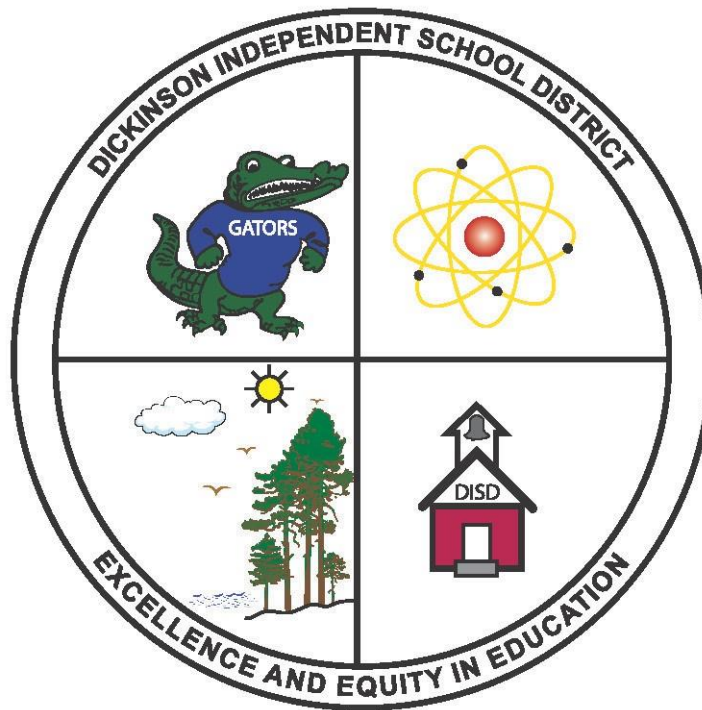


DICKINSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Parent/Student-Athlete
Jr. High Handbook





Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son or daughter has expressed a desire to participate in the Athletic Program in the Dickinson ISD. It is the belief of the coaching staff that athletics can do more for your child than teach him/her to play the sport he/she has chosen.

We believe athletics instills the desire to win, attain personal goals ensuring maximum team effort, builds strength of body, and strength of character. The latter of these qualities determines the success of the first three.

It is our belief that strength of character is the foundation upon which to build the well-developed, well-polished individual. Athletes, as people in any specialized field, have a unique role to play. Athletes are constantly being monitored by their peers, teachers, and the community. By constantly being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and be constantly aware of the role they have assumed. They must be certain they present to their peers, teachers, and community respect, sincerity, and honesty expected of a young lady or gentleman.

We believe very strongly that our athletes should possess these qualities. Because of this belief, we have established the following set of guidelines to be followed by all athletes in the Dickinson ISD.

ALL ATHLETES, REGARDLESS OF SPORT, MUST:

- Abide by all University Interscholastic League (UIL) rule specifications, and abide by local athletic policy.
- Attend every practice session and athletic contest unless ill or emergency situations. (Parents or athlete must call in if the athlete is not attending a practice session.)
- At all times, respond to every situation as a young lady or gentleman.
- Abide by all Dickinson ISD, Athletic Department, and campus guidelines and policies.
- Maintain academic intensity to achieve success in the classroom.

Violation of these policies will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken against the student and could result in his/her removal from the athletic program in the Dickinson ISD. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in motivating your son or daughter to observe these rules so that he or she will receive the maximum benefit from the program.

Enclosed is an information handbook for Dickinson ISD Athletics, which includes guidelines and policies for the student-athletes. We have discussed these rules with your son or daughter. Please read them and discuss them again with your son or daughter.

Sincerely,

John Snelson
Director of Athletics

Mission of Dickinson ISD Athletic Department

It is the mission of the athletic program to supplement the educational process of the student-athletes at Dickinson ISD. The programs will provide opportunities for these athletes to participate and succeed in athletic competition, while assisting them in their academic endeavors. Participants will be taught character, work ethic, discipline, values of right and wrong, team concepts, community service, and sportsmanship in an arena that will prepare them for future life experiences. Coaches will also help athletes to set future goals and will assist them in becoming responsible, productive citizens.

Philosophy of Dickinson ISD Athletics

The Dickinson Independent School District believes that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of the student.

The Dickinson ISD Department of Athletics should provide a variety of experiences to enhance the development of positive student habits and attitudes that will prepare them for adult life.

Athletics should function as an integral part of the total curriculum. It should offer opportunities to serve the institution, to assist in the development of positive relationships and good will, to promote self-realization, all-around growth, and good citizenship qualities.

The Dickinson ISD athletic program is based on the premise that *athletes are students first and that athletic participation is a privilege rather than a right*. Students learn teamwork and group responsibility. They also learn to deal with success and to overcome adversity.

The athletic program in Dickinson ISD is structured very intentionally, with specific goals in mind for athletes at each level. All athletes are required to properly represent DISD on and off the field, or they will not be afforded the privilege of representing DISD in interscholastic competition.

At the junior high level, our primary goal is to make the athletic experience for the students enjoyable. It is a time to focus on participation and camaraderie among team members. This allows the students to have fun while learning the fundamentals of the sport. All athletes who try out and make a junior high school team, are in attendance daily at practice, and are eligible academically will participate in every single game. Winning is a secondary issue for our program at this level. We believe that if a junior high school student has a great experience with their friends, and learns the fundamentals of their respective sport, we have accomplished the most important foundational goals in building the total athletic program.

As the students move up through our program into **high school**, we begin shaping them toward the day they will begin competing at the varsity level. Similar to middle school, our freshmen and junior varsity teams are centered on player development. While the playing time percentage may vary, we attempt to ensure each student has an opportunity to participate in all games as long as the student is academically and medically eligible to participate and has been present at all practices.

U.I.L SPORTS OFFERED BY DISD ATHLETICS

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS (7-8)

- Basketball (Boys and Girls)
- Cross Country (Boys and Girls)
- Football
- Tennis (Boys and Girls)
- Track (Boys and Girls)
- Volleyball

Please note that in the junior high schools all sports practice before or after school when in-season. Due to coaching staff and schedule constraints, some junior high school sports only practice after school when in- season. The junior high school athletic class period is designed to be general Athletic Development class when sports are not in-season and all student-athletes are encouraged to participate in the class even if his/her sport is only practiced before or after school.

Also, please note that some club sports (7 on 7, fall baseball, etc.) utilize Dickinson ISD campus names and logos but are not sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League and thus not affiliated with the DISD Athletic Department. Since the students who belong to the club sport teams are DISD students, we fully support them in their endeavors. Please direct all questions relating to these club sports to each club's coach or club director.

WHAT WE VALUE

- We are about scholarship in junior high school and high school, which could lead to athletic scholarships to college.
- While we value championships, we value developing championship people more.
- We value graduation rates just as much as winning percentages.
- We are about the education of students more than entertainment of the public.
- We focus on the team, not the individual.
- We focus on developing character, not characters.
- We are about the process.
- We are an education-based program.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

- Promote improvement through self-evaluation
- Retain, attract, and hire exemplary coaches
- Increase the total participation in each sport aligned with student population increases
- Promote consistency and unity throughout the Athletic Department
- Increase parent and community partnerships with the Athletic Department
- Increase faculty/staff awareness and involvement with the Athletic Department
- Maintain a high level of expectation for success
- Use athletics as a tool to prepare our student-athletes for the future
- Increase scholarship opportunities for student-athletes
- Promote athletic programs and activities with aggressive communication
- Win championships with class and character

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR 7th AND 8th GRADE PARTICIPANTS- UIL

An individual may participate in League athletic competition or contests as a representative of a participant school if he/she:

1. Has met the requirements of Section 1400 (a) (above) regarding general eligibility:
2. For 7th grade athletic competition, has not reached his/her 14th birthday on or before
3. September 1, and has not enrolled in the 9th grade.
4. For 8th grade athletic competition, has not reached his/her 15th birthday on or before
5. September 1, and has not enrolled in the 9th grade.
6. A student who initially entered the 7th or 8th grade the current school year and is too old for
7. 7th or 8th grade participation may participate according to age, that is, 7th graders on the 8th grade, 9th grade, high school junior varsity or high school varsity team, and 8th graders on the
8. 9th grade, high school junior varsity, or high school varsity team.
 - a. Four Consecutive Years. A student has only four consecutive calendar years to complete high school varsity eligibility. Exception: See [Section 463](#).
 - b. Athletic Class. Overage junior high school students who have reached their 15th birthday on or before September 1 of that school year may be assigned to high school athletic periods if they are participating with the high school sub-varsity or varsity. Otherwise 7th and 8th grade students remain in their junior high school athletic class throughout the school year.
 - c. Full Participation Allowed. Only 7th and 8th grade students who are too old to represent the 8th grade team may participate on the high school's athletic team. Overage junior high school students who participate with a high school 9th grade, sub-varsity or varsity team, may participate fully under the rules for high school athletes in that sport, including, but not limited to, rules governing number of games, post-season games, etc.
 - d. Is a full-time student in grade seven or eight at the school he/she represents. Exception: Seventh and eighth grade students from public K-8 schools that do not field a team, may participate on the 7th and 8th grade baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, and/or volleyball teams at the junior high school in the attendance area where they reside or which is a part of the designated receiving school district. (Parochial, private, and home schooled students are not eligible.)
 - e. Has been in attendance and has passed the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education, and is passing the number of courses required by state law and by rules of the State Board of Education.
 - f. Has not repeated the 7th or 8th grade for athletic purposes. A student who repeats the 7th or 8th grade for athletic purposes shall be eligible for only two consecutive years in 7th and 8th grade athletic competition after the first enrollment in the 7th grade. A student held back one year in the 7th or 8th grade for athletic purposes shall lose the fourth year of eligibility after

entering the 9th grade. A student held back for two years for athletic purposes shall lose the third and fourth years of eligibility after entering the 9th grade.

- g. Has not changed schools for athletic purposes.

If an athlete chooses to miss a Dickinson ISD Athletic practice or game because of participation in an activity not under the auspices of Dickinson ISD, the student-athlete will face consequences. Each head coach will determine and communicate to the parents and student-athletes prior to the season the consequences for missing a Dickinson ISD Athletic game or practice. Repeated absences may result in the student-athlete's removal from the team.

Non-athletic Dickinson ISD school sanctioned activities do not fall under this policy.

The Athletic Director may make an exception to this policy if the student-athlete is participating on a national or international level and representing the United States, i.e. US Olympic Team.

DISD Athletics Complaints/Concerns Process and Guidelines

Our goals are to facilitate communication between player and coach, then coach and parent/student and to address concerns in a collaborative, effective manner. If you are a student or parent who has a concern or complaint about a sport or coach, please follow the DISD resolution process and recommended UIL guidelines.

Coaches cannot address a problem unless they know that a problem exists. Many times, problems stem between coaches and parents from a miscommunication or misinterpretation of an issue. Therefore, we ask that your child talk first with the coach and address the problem directly. If the outcome of that meeting is not satisfactory, we ask that the parent and student meet together with the coach.

The DISD Athletic Department is here to work alongside parents to encourage an enjoyable experience for the student-athlete in DISD Athletics. We will do whatever it takes in working with parents to achieve that goal. When an issue or conflict arises, please give due diligence and follow the department communication protocol.

Remember the “24 hour” rule: Please wait 24 hours before approaching a coach either in person, by phone or through email. This allows all involved a “cooling down” period and provides for a time for reflection.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue.

Again, we are committed to effective communication and problem solving and look forward to meeting with students and parents to build and maintain a top caliber athletic program in DISD. We ask and encourage you to follow the procedures outlined below:

Informal

Telephone the coach or send him/her an email about your concerns and allow the coach two (2) school days to discuss the matter with you and offer a solution. Please do not approach a coach during or after a game or practice. If both parties agree that it is necessary, a face-to-face meeting will be held.

Formal Steps

1. If the informal interaction does not resolve the issue, put your concerns in writing (email or letter) to the coach with an explanation of why the informal process did not solve the problem. You will receive a written reply from the coach offering a solution within three (3) school days.
2. If the Step 1 response does not resolve the issue, within three (3) school days of receipt of the response from the coach put your reasons for disagreement with the offered solution in detail and in writing to the Assistant Athletic Directors.
 - a. Attach the Step 1 response from the coach.

- b. The Assistant Athletic Directors will conduct an independent investigation of the complaint and contact you to schedule a meeting, if needed, to seek resolution of the issue.
- c. Within three (3) school days from receipt of your request, the Assistant Athletic Director will send a written reply to the complaint/concern. **Notes:**
 - *Complaint/Concern Defined: A complaint (or concern) is an oral or written communication questioning the conduct or failure to act by a coach or other athletic department staff in which the athlete's parent (legal guardian) feels aggrieved or dissatisfied.*
 - *If the complaint/concern is in regards to a potential criminal act or immoral behavior by the coach, initiate your complaint in writing at Step 2.*
 - *DISD Athletic Office phone number 281-229-6410*

PLAYING TIME

Student-athletes in the Dickinson Independent School District Athletic Program earn playing time for game and scrimmage situations by, first, being a member in good standing of the school community. Second, a student athlete must attend practice and work to the best of his/her ability. Third, a student-athlete must be a team player and execute the specific role assigned to him/her by the coach. Fourth, a student-athlete must demonstrate a commitment to fair-play and sportsmanship at all times. And finally, a student-athlete must support the team by contributing in a positive way to the team's learning environment. In other words, the student-athlete must focus on learning tasks and assignments and not disrupt other players.

At the junior high school level, every player will play in every game unless a player fails to maintain expectations regarding behavior, academics, or practice attendance. It is not required that each player play the same amount of time.

QUITTING A SPORT

Any athlete who quits a team or is removed from the team will not be permitted to work out with another team until the previous sport season has been completed. If both head coaches are in agreement, the student athlete may move to the next sport before the end of the season. If an athlete quits, he/she will forfeit his/her award for the sport.

WARNING ABOUT THE INHERENT DANGERS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Student-athletes and parents should be aware that any athletic participation will always have inherent dangers. Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in sports, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment, proper training methods and common sense.

To achieve our goals, it is imperative that we hold ourselves to the highest standards. Achieving our goals in athletics comes second to achieving our goals in the classroom. Many factors contribute to the success of a program. Discipline would certainly be one such factor. This year we are implementing the **3 STRIKES-YOU'RE OUT** policy. Our intent is not to kick anyone out of athletics, but to impress upon our athletes the importance of taking care of responsibilities. If an athlete demonstrates the inability to act and do things the "right way," he/she will not be a part of the Athletic Program in DISD.

Academically- You must pass all of your classes to stay eligible to participate in athletics. If you are failing a class at the end of the nine-week term, you will be placed on academic probation. Subsequently, if you fail another nine-week grading period, you will be removed from Athletics. **Your grades must come first!** If you are having trouble with a specific class, teacher, or anything else regarding your education, please let your coaches know. We are here to help you out, but we can't help you without first-hand knowledge of your issues.

Discipline/Behavior- How you conduct yourself on the court, field, and track, in the classroom and in the community is extremely important to the program. You will be a role model for others. Whether you accept that responsibility will determine your participation in athletics. The three-strike policy will be strictly enforced with the discretion left to the coaches and Administrators. Three minor violations will equal a strike; a major violation is an automatic strike. ***There will be consequences for every violation!***

Minor Violation	Major Violations	Grounds for Removal
<input type="checkbox"/> Detention <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Administrator complaint <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive tardies <input type="checkbox"/> PDA	<input type="checkbox"/> ISS/OSS <input type="checkbox"/> Missing Practice/games without notification <input type="checkbox"/> Cheating/plagiarism <input type="checkbox"/> Disrespecting or using profanity	<div data-bbox="1032 989 1471 1461"> Use, possession, in the presence of, under or giving the impression of being under the influence of marijuana, controlled substance, alcohol, cigarettes, vaping or any other mood changing, mind-altering, or behavior altering drugs including but not limited to social media, text-messaging, email images and other forms of electronic media or communications. </div> <div data-bbox="1032 1461 1471 1791"> Participation in the illegal activities such as stealing, fighting, indecent exposure, or public lewdness including, but not limited to videos displayed on any social media, text messaging, email images and other forms of electronic media or communication. </div>

Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property.

Extracurricular behavioral standards shall not have the effect of discriminating based on gender, race, color, disability, religion, ethnicity, or national origin.

The Campus Coordinator and Campus Administrators will handle all minor and major violations at the campus level. The Campus Coordinators, Campus Administrators and DISD Athletic Administrators will handle grounds for **removal**.

Strike #1-Athletes will be placed on a behavior contract.

Strike #2-Parent/Athlete Meeting. Athlete will be suspended-Coaches discretion length.

Strike #3-Athlete will be removed from Athletics remainder of the year.

Suspension or Expulsion from the Program

For athletes to re-enter the athletic program after having been removed for any reason, the following procedure will be followed.

Athletes and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will meet with the Campus Coordinator/Coach, Campus Administrators and Athletic Administrators. At the meeting a probationary contract for re-entry into the athletic program will be developed. After discussing the specifics contents and obligations outlined in the contract, all parties will be required to sign the contract.

Deferred Adjudication for Felony Offense

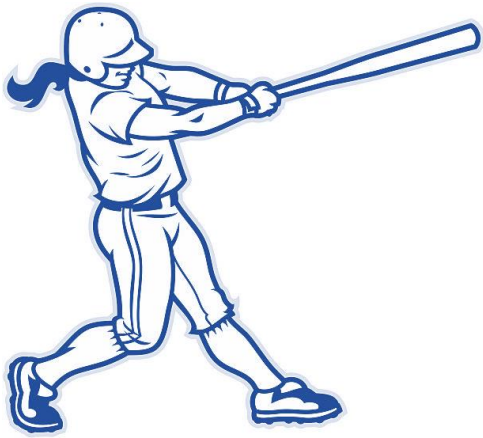
Deferred adjudication does not infer innocence. A judge may, after receiving a plea of guilt or a plea of nolo-contendre, defer further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt, and place a defendant on community service. In effect, if the defendant complies with the conditions of probation as ordered by the judge for a specified period of time, the defendant would receive the benefit of not actually being found guilty of the offense as charged. During the period of deferred adjudication, athletes will remain suspended from participation in any athletic activities.

Indictment for a Felony

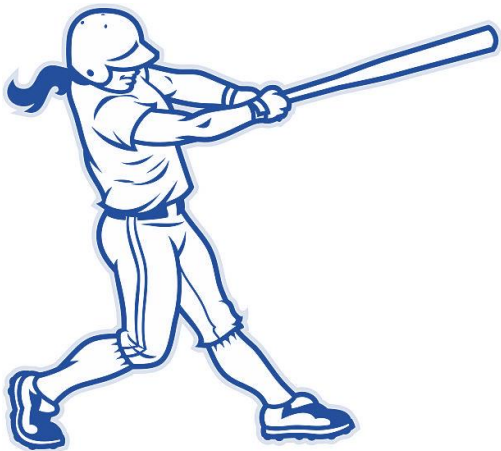
Athletes, while under indictment for a felony whether on or off campus, will not be allowed to participate in any capacity in the athletic program. (This includes exclusion from both practices and games.) When guilt or innocence is established, re-admission to the athletic program will be determined based upon that outcome. In cases where the campus has jurisdiction to take disciplinary action, the student must complete any campus-level disciplinary sanctions before returning to the Athletic Program. Likewise, students on deferred adjudication will need to complete the probationary period specified by the judge prior to consideration for reinstatement in the athletic program.

Appeals

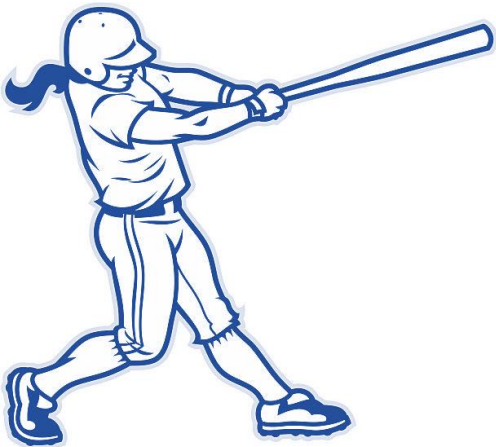
Disciplinary actions resulting from a violation of the Dickinson ISD Athletic Code of Conduct are not appealable.



STIKE 1
WARNING!!!



STIKE 2
Parent/Athlete
Meeting
Suspension



3
STRIKES
YOU'RE OUT!!!

ATHLETICS BEHAVIORAL CHART