

LaVergne Band

Color Guard Specific Rules and Regulations

I. Objective

It shall be the purpose of the LaVergne High School Color Guard to be the visual aspect of the LaVergne High School Wolverine Band, to demonstrate the highest standards in dance and choreography, and to promote school spirit through performance with the band and as a unit. Because this unit is not for credit at LaVergne High School certain standards will be upheld and are outlined in this document.

II. Behavior

All members of the LaVergne High School Band and Color Guard are expected to maintain the highest standards of character and behavior at all times. The band's auxiliary unit members are among some of the most visible students in the school community.

A. Specific Behaviors Expected from members of the Color Guard

1. Members of the Color Guard are to give their full respect and attention to the band director, Color Guard Tech, and any other adult affiliated with the LHS Band.
2. Members of the Color Guard are to respect each other and are not to cause disagreements with other members of the Color Guard.
3. Members of the Color Guard are to not use profanity, make rude comments, or off-color remarks to others within the band or outside of the band.
4. Members of Color Guard may not be away from the band without a chaperone and the permission of the director.
5. Members of the Color Guard must attend all rehearsals and must pay for their uniform and camp expenses.

B. The Band Director and the Color Guard Tech have the authority to discipline any member for not following rules and regulations (band handbook), school policies, or behavior unbecoming of a band member. Disciplinary actions are considered on a case-by-case basis and may be in the form of running laps, sit-ups, after rehearsal basics practice, standing at attention, suspension, or removal from Color Guard.

C. Discipline for other misconduct is outlined later in this document.

D. Cell phones MAY NOT be turned on during practice or during performances including 3rd quarter break. Cell phones may be turned on after practice or performances to call home for transportation only.

- E. The LHS Band is a highly visible part of LaVergne High School and helps establish the reputation of the school. Members of the color guard should:
1. Have a POSITIVE attitude
 2. Display loyalty to the school and to the band
 3. Display good sportsmanship and try to encourage others to do the same by example
 4. Display good manners
 5. Always abide by the policies of the band and of LaVergne High School and Rutherford County School Policy.
- F. Any Color Guard member assigned to ISS or OSS will receive a disciplinary action by the Color Guard Tech or Director and risks suspension and/or removal from the unit. A discipline referral by the director or tech will result in an automatic performance suspension. Other suspensions or removals will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

III. Auxiliary Unit

A. Color Guard Captain:

The Color Guard Captain is in charge of their respected section at all times. The Color Guard Captain checks to make sure that everyone in the section has the equipment they need at all times as well as help to make up routines for their section along with any hired instructors and the director. The Color Guard Captain is directly under the band captain and equal to section leaders and must keep discipline within their sections and take attendance like other section leaders. The newly selected Color Guard Captain must attend a leadership meeting and may also be elected to serve on committees on the band council.

B. Choreography/Dancing

1. The Color Guard performs choreography/dance moves to the music that the band plays in the stands. These must be practiced before they are performed and must be approved by the director and Color Guard Tech.
2. Any member who performs vulgar, objectionable, or questionable dances/choreography will be disciplined by suspension from a game or removal from the unit.
3. Each member of the Color Guard must have a uniform style of jewelry and hair style. Jewelry will be limited to earrings and necklaces. No other visible body piercings, rings, or watches will be allowed.

IV. Grades

Members of the Color Guard are expected to maintain their grades in each class as membership and participation in the Color Guard is voluntary and not for credit. Parents reserve the right to suspend their child from a game or remove their child from the unit if their student does not maintain his/her grades in other classes.

V. Absences and Punctuality

Students must request an excused absence performance form from the band office. Students must fill it out and return it at least four weeks in advance of the absence. In the event the students missed a performance due to an emergency, you must fill out the same form within a week of the missed event.

A. Specific excusable absences

1. Members of the Color Guard must be present at each rehearsal and performance. Without each member present, the unit and the band suffer. If a member has an unexcused absence at a rehearsal or performance, she/he forfeits the ability to perform at the next performance. Excessive unexcused absences may result in removal from the unit.
2. Outside Jobs and other activities do not excuse members from their assigned activities.
3. Only illness, injury, or family emergency will be excused absences from any event unless approved by the tech and director.
4. A member must be present the entire school day of a rehearsal or performance unless a doctor's appointment is made and a doctor's excuse is presented to the sponsor and the director.
5. Any absence that is not medical will be evaluated by the Color Guard Tech and director to determine whether it will be excused or not.
6. A doctor's note will be required to resume full activity with the band after an injury.

VI. Uniforms

- A. Each member of the Color Guard is responsible for the purchase and maintenance of her/his uniform.
- B. All uniform ideas must be approved by the tech, and director.
- C. Uniforms must be worn correctly at all times. Special circumstances will change what the unit is to wear and appropriate changes will be dictated by the tech and director.
- D. Each member of the Color Guard must have a uniform style of jewelry and hair style. Jewelry will be limited to earrings and necklaces. No other visible body piercing, rings or watches will be allowed.
- E. Regular Uniform inspections will be carried out by the captain, tech, and director. Any member whose uniform does not meet inspection will be disciplined and not allowed to perform at that performance unless the member can pass inspection before the band marches into the stadium.

VII. Practice

- A. Each member of the Color Guard should work to improve her/his skills and should utilize rehearsals as a time to perfect her/his performance by giving 100% effort all of the time.
- B. Each member of the Color Guard has to attend LHS Color Guard Camp and the LHS Band Camp. Failure to attend these camps will result in removal from the unit. If a summer camp is attended, fundraising will be done to off-set costs.
- C. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Failure to attend will result in disciplinary action and possible suspension or removal from the unit.
- D. Any member who is tardy to a rehearsal or performance 3 times will have an unexcused absence. Any member who knowingly must be tardy should get approval from the tech and director prior to being tardy to prevent the tardy from counting against them.

VIII. Performances

- A. The Color Guard will perform with the LHS Band at all football games, parades, and other performances of the marching band.
- B. Members must always be with the whole band or accompanied by a chaperone, no member may be alone at any time.
- C. Members must meet at the designated time and location they are asked to report by the tech and director.
- D. Members must return from their 3rd quarter break with 3 minutes on the play clock remaining or face discipline.
- E. Members should not hold conversations with persons outside of the band in the stands if the band is playing.

IX. Transportation

- A. Each member must travel with the band on the way to performances. Parents or guardians who present a written excuse to the sponsor and director may take his/her child from a performance; no one else may do so.
- B. Members should be picked up from a performance within 30 minutes of the dismissal of the band.

X. Camp

Besides the mandatory Color Guard camp and LHS Band Camp in the summer, members may be required to attend a summer camp at her/his expense. Fundraising will be done to help off-set the cost of color guard dues. Members who do not go risk being dismissed from the unit without an approved excuse.

XI. Costs

- A. Approximate costs of a color guard uniform, band shirt, accessories, and other misc.
Cost may be over \$400.

- B. The Color Guard will be able to work at fundraisers to help off-set the costs of the expenses of being a member of the Color Guard.
- C. All items should be paid for upon receipt. If an item is part of the uniform required and is not paid for by the third performance that item is needed, the member will be suspended from that game.

XII. Suspension

A. Definition:

A suspension is defined as the refusal of the tech and director to allow a member to perform during a given performance whether this is a football game, parade, or other marching band performance.

XIII. Violations for Immediate Administrative Review and Action

- A. Undesirable behaviors including, but not limited to fighting, smoking, drinking alcohol, drugs, or other inappropriate actions as determined by the tech and director and the administration.
- B. An act committed by a member that would, in the opinion of the sponsor and director and the administration harm the reputation of the school and/or the band.
- C. School Suspension

All behaviors noted in this section may result in administrative actions as well as they are all in violation of the policies of the “Student Code of Conduct” of Rutherford County Schools.

XIV. Expulsion Violations

- A. Any offense listed in the “Student Code of Conduct” for Rutherford County Schools for which students must or may be placed in a disciplinary Alternative Education Program.
- B. Any offenses by the student warranting school expulsion.

XV. Any Color Guard member who does not finish the year in good standing will not be allowed to try-out again without the permission of the sponsor and director and the administration.

XVI. The Color Guard Tech and Band Director, with the LHS administration, reserve the right to make alterations and changes to this document as necessary. Members will be notified.

Color Guard Specific Rules and Regulations

***I hope this information is helpful. Keep the Color Guard Rule and Regulations information handy and refer to it when necessary. Both parent and student sign and return this form as soon as possible.**

In becoming a member of the LaVergne High School Color Guard, I agree to do my personal best to achieve excellence. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsal and performance are essential for the LaVergne High School Band and Color Guard to operate successfully. I promise to treat my peers and direction with mutual respect. I fully understand the conditions set forth in this handbook and agree to abide by them.

Band Student will:

1. Hold himself/herself to the highest possible standard of behavior at all performances, as well as when I am participating as an audience member. *Parent Initials* _____
Students Initials _____
2. Follow the rules and procedures in this handbook and agree to comply with them.
Parent Initials _____ *Students Initials* _____
3. Have an attitude of humility, encouragement, and helpfulness, because I understand that a Color Guard members need to work together to be successful. *Parent Initials* _____
Students Initials _____
4. Make it a *goal* to practice Color Guard techniques, routines 100 minutes per week (15 minutes per day). I understand that band rehearsals are for putting together all the different parts—not to practice individual parts. *Parent Initials* _____ *Students Initials* _____
5. Do my best to maintain good grades in ALL of my classes. I will make up any missed work immediately.
Parent Initials _____ *Students Initials* _____

Student Signature _____

Parent, Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Bus Permission Form

My child has my permission to travel by bus to any and all band events that are scheduled for this year.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____