

Devine ISD
ATHLETIC MANUAL
FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS



Updated: July 2023

Note: This manual is in addition to the Devine ISD UIL Handbook and the DISD Extra Curricular Handbook

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Devine Athletic Manual is to inform parents of policies set forth governing athletics and individual athletes.

Included in this manual is information concerning:

1. Insurance and High School Athletic Training Program
2. Devine ISD Sportsmanship Guide
3. Definition of Sportsmanship
4. Athletic Policies for the Student Athlete
5. Parent/Coach Communication
6. Philosophy of Evaluation of Players/Playing Time
7. Varsity Team Sport Lettering Qualifications
8. Athletic forms required to be completed prior to workout
9. Strategies to Prevent Staph Infections
10. Parental Statement of Understanding

If you have any questions concerning this manual, please contact: Athletic Director:

Jim Sessions

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INSURANCE

Adequate insurance coverage for the athlete is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. The school system purchases accident insurance for students for coverage while they are involved in school interscholastic athletic activities. The insurance plan includes only those sports which are under the supervision of the Devine ISD. It does not include club sports offered by individual schools or organizations. This insurance plan serves only as supplemental insurance to the parent or guardian's primary insurance. If the athlete does not have a primary insurance provider the school insurance will only pay a certain amount of charges. It must be clearly understood that no accident insurance plan is comprehensive. **Insurance information outlined on the following pages is an attempt to describe the insurance plan DISD provides the Student Assurance plan.**

School insurance claim forms are to be filled out by the parent or guardian and submitted to the doctor/hospital. It is the parent or guardian's sole responsibility to file all necessary claim forms to the appropriate providers. An insurance claim form can be obtained through the athletic director's office or through the athletic trainer's office.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Parents allowing their children to participate in school athletics accept the risk of injury. To help minimize the risk and to manage injuries when they occur, the school has employed a certified athletic trainer.

The athletic trainer is an important link in the health care delivery system. The athletic trainer serves as a liaison among athletes, parents, coaches, physicians, allied health professionals, and administrators to facilitate healthy participation in interscholastic athletics. *Please note that due to the large scope of the athletic program the athletic trainer may not be present at all practices and competitions.*

DEVINE ISD SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDE

A Guide for Athletes, Coaches, and Parents

Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege. As representatives of the Devine Independent School District, student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that meets the highest standards at all times.

It is the goal of Devine ISD to provide all students with opportunities to engage in athletic activities that enrich their education and further develop the core values of respect, responsibility, fairness, trust, and good citizenship.

Engaging in planned instruction teaches good sportsmanship and proper behavior. It is the responsibility of the administration, staff, coaches, parents, and the community at large to create a climate that fosters the development of these behaviors. This is accomplished by encouraging and modeling positive and appropriate behavior within the sporting environment while, at the same time striving for excellence.

Expectations for the behavior of athletes, coaches, and spectators at athletic contests, practices, and events are outlined below:

Athletes

Athletes are required to meet the following expectations:

- (1) Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.
- (2) Play hard and to the limit of your ability, regardless of discouragement. True athletes do not give up nor do they argue, cheat, or taunt opponents.
- (3) Retain composure at all times and never leave the bench or enter the playing field/court to engage in a fight.
- (4) Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true competitor does not offer excuses.
- (5) Maintain a high degree of physical fitness by conscientiously observing team and training rules.
- (6) Demonstrate loyalty to the school by maintaining a high scholastic standing and by participating in or supporting other school activities.
- (7) Play for the love and honor of the game.
- (8) Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
- (9) Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without question. (10) Respect the facilities of the host school and demonstrate the behavior expected of guests.

Parents/Spectators

Parent/Spectators are required to meet the following expectations:

- (1) Realize that you represent the school and community and, therefore, have an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through positive behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
- (2) Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
- (3) Recognize that since the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the players, victory or defeat are of secondary importance.
- (4) Treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending to them every courtesy.
- (5) Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- (6) Respect the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions.

Athlete/Parent/Coach Communication

The Devine athletic department encourages open communication among athletes, parents, and coaches. Both athletes and parents are urged to discuss their concerns with the coach in the appropriate setting and at the appropriate time.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach include issues of mental and physical wellbeing, strategies for improving individual performance, and issues of behavior.

Issues not appropriate for a parent to discuss with the coaches include playing time, starting positions, team strategy, play calling, and other athletes.

Conflict Resolution

It is desirable for conflicts to be resolved by an athlete with his/her coach. Occasionally, however, situations arise where conflicts are not able to be resolved through this interaction and the assistance of the athletic director and/or principal is needed.

Spectator Conduct

Devine ISD requires school districts to monitor spectator behavior at all school sponsored activities. Accordingly, an event supervisor(s) may request any person involved in misconduct to leave the premises and may contact the police for assistance. The school has the authority to suspend individuals from attending all school sponsored activities for spectator misconduct. Devine ISD appreciates positive support from all spectators.

The Definition of Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is character displayed in athletic competition. People of character live by the Six Pillars of Character: *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship*. These core ethical values provide the foundation for the Pursuing Victory with Honor campaign and all CHARACTER COUNTS!

TRUSTWORTHINESS: Always pursue victory with honor * Demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity * Observe and enforce the spirit and letter of rules * Do not compromise education and character-development goals * Do not engage in or tolerate dishonesty, cheating or dishonorable conduct.

RESPECT: Treat the traditions of the sport and other participants with respect * Do not engage in or tolerate disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, profane or belligerent “trash-talking,” taunting and unseemly celebrations * Win with grace and lose with dignity.

RESPONSIBILITY: Be positive role model on and off the field and require the same of athletes*

Further the mental, social and moral development of athletes and teach life skills that enhance personal success and social responsibility * Maintain competence including basic knowledge of: 1) character building, 2) first aid and safety, and 3) coaching principles, rules and strategies.

FAIRNESS: Adhere to high standards of fair play * Treat players fairly according to their abilities* Never take unfair advantage * Be open-minded

CARING: Assure that the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of athletes is always placed above desires and pressures to win * Do not permit reckless or potentially unsafe behavior of athletes.

CITIZENSHIP: Avoid gamesmanship and promote sportsmanship by honoring the rules and goals of the sport * Establish codes of conduct for coaches, athletes, parents and spectators * Safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport by prohibiting the use of alcohol and tobacco * Demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those relating to gambling and the use of drugs.



ATHLETIC POLICIES FOR THE STUDENT ATHLETE

Participation in the athletic program and/or University Interscholastic League contest is **not a right but a PRIVILEGE**. No student is required to take part in the contests or activities. Therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the following athletic code and conform to the rules therein. The coaches of the sport or activity and the athletic director shall have the right to remove these privileges at any time.

All sophomore through senior athletes wishing to participate in any sport, who did not complete or participate in the sport the previous season, and wish to try-out may do so. However, the athlete will only be placed in the athletic period upon making the team.

A. Athletic Appearance and Grooming

At all times, an athlete's appearance (hairstyle and clothing) should not be such that he/she draws undue attention, creates disruption, or presents a safety hazard. **As a safety precaution, jewelry shall not be worn during practices. In addition, no tongue or nose rings will be visible at any time, which includes during practice, while traveling with the team or during games. Appearance for clothing and hairstyle is defined in the Devine ISD handbook.**

B. Self-Discipline

One of the rewards of being an athlete is learning self-discipline. There is no better way to acquire self-discipline than to make sacrifices.

DISCIPLINE YOURSELF SO OTHERS DON'T HAVE TO!

C. Quitting the Team

Think hard before you decide to go out for a sport. Athletics takes a lot of hard work, time, and dedication. As such, any participant who quits a sport after they have begun will not be allowed to participate in any other sport until the regular season has ended in the sport that he/she quit. An exception to this would be if the athlete quit upon recommendation of their coach. Other exceptions are possible, but must be made by majority vote of the athletic director, principal, and coach.

D. Practice Regulations

1. A coach must be consulted ahead of time if any athlete must miss practice or a game. **Missing a game or practice without permission may result in suspension or removal from the team. The head coach will make the final decision.**
2. Obey all rules set up by the coach. (Respect all coaches.)
3. Profanity and poor effort will not be tolerated.

E. Travel

All athletes in middle school and high school represent the community, school, and coaches at all times on all out of town trips. Therefore, it is expected that all athletes will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the dress code for athletics and the DISD Student Code of Conduct. Violations will result in suspension from the next contest. Any incident of a serious nature may result in suspension and/or expulsion from the team and/or program.

In addition, the following guidelines will be enforced for all trips:

1. Be on time. Tardiness will not be accepted.
2. Dress neatly as directed by the coach.
3. Be mannerly in all public areas.
4. Show respect for the opposing team's facilities.

Athletes making the trip on the bus will return on the bus unless a parent is present or an emergency situation arises. The proper form or sign out procedure must be completed to return home with a parent. ALL parents must follow the proper sign out procedure at ALL times. If athletes must return with another person other than their parent, the coach must be notified in advance.

F. Suspension from School/discipline

An athlete receiving ISS cannot compete during the term of the assignment. An athlete may be placed on probation if he/she is assigned to ISS and any additional assignments to ISS may result in removal from the athletic program. The coach, under the direction of the athletic director, has the right to suspend an athlete from a competition due to an ISS placement, even if the competition is after their completed ISS placement. The coach, under the direction of the athletic director, also has the right to suspend an athlete from a competition due to any other disciplinary action imposed by the school. **Students assigned to ISS may be placed on a discipline contract once their placement has been completed. Multiple ISS placements will expedite the process and may result in dismissal from the program.**

If any athlete is placed in the Devine Alternative Education Program (DAEP), he/she may be removed from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year in which the placement occurred. Exceptions to this rule will only be made under the direction of the athletic director. **Students assigned to DAEP will be placed on a discipline contract once their placement has been completed.**

Please Note: Athletes assigned to ISS or DAEP will have to earn their way back into practice by completing a pre-determined conditioning. This will serve as both a replacement for missing practice time and as a deterrent for unwanted behavior.

G. Use of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco/Vaping

The Athletic program will continue to teach the lessons about how enjoyable and fulfilling life can be without drugs/alcohol/vaping insisting that athletics and extracurricular activities and events remain drug free. For complete policies and procedures refer to the UIL Extra Curricular Handbook and the Devine ISD Student Drug Testing Guidelines. Please note as little as one violation of this policy may result in placement to DAEP.

H. Theft

Taking things from other players, students, etc. will not be tolerated. Punishment will be handled on a case-by-case basis and may result in expulsion from the athletic program for up to one calendar year from the date of the incident. For complete policies and procedures refer to the UIL Extra Curricular Handbook

I. Attendance Policy

An athlete may not participate in any contest or activity unless he/she attends school for a minimum of 4 class periods the day of the competition. The athlete must have attended a minimum of 4 class periods the preceding day if the activity falls on a Saturday or a holiday. **Only the principal or athletic director shall grant exceptions.**

Student Athletes with excessive absences may be held from competitions due to attendance concerns. Students are required to attend 90% of all classes to obtain credit for each class. Please note: Athletes are expected to attend classes the day after contests. Excessive absences after events will result in athletes not being able to participate in the next event.

J. Grades

All athletes must maintain a 70 or above average to participate in athletics. Failing grades will not be tolerated and will be subject to dismissal from the athletic program. In the case of low grades (74 and below), attendance in a mandatory tutorial program may be required. If an athlete fails two consecutive grading periods they will be placed on probation and may be removed from the athletic program. This will be on a case by case basis.

K. Dressing Out and Participation

All athletes are expected to dress out and participate daily during the year. Students who continuously refuse to dress out or participate, who do not have a valid doctor's excuse, will be placed on a discipline contract and may be removed from the program during the year.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Parent Coach Relationship

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

Communications You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. General expectations
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs
5. Procedure if your child is injured during participation
6. Team rules, guidelines, and consequences for infractions
7. Lettering criteria
8. Team selection process

Communication Coaches Expect From Athletes/Parents

1. Concerns related to your child's general welfare
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches

1. Ways to help your child improve
2. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student athletes involved. As you have seen from the previous list, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach:

1. Playing time
2. Team Strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position.

If You Have a Concern to Discuss With a Coach

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the student activities coordinator to help set up the meeting for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Parent Code

1. Be a positive role model through your own actions to make sure your child has the best athletic experience possible.
2. Be a “team fan”, as well as a “my kid” fan.
3. Weigh what your children say; they might slant the truth to their advantage.
4. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
5. Be respectful of all officials’ decisions.
6. Praise student athletes in their attempts to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people.
7. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
8. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
9. Help your child learn that success is oriented in the development of a skill and should make a person feel good about themselves, win or lose.
10. If you as a parent have concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner including proper time and place. Be sure to follow the designated chain of command.
11. Please reinforce our drug and alcohol-free policies by refraining from the use of any controlled substance before and during athletic contests.
12. Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.

Be sensible, responsible, and keep your priorities in order. Participating on a Devine MS/HS team is a wonderful opportunity for your child to grow physically, socially, and emotionally.

PHILOSOPHY OF EVALUATION OF PLAYERS/PLAYING TIME

Although playing time is a decision of the team's coach, the following can serve as a guideline to understanding the process of which a player is evaluated.

Attitude - Athletes are asked to have a positive, team first attitude. Negative attitudes can hurt an athlete's performance and can cause issues with team dynamics. A player with a positive attitude - regardless of role - will make a greater impact on the team than one who does not possess that quality.

Hustle and Effort - Everyone is asked to give their best effort at all times. This goes for multiple aspects of the sport such as conditioning, weight training, off-season preparation, and of course practice and game times.

Contribution to the Team - Players are expected to be able to contribute to the team. Aspects may vary by sport but examples include knowing responsibilities/assignments/plays, being a great teammate which includes motivating and encouraging teammates to be the best they can be, and being a player with great character.

Talent - Assuming the above mentioned guidelines are equal, as they should be, talent becomes a factor. Those that are the most skilled in their spots will be ahead of those that are less skilled.

CRITERIA TO EARN A LETTER OR A LETTER JACKET

The following criteria are mandatory to earn a letter or a letterman's jacket in a varsity sport:

- Varsity volleyball, basketball, baseball, football and softball athletes letter if they have been on varsity for half of district play. If the team advances in the playoffs and a junior varsity athlete is promoted to the varsity they will receive a letter but not a jacket.
- Cross Country, Track, Tennis, Powerlifting, and Golf varsity athletes must have played on the "A"/ Varsity team in the district tournament, or can be on the "B" team if both groups qualify and play in the regional tournament.

****Please note:** Only one jacket will be purchased by the school for each athlete

FORMS NEEDED FOR PARTICIPATION

UIL Preparticipation Physical Evaluation – Medical History (Physical Form) found at:
<https://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/PrePhysFormRvsd2.21.pdf>

Additional forms needed for participation in the Devine Athletic Program can be found and completed online at: <https://devineisd.rankonesport.com/New/NewParentLogin.aspx>

Those forms include:

Emergency Card

UIL Signature Page

Drug Testing Authorization Form

Medical History (Online)

Devine ISD Extra Curricular Activity Handbook

Devine Athletic Handbook

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT STAPH INFECTIONS

Hand washing is the single most important behavior in preventing infectious disease. Hands must be clean before you touch your eyes, mouth, nose, or any cuts or scrapes on the skin.

1. Wash your hands after sneezing, blowing, or touching the nose.
2. After using the toilet.
3. Before leaving the athletic area.
4. Do not share towels, soap, or other personal care items.
5. Shower with soap and water as soon as possible after direct contact sports.
6. Dry using a clean, dry towel.
7. Do not share towels, even on the sidelines at games.
8. Ointments or antibiotics must not be shared.
9. Wash towels, workout clothes and any other laundry in hot water and ordinary detergent and dry on the hottest cycle.
10. Report all wounds to the coach.

Parental Statement of Understanding:

I understand the policies governing interscholastic athletics in the Devine ISD, and by my signature grant permission for the student's participation. I also understand that participation in school-sponsored activities is a privilege and not a property right; and therefore, the school's athletic director/principal may suspend my daughter from participation by declaring her not in good standing if the student's character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon her school.

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Print Name of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date