics and Conduct:

12. A breach of the Code of Ethics and Conduct may result in the immediate removal from the event of the individual(s) perceived to have committed a breach of the Code of Ethics and Conduct.
13. The administrator responsible for student activities shall conduct an investigation of a breach of the Code of Ethics and Conduct when he or she becomes aware of an incident, or upon receipt of a written complaint.
14. **Upon receipt of a written complaint**, the administrator shall:
 - 14.1. notify the individual named in the complaint;
 - 14.2. conduct an investigation that includes all the parties to the incident;
 - 14.3. apply appropriate consequences; and
 - 14.4. document all actions taken.

Exhibit



LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51

15. If it is determined that a breach of the Code of Ethics and Conduct has occurred, the administrator shall apply appropriate consequences. Consequences may be applied according to existing rules and regulations governing the activity, and may result in suspensions or exclusions from future activities or District events.
16. After an investigation has taken place as a result of a written complaint, the administrator shall provide the complainant with a written description of the results of the investigation. If the complainant is not satisfied with the action taken at the school level, the administrator shall advise the complainant to follow the steps outlined in Policy 505.9 Appeals.

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