



# **DADE MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

*A GUIDE FOR PLAYERS, PARENTS, COACHES, AND THE ATHLETIC COMMUNITY*

# **Athletic Opportunities Offered at Dade Middle School**

Fall Sports: Competition and Football Cheerleading, Cross Country, Football, & Softball

Winter Sports: Basketball Cheerleading, Basketball & Wrestling

Spring Sports: Baseball, Golf, & Soccer

## **DCHS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICY**

**Student Athletes must have an up dated physical, current medical coverage, meet academic eligibility requirements, and be “In Good Standing” in order to participate in a DMS/NGAC/GHSA Sport or Activity (see below).**

**Physical Examination:** Students must have a certificate of an **annual physical examination on file** at the school prior to participating in any athletic try-outs, practices or games that indicate the students are physically approved for participation.

(a) Physical examinations will be good for twelve (12) months from the date of the exam. EXCEPTION: Any physical examination taken on or after April 1 in the preceding year will be accepted for the entire next NGAC/GHSA school year.

(b) The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed medical physician, doctor of Osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner or a physician’s assistant. An M.D. or D.O. must evaluate the student’s health history form.

(c) The exam must be signed by an M.D. or D.O., but the doctor’s stamp is acceptable if it is in script, and if information appears elsewhere on the form identifying him/her as a medical doctor.

**Medical Coverage:** All prospective student athletes must be covered by or purchase medical insurance coverage while trying out or participating in a NGAC/GHSA Sanctioned Sport or Activity. School Insurance may be purchased in the event that a student is not covered under a current medical insurance policy. Examples of this are Cigna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medicaid, GA Peach Care, Etc..

**”No Pass/No Participate”** policy of the Georgia Board of Education states that each student who takes part in athletics or any other competitive school activity must qualify as follows: He/she must have passed 2.5 units during the previous term and is “on-track” according to NGAC/GHSA Guidelines. (These requirements are not necessarily the same as promotion requirements for Dade Co. Schools.)

**Academically Stressed Student Athlete** If a student athlete becomes academically stressed (failing 3 or more classes) during an athletic season the Head Coach of that sport may suspend practice and playing time until the academic stress has been corrected and the student’s eligibility falls within normal guidelines. This is not grounds for removal as eligibility has already been established.

**Athletes “In Good Standing”** If a student quits a sport he/she may not participate in another sport until the end of the regular season of the sport he/she quit. If a student fails to fulfill all end of season requirements (return equipment, uniforms, etc.), that student may not begin participation in another sport until all requirements are met.

## **Code of Conduct**

Dade County School System athletes are expected to demonstrate appropriate conduct as representatives of the school. They are expected to comply with school rules and procedures during athletic activities as well as during school.

### **Extra-curricular participants**

Must be present the majority of the day in order to play in a NGAC/GHSA sanctioned event (a game, match, etc). What constitutes a full day? A student must be present 51% of the academic day in order for full day requirements to be fulfilled. Example: A student is absent during first part of the day and checks in to school for fourth period. Can this student play in a sporting event that day? Yes

Are there any exceptions to this rule? Yes – A student may be exempt from this rule if they provide a doctor's note, legal excuse, death in the family, or any circumstance deemed an excusable emergency by a Dade County School administrator.

### **DMS Participation Guidelines Chart**

<b><u>Absent from school Student may Practice</u></b>	<b><u>Student may play in NGAC Event</u></b>
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1. 4 or more periods	YES (with an excuse absent)	NO: exception if status is met (see above)
2. Less than three periods	YES	YES
3. ISS	NO	NO
5. OSS	NO	NO

**Athletic Director:** Jonathan Page Email: [jonathanpage@dadecs.org](mailto:jonathanpage@dadecs.org)

### **Fall Sports and Coaches**

Cheerleading – Ashlie Smith

Cross Country - Buddy Durham and Anna Thomas

Football – Jamey McMahan

Softball – Stephen Graham and David Lyons

### **Winter Sports and Coaches**

Basketball (Girls) - Regena Logan, Jamie Bonner, and Christine Core

Basketball (Boys) - Buddy Durham, James Emmett and David Lyons

Wrestling – Jeff Poston

### **Spring Sports and Coaches**

Baseball - James Emmett and Jeff Poston

Golf (Boys & Girls) – Adam Wright

Soccer (Boys & Girls) – Brandon Ballard, Sarah Blevins, and Jason Blair

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS for DADE MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

*"The NGAC and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all NGAC events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."*

### **1. KEEP ATHLETICS IN PERSPECTIVE**

- Emphasize the right priorities: Family, Academics, and Athletics
- Place value in participation and giving your best effort, not the winning or losing of a contest. (*We play for Championships here at DMS and DCHS, and we want to win, but making sure a player gives his best effort is our primary focus.*)
- Remember you as a parent at DMS and DCHS represent the school, the staff, and alumni. Be involved, be vocal, but do your best to be positive. At the end of the day, it's still just a game, and a high school game at that.
- Do not publicly demean participants in an athletic contest (*Players, officials, coaches, other parents or spectators, etc.*)

### **2. SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETE**

- Talk to your child about how things are going with his/her sport
- Come to as many of your child's games as possible
- Stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol
- Do not support "quitting" as the best way to solve problems, but rather perseverance, and how to deal with adversity

### **3. SUPPORT THE PROGRAM**

- Be supportive of the coaching staff and respect their professional judgment, they are here to help your child grow as an athlete and as a person. (*We're not always right, we will make mistakes, but we are doing OUR BEST to make decisions with THE TEAM'S best interest in mind*)
- Follow the communication procedure with coaches as outlined in this packet
- Understand the time commitment and needs of the particular sports as many of them involve significant commitments of time and resources
- Be willing to help in fundraising efforts, or work events that will benefit the athletes within the DMS and DCHS Program.

### **Communication with Coaches**

The entire coaching staff is encouraged to keep the lines of communication open with our athletes and their families. We will always do our best to supply you with all of the essential information that you will need to manage your time and commitment to the DMS and DCHS Program successfully. Many times, parents will have questions and feel the need to meet with their child's coach. Our coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what is best for the entire team, taking into account every member of the team. The coaches work extremely hard. They coach because they love working with kids and realize the positive benefit of participation in athletics. The following are some guidelines and policies to help facilitate the most productive and efficient relationship with the coaching staff.

### **Parents are encouraged to discuss:**

- Their child's progress and ways to help their student improve
- Concerns regarding their child's behavior
- The philosophy of the coach
- The expectations of coaches and role for their child on the team
- Team rules and policies
- Disciplinary action incurred by their child
- The college recruiting process
- Ways in which they can help the team (team parent, concessions, etc.)

**Parents are NOT encouraged to discuss:**

- Placement on teams
- Playing time
- Coaching strategies used during practice or contests
- Other student-athletes

**Communication Procedure**

If a problem should arise please make every effort to follow the steps below for a productive resolution:

1. Student-athlete contacts the coach to discuss the issue
2. If a resolution is not reached, the student-athlete should contact an athletic director to discuss the issue
3. If a resolution is not reached, the parent should contact the coach and arrange for a meeting
4. In the rare instance that there is still no resolution, the parent should contact an athletic director and arrange for a meeting.

**Problem Resolution**

Communication with coaches is most productive when an appointment can be made to talk about the issue. **Parents should never try to talk to a coach before or after a contest on a game day.** This is the most emotional time for all parties involved and is not the time for a meeting about specific issues with your student-athlete. Please respect the coaches and their need to be focused on the task at hand.

Thank you for taking the time to read through our preseason parent's packet. We hope it was informative and also lets you know what we as coaches expect from the players. Parents are always the backbone of any high school athletic program, and we appreciate any and all support you provide.

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_