

Lake Effect Homeschool Association Bylaws

Article I: Name: The name of this organization shall be the Lake Effect Homeschool Association.

Article II: Purpose: The Lake Effect Homeschool Association (LEHA) organization provides multiple competitive, varsity-level (7th-12th grade) scholastic sports programs based on Christian principles. Our teams are known as the Port City Royals and compete in the Empire State Christian Athletic League (ESCAL). Currently, the Port City Royals have active programs competing in soccer, basketball, and volleyball each academic year. Our purpose is to strive to develop God-given athletic abilities in a positive environment and help students meet New York State physical education requirements.

LEHA is a chapter of Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH.

High school sports, also known as scholastic sports, involve competitive games played between teams, with a focus on excellence at the personal, program, and team levels. Unlike recreational sports, which cater to all ages, are more informal and inclusive, and prioritize equal participation and fun, high school sports demand more time, discipline, structure, effort, and skill. These sports are exclusive, typically featuring only one team per sport (modified, junior varsity, varsity). Key characteristics of a scholastic sports program include the number of practices, quality equipment and uniforms, home and away game rivalries, team traditions, trained officials and coaches, conference playoffs, a competitive atmosphere, off-season training, and community and parent support.

Article III: Membership

- Membership is open to all homeschooling families and students of the Oswego Community Christian School. All members should understand the Christian orientation of this group. All applications for membership must be approved by the LEHA executive committee.
- All members must adhere to, affirm and honor the Purpose, Code(s) of Conduct, Statement of Faith, and Handbook set forth by the organization.
- All homeschool members (families) will be required to be members of Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH.
- In order for a student to participate in LEHA:
 - a. A student participant's family must become a member of LEHA and Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH (homeschool students only).
 - b. To participate in sports in LEHA and within ESCAL, a student must meet the age eligibility requirements as outlined in ESCAL's policy.
 - c. A student participant must play on the appropriate team based on the gender listed on their birth certificate or other documentation.

- d. A student participant must be actively working towards high school graduation and has not participated in a graduation ceremony nor received a high school diploma/equivalent.
 - e. Home schooled participants must be in compliance with NYS homeschool regulations and be in good academic standing. Students of the Oswego Community Christian School must be in good academic standing with their school. All homeschool student participants will be required to submit current IHIPs. OCCS will provide enrollment verification for OCCS that wish to participate.
 - f. LEHA retains the authority to verify educational/eligibility status beyond the parameters specified in this section.
- LEHA leadership reserves the right to dismiss any member whom Leadership determines has not honored the Statement of Faith, Code of Conduct or By-laws; or has harmed the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, home education, the Bible as the word of God, and/or Lake Effect Homeschool Association.
 - The Executive Committee is responsible for determining the organization's fees. Families must pay a family membership fee and, if applicable, a Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH fee. Additionally, there will be a student participation fee for each sport a student participates in. The Executive Committee will develop a spending plan for all organization funds.

Article IV: Officers: The officers of LEHA shall be the Chapter Leader(s), Treasurer, Secretary, and the Athletic Director.

Chapter Leaders are responsible for:

- Overseeing the overall functioning of the organization.
- Leading all membership meetings, Board of Director meetings and Executive Committee meetings.
- Coordinating dates, activities, and functions sponsored by the organization in collaboration with the Athletic Director, Officers, and the Board of Directors.
- Overseeing the website and social media information in coordination with the Athletic Director, Officers, and Coaches.
- Acting as a liaison between LEHA and Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH by maintaining contact with Regional Representatives, participating in the annual Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH Fall Fellowship, and fulfilling all required Chapter Leader functions, responsibilities and requirements.
- Contacting homeschool/OCCS families that have formally requested membership through the chapter's Homeschool Life website.
- Being well-versed in the requirements of the Organization and NYS homeschool regulations.
- Approving new members (families) before final approval by the Executive Committee.

- Chapter Leaders are chosen by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and affirmed by a majority of the members present at the Annual Meeting. They must also receive subsequent approval from Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH.

Treasurer is responsible for:

- Collecting all membership and participation fees from each member family.
- Verifying Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH membership and collecting associated fees as necessary.
- Maintaining the financial records of the organization.
- Providing monthly reports to the Executive Committee covering receipts, disbursements, receivables, and payables, including budget comparisons.
- Accounting for all funds generated through fundraising activities, including concession sales and grants.
- Spending organizational funds at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- Providing an annual financial report for the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) for the Annual Meeting for approval by the full membership. Provide the approved financial report to the Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH Regional Representative.
- Filing the annual IRS 990-N (e-postcard) by November 15th for the previous fiscal year.

Secretary is responsible for:

- Taking minutes at all leadership meetings.
- Managing the LEHA website and social media (both public and private).
- Updating and distributing the LEHA handbook.
- Maintaining family membership records and distributing membership information as needed to coaches and the Athletic Director.
- Submitting grant applications in coordination with the Executive Committee.

Athletic Director is responsible for:

- Coordinating all athletic games, schedules, referees, and facilities usage.
- Ensuring proper training and safety measures for athletic functions.
- Maintaining all LEHA athletic equipment and uniforms, providing regular reports on their condition, and proposing upgrades/replacements.
- Handling of student conduct issues in coordination with coaches when necessary in accordance with the Handbook.
- Recruiting, recommending, training, and managing coaching staff and other athletic personnel.
- Ensuring compliance with state, local, and ESCAL rules and regulations.
- Representing LEHA at all ESCAL meetings and communications.
- Mediating disputes between coaches and student participants when necessary in accordance with the Handbook.
- Managing disciplinary issues with coaches, in coordination with the Executive Committee as necessary.

- Coordinating with the treasurer to disburse funds and make payments for athletic-related activities.
- Representing the athletic coaches on the Executive Committee.

The Athletic Director is appointed by the Board of Directors prior to the Annual Membership Meeting, serving a term from July 1 to June 30. There is no limit to the number of terms an Athletic Director can serve..

Article V: Meetings

1. The Executive Committee will establish a meeting schedule to conduct regular and urgent organizational business.
2. The Board of Directors meet quarterly in person throughout the year (July 1st-June 30th).
3. Membership meetings will be held at the beginning of each sporting season for families, student participants, coaches and other members (as needed).
4. A full membership meeting will be held yearly in association with the Annual Athletic Banquet.
5. Special meetings may be called by the Chapter Leader(s) or by a majority of the Executive Committee at any time.
6. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the Board of Directors members for Board Meetings, majority of the members for Executive Committee Meetings.

Article VI: Committees

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of LEHA. The Executive Committee has the authority to handle urgent and day-to-day operational matters and expenditures not to exceed \$2000.
2. The Board of Directors consists of the Executive Committee, OCCS Liaison, and all athletic coaches, each holding voting rights. The Board is responsible for:
 - Reviewing and deciding on long-term strategic goals and the overall direction of the organization.
 - Ensuring adherence to legal and ethical standards.
 - Making significant decisions, such as adding or removing athletic teams, changing or using facilities, and approving major expenditures over \$2000.
 - Annually approving the budget.
 - Selecting the Athletic Director/ Chapter Leaders and establishing nomination/voting process for the annual election of the officers.
 - Confirming/Removing Athletic Coaches
 - Establishing policies and frameworks, including recommending bylaw amendments and annually approving the handbook.
3. Concessions/Fundraising (reports to the Executive Committee)
4. Awards Banquet (reports to the Board of Directors)

5. Additional committees can be constituted at the discretion of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee.

Article VII: Elections

1. The Board of Directors will establish the process for the election of officers. The elected officers for the upcoming year will be presented and affirmed by a majority of the members present at the Annual Membership Meeting/Athletic Banquet in May.
2. Athletic coaches and staff are recommended by the Athletic Director with confirmation by the Executive Committee.. The OCCS Liaison is appointed by OCCS . Duties for Athletic Coaches and the OCCS Liaison (beyond their board responsibilities) are outlined in the Handbook.
3. The term of office shall be from July 1st to June 30th.
4. There is no maximum number of terms an officer shall be permitted to serve.
5. In the event that an officer resigns during his/her term, the Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint an interim officer to fill the vacant position.

Article VIII: Amendments

1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular membership meeting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been given at the previous meeting.

Article IX: Dissolution

1. Upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, a petition to dissolve shall be submitted to the Homeschool NY/ NYS LEAH Regional Representative. Upon approval of Homeschool/NYS LEAH, this chapter may be dissolved and its activities closed. After payment of all bills and proper claims, remaining assets shall be disposed of in cash or in kind of transfer to a similar home education organization, approved by Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH, or transfer to Homeschool NY/NYS LEAH.

Statement of Faith

While we are a Christian homeschool organization, we do not require that all participants be practicing Christians. By engaging in our program, you do agree not to contradict our Statement of Faith while participating in our events (practices, games, et cetera).

Section 1. Preface

Our Statement of Faith includes only those truths upon which all true Christians agree. It concerns the Authority of Scripture, Deity of Christ, the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) as revealed in Scripture. It is the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 2, Ephesians 4:5) which distinguishes believers from non-believers. There are many other precious truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, this is not a statement of all that is important to believe, but of all that is essential to believe for Christian fellowship and unity.

(Romans 15:1-7).

We affirm the spiritual unity of believers through our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that individual doctrinal or practical differences which may exist, outside of the following, should not hinder the unity of Christian home educators.

Section 2. We believe:

1. The Bible to be the inspired, infallible, divinely preserved Word of God, the supreme and final authority for all faith and life.
2. That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, and His imminent bodily return in power and glory.
4. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and only those who put their faith in Jesus Christ alone, not trusting in any personal works whatsoever, can be saved.
5. That salvation is the free gift of God brought to the sinner by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose substitutionary death on the cross paid the penalty for man's sin.
6. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict mankind; indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.
7. That God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, members must affirm their (and all others) biological sex and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex. (Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
8. That God created and ordered human sexuality to the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal "one flesh" union of man and woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child. Consequently, members must affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis

organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

- c) Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more except purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

II) Article I of the governing document for each subordinate organization will be amended to include the correct name of the subordinate.

III) The governing document will be legally adopted by each subordinate in the following manner:

- a) The governing document will be signed by at least two members of the governing body of the subordinate group.
- b) The governing document will be dated with the date of adoption.

Name of Parent Organization: **Loving Education At Home or NYS LEAH**