



DEXTER
DREADNAUGHTS

Athletic Department
STUDENT-ATHLETE /
PARENT HANDBOOK

Athletic Passes & Admission

Admission fees are charged for most athletic events at Dexter. These gate receipts are used to help cover a variety of costs the athletic department incurs to offer these programs. We feel that we offer a great deal of entertainment and enjoyment for the price of admission. Your money gives the students of Dexter the opportunity to compete in athletic programs they truly enjoy.

Thank you for your support of our athletic programs.

GENERAL ADMISSION:

- High School Events: \$5.00 Adults
- High School Events: \$3.00 Seniors/Students
- Middle School Events \$3.00 Adults
- Middle School Events \$2.00 Students

Yearly Passes: (available in the athletic office at the high school)

1. Adult Pass - \$60 per Adult for the year

This pass will allow the adult to attend any athletic event in a particular year.

2. Student Pass - \$20 per year

This pass, along with a current student ID, will allow a high school student to attend any Dexter home athletic event in the year for which the pass was purchased. (Student consists of anyone attending Dexter community Schools)

3. Staff Pass

The staff ID badge will serve as the staff athletic pass for all district employees. This pass will allow the bearer and one guest, admission to all athletic events in a given year. Passes are good for all home events at Dexter facilities. They are not accepted at District, Regional or State tournaments that Dexter hosts.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST SHOW YOUR PASS TO BE ADMITTED TO EVENTS.

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*Note: Many of these policies were derived from other High School and University athletic handbooks.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Dexter Athletic Department shall create competitive sport programs to assist students in reaching their potential as individuals and as team members.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

It is recognized by the Dexter Board of Education that school athletics is a community resource, which can enhance individual self-esteem, mental alertness, school pride, and competitive spirit. The athletic program must reflect the excellence of the school district in spirit and practice. Therefore, the Board of Education supports an athletic program, which promotes and enhances the physical fitness of our youth through a wide variety of athletic opportunities.

The athletic program shall:

1. Enhance team and individual “academic” achievement.
2. Teach sport fundamentals and provide opportunities for students to develop and improve their skill level.
3. Promote the development of positive social relationships while emphasizing team unity.
4. Assist students in reaching their potential in the development of the most important elements of life: mind, body, spirit, and respect of oneself and others.
5. Employ knowledgeable, ethical, and dedicated coaches who will be monitored and evaluated by the Athletic Coordinator.
6. Provide educational opportunities in physical conditioning, proper nutrition, self-esteem, and an environment free of substance abuse.
7. Stress healthful, spirited competition, and sportsmanship.
8. Provide a certified trainer and quality facilities to ensure the safety of the students.
9. Provide strong interscholastic programs, which will allow for diverse participation.
10. Be governed by Athletic Department written policies, procedures, and guiding principles.

*Revised spring of 2002 — Athletic Advisory Council. Approved by the Dexter Community Schools Board of Education

Athletic Philosophy for Middle School Athletics

Dexter Community Schools (DCS) believes that students need to be able to explore athletics at the age where they are learning about themselves and their abilities. Participating in athletics allows students to discover abilities that were untapped and can give them focus in classrooms. The Southeastern Conference (SEC), which is our conference affiliation, encourages equal playing time for Middle School students and has rules governing playing time in some sports. DCS is proud of our coaching staff’s support of the League mandates for equal playing time. We attempt to give students the opportunity to develop their skills in a sport by maximizing both practice and game time. Hardwork, sacrifice, and desire are keys to success in sports and life. These components of success are encouraged and developed in our athletic program.

INTRODUCTION

It is the purpose of the DCS Athletic Department to provide and promote interscholastic athletics for the young men and women of Dexter. The Athletic Department is responsible to the Dexter Board of Education and abides by the rules of the MHSAA. Dexter is also a voluntary member of the SEC and agrees to follow the by-laws of the conference. The Athletic Department offers a wide variety of activities for the students of Dexter. Through their involvement in athletics, young men and women are given the opportunity to develop many life skills that will serve them well in their adult lives. Lessons such as; teamwork, goal setting, commitment, citizenship, and sportsmanship are among those learned by being part of a team.

In order to have an effective program, certain policies and procedures have been established. The majority of those policies are covered in this handbook. There will also be team rules specific to each program that has been established by the coach. Those rules will be reviewed by the Athletic Director to insure fairness and to avoid conflict with any policy set forth in this handbook. Team rules will be put in writing and given to all athletes in their first squad meeting.

I. DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CODES OF CONDUCT

All concerned are held to these codes from the first day of involvement in middle school interscholastic athletics through the completion of the last sports season in high school. These codes will be upheld in and out of season, during vacations and throughout the summer, during the student's athletic career.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Accept sports participation as another means to improve educational opportunities.
2. Develop your sports skill to the best of your ability.
3. Accept sports participation as way to better understand other people's value systems.
4. Achieve a thorough knowledge of your sport.
5. Strive for excellence in your sport by maintaining proper training and conditioning habits.
6. Establish good nutritional habits.
7. Adopt good study habits so that you maintain an acceptable scholastic standard.
8. Respect and protect school equipment.
9. Keep sight of values inherent in athletic participation.
10. Attend all practice sessions.
11. Participation for games and events require students to attend all classes daily; be punctual and prepared to contribute.
12. Behave in a manner, which demonstrates high standards of good citizenship.
13. Conduct yourself in a manner that will bring honor to yourself, your family, your school, community and team.
14. Avoid use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco at all times and remove yourself from activities where their use is taking place.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CODE OF CONDUCT

We believe that athletics will contribute significantly to the overall development of your student. As with academics, parental involvement in these programs helps to ensure a quality experience for all concerned. The coaches and athletic administration encourage you to be an active participant in the following ways:

1. Read this handbook with your student and be familiar with the policies and procedures.
2. Promote good study habits and the importance of high academic, as well as athletic performance.
3. Encourage good attendance in classes in addition to practice and games.
4. Help your athlete develop sound nutritional and rest habits.
5. Enforce the fact that use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco has no place in athletics.
6. Demonstrate good sportsmanship toward officials, visiting teams, and fans.
7. Support athletics by taking an active role in various fund-raising efforts through the booster club.
8. Know your athlete's schedule and assist him/her with transportation to and from school.
9. Support your son/daughter by attending as many of his/her athletic events as possible.
10. Keep lines of communication open by talking to coaches and athletic administrators when questions arise.
11. Use the following guidelines to address questions and concerns with regard to athletic participation:
 - a) Encourage your son or daughter to talk to his/her coach first.
 - b) Set up a meeting with the coach to discuss concerns yourself.
 - c) If a satisfactory solution has not been achieved, make an appointment to meet with the athletic director.

ATHLETIC CODE FOR COACHES

The coach is the official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic events. In this important capacity, the coach will adhere to these standards.

1. Develop an understanding of the role of interscholastic athletics and communicate it to players, parents, and the public.
2. Develop an up-to-date knowledge of the rules, strategies, safety precautions, and skills of the sport and communicate them to players and parents.
3. Communicate policies for appropriate language and conduct to your athletes in all situations. Be a role model for appropriate conduct.
4. Develop fair and unprejudiced relationships with all team members.
5. Allow athletes to prove themselves anew each season and do not base team selections on previous seasons or out-of-season activities.
6. Encourage athletes to develop skills and interests in other athletic and non-athletic activities provided by the school and the community.
7. Give the highest degree of attention to the athlete's physical and emotional well being.
8. Teach players, by precept and example, respect for school authority and contest officials. Provide support for them in cases of adverse decisions and refrain from making critical comments in public or to the media.
9. Teach players strict adherence to game rules and contest regulations.

10. Present privately, through proper school authorities, evidence of rule violations by opponents and counteract rumors and unproven allegations of questionable practices by opponents.
11. Attend required meetings, keep abreast of MHSAA regulations and rules and be familiar with all eligibility policies.
12. Present a clean and professional image in terms of personal appearance. Be a positive role model in terms of conduct, language and personal habits. Use of tobacco products within sight of players and parents is unacceptable. Use of alcohol any time prior to practice or contest or in the presence of athletes is unacceptable.
13. Collectively working with administrators, parents and athletes, the coach will strive to create a positive environment in which all are treated with dignity and respect.

II. A WINNER'S CREED: NINE AFFIRMATIONS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

1. I am a winner because I think like a winner, prepare like a winner, and perform like a winner.
2. I am a winner because I set high, but attainable goals, work toward those goals with determination and persistence, and never stop until I reach them.
3. I am a winner because I am strong enough to say "No!" to those things that would make me less than my best, and say "Yes!" to the challenges and opportunities that will make me grow and improve my life.
4. I am a winner because total commitment is my constant companion, and personal integrity is my lifetime mentor.
5. I am a winner because I am learning to avoid tempting shortcuts that can lead to disappointment, and the unhealthy habits that could result in defeat.
6. I am a winner because I have a well-earned confidence in myself, a high regard for my teammates and coworkers, and a healthy respect for those in authority over me.
7. I am a winner because I have learned to accept criticism, not as a threat, but as an opportunity to examine my attitude and to improve my skills.
8. I am a winner because I have a burning desire, a measure of talent, and a strong desire to attempt the difficult and to overcome the seemingly impossible.
9. I am a winner because of my enthusiasm for life, my enjoyment of the present and my trust of in the future.

III. ELIGIBILITY

A. DEXTER ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARD

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this eligibility policy is to provide an incentive for student athletes to maintain or improve academic performance, and to enable proactive steps to be taken, as necessary, to help achieve this. While the policy imposes appropriate penalties for unacceptable performance, it also seeks to implement early intervention to head-off problem situations. In addition, it seeks to provide positive incentives to regain eligibility, in a timely manner (i.e., within season), when appropriate. By linking in-season academic performance to the ability to compete in-season, the aim is to provide a strong incentive to maintain or improve academics throughout the marking period.

POLICY

The student athlete's eligibility will be determined at the end of each marking period and at the mid-term of each marking period. It will be the responsibility of the athletic director and the principal to evaluate each student athlete and inform coaches of eligibility status. If at either of these measurement points the student athlete is not achieving the academic requirements for fully eligible status, consequences will be imposed (see below) and eligibility determination will be assessed weekly, based on student reports. Students will be responsible for submitting the weekly progress report, and will become ineligible to compete if they fail to do so.

The eligibility policy consists of four tiers of eligibility status: MHSAA Ineligible, Ineligible, Probation, and Eligible. These four categories are described below and in the attached table. The minimum threshold for athletic participation is the MHSAA regulation, which prohibits participation in athletics if the student is failing more than two classes. Any student failing to meet this requirement is considered "MHSAA Ineligible" and will be ineligible to compete in athletics in any capacity until the requirement has been satisfied. MHSAA eligibility is determined based on the end of marking period grades.

The Dexter High School requirement for achieving fully eligible status is "passing all classes and maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA." The academic performance assessment is based on the most recent marking period completed, or the current marking period, depending on the timeframe of the measurement.

Between "MHSAA Ineligible" status and "Eligible" status, the levels of "Probation" and "Ineligible" address the situations where students satisfy the state eligibility requirement, but fall short of the Dexter requirements.

PROBATION

Students will be placed on probation if they are a) failing a single class, yet are maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA, or b) not failing any classes, but have a GPA less than 2.0. They will be allowed to practice and compete, but will be placed on a weekly progress report for the remainder of the marking period. Eligibility will be determined on a weekly basis.

* Probation status is limited to 4.5 weeks. If a student has not achieved eligible status by the end of this period, the student becomes ineligible. A student with two Ds will also be on probation.

INELIGIBLE

Students are ineligible if they are a) failing two classes or b) failing one class, but have a GPA less than 2.0. "Failing two classes" is defined as receiving two Es, or an E and two Ds (two Ds equal an E). Ineligible students will be allowed to practice, but not to compete.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Fall sports athletes will be evaluated for eligibility based on their grades from the previous marking period. It is recommended that students who failed one class should take a summer class to replace the grade and avoid becoming ineligible to compete. Summer classes need to be similar to the failed class and provide credit toward graduation.

Due to the fact that competition begins before classes do for most fall sports, an athlete who is ineligible will miss a minimum of the first three days of competition. Athletes in this situation must obtain two satisfactory progress reports to return to competition.

All 9th grade students will be automatically eligible to participate in a fall sport. Students who did not meet the eligibility from 8th grade will be placed on a weekly progress report as soon as classes begin and will be monitored by the coach and athletic director. Their eligibility will be determined on a week-to-week basis until the end of the first marking period. After the first marking period of the freshman year, these students will be subject to the same eligibility policy as all other high school students.

*An unsatisfactory progress report is one in which a student is failing two classes or has an E and two Ds. If the student is already on probation, an unsatisfactory report is one in which the student has failed to improve their failing grade at 4.5 weeks or is not doing work that averages a 2.0 GPA.

A student who fails to submit a progress report in a given week will have that considered an unsatisfactory report.

B. MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION ACADEMIC POLICY

To be eligible, a middle school and high school student must comply with the following rules:

Enrollment — He/she must be enrolled full time in a high/middle school no later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day or the fourth Friday of February. A student must be enrolled in the school for which he or she competes. Full time enrollment is considered taking four core courses through the school for which the athlete competes.

Age — He/she must be under 19 years of age, except that a student whose 19th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.

Physical Examination — He/she must have passed a current year physical examination. A record must be on file in the **Athletic Office**. The current year commences the first day after the school year closes in the spring for summer vacation. A physician's statement for the current school year is interpreted as any physical examination given on or after **April 15th** of the previous school year.

Seasons of Competition — He/she must not have more than four first-semester and four second semester seasons of competition in a sport in a four-year high school, or three first-semester and three second semester seasons in a three-year high school, including present seasons. When two seasons leading to a State championship of the same sport are offered, an athlete may participate in only one.

Semester of Enrollment — He/she must not have been enrolled for more than eight semesters in grades nine to twelve, inclusive. Seventh and eighth semesters must be consecutive. Three-week enrollment or participation in one or more athletic contests constitutes a semester of enrollment.

Undergraduate Standing — He/she must not be a high school graduate.

Previous Semester Record — He/she must have received at least two credit hours for work taken during the previous semester of enrollment. (four classes passed)

Current Semester Record — Students must maintain academic eligibility in order to be eligible to participate in athletics. High school students must be passing four courses (each course passed equals 1/2 credit per semester) to satisfy MHSAA regulations. **Students ineligible by MHSAA standards at the semester's end will be withheld from athletic competition the succeeding semester.**

Transfers — Student-athletes must have had an accompanying change of residence by the student's parent, guardian or other person with whom the athlete has been living during the period of his or her last high school enrollment, into the district or service area of the school, to be eligible during the first semester in attendance.

Awards — Student-athletes must not have accepted any award or merchandise exceeding \$25 in value for athletic performance. Athletes accepting memberships, privileges, services, negotiable certificates, or money are in violation. For amateur practices, students may not have accepted money, merchandise, memberships, privileges, services or other valuable consideration for participating in any form of athletics, sports, games or for officiating inter-scholastic athletic contests, or have signed a professional athletic contract. (Reinstatement will not be considered for one year.)

Limited Team Membership — A student who, after practicing with or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his or her school in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three contests/days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year.

IV. DEXTER ATHLETIC AWARDS

Awards are earned based on each coach's criteria. Participation does not necessarily qualify a student-athlete for an award. In order to receive an award for any sport, a student must be academically eligible and in good standing at the conclusion of the season. The season is concluded when the coach releases the athletes from the program either after competition or after the awards presentation (whichever date is the latest).

Each sport has certain criteria to be met. These criteria are to be given to the student in writing and discussed by the coach in a preseason meeting.

1. **Special Awards** — “Most Valuable” and “Coaches Award” plaques may be presented at the varsity level of competition. The coaching staff may choose to label the awards differently depending on the situation or choose not to give the awards at all. For example, a coach may decide at the conclusion of the season that a “Most Improved” and “Best Attitude” award are more appropriate for that particular season.
2. **Certificates** — Each qualified participant receives a certificate that denotes the achievements of the student in that sport. The certificates will be professionally typed by the Athletic Department or coach. These certificates are given to any athlete — 7th, 8th, 9th, JV and Varsity.
3. **Varsity Award** — The initial Varsity award is the 8 inch Dexter “D”. The varsity letter is presented only once. A varsity certificate is presented to the student-athlete each year or each sport that the athlete earns a varsity award. A sports designation pin is presented for every varsity letter earned.
4. **Scholar-Athlete Pin** — A student-athlete earns this pin when he/she earns a 3.25 GPA or better GPA during that sport season. **Only one scholar-athlete pin is awarded per year.**
5. **Scholar-Athlete Certificate** — A student-athlete, with a 3.25 or better GPA is awarded a certificate during their sport season. (Freshman will not earn this award in the fall; no GPA on record for the athlete until their winter season, this includes the certificate and pin)

V. INSURANCE

DCS NO LONGER PROVIDES accident insurance for student athletes. There are inherent risks associated with participation in athletic programs. We encourage all families to have adequate insurance coverage for their children. Parents and their insurance company must pay for any medical bills incurred for injuries sustained at school, school sponsored events, athletic practices or events, or on school property.

As a service to students and their families, the District is making available a voluntary student accident insurance plan for your child at a very nominal cost. It must be understood that the school is not serving as an agent. The agent is First Agency, Inc., 5071 West H. Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009, (269) 381-6630. The policy is underwritten by Guarantee Trust Life Insurance Company. Copies of the brochure are also available in the Athletic Office at Dexter High School. Please read the brochure carefully so that you understand the extent of the coverage when considering the desirability of purchase.

To enroll your child in this accident plan you may obtain an application form in the Main Office or Athletic Office at the High School.

1. Detach and complete the application on the mail-back envelope. Use one envelope for each child. Do not combine applications for several children in one envelope.
2. Enclose the correct premium (check or money order made payable to First Agency, Inc.), seal and return it to First Agency in the mail-back envelope.
3. Retain the descriptive sheet for later reference. You will NOT receive a separate policy or return confirmation.
4. Coverage becomes effective as soon as the application and premium are RECEIVED by First Agency, Inc. Insurance must be obtained before a claim can be filed.
5. If an injury occurs, a claim form may be secured from First Agency. A supply of claim forms will also be maintained in each school's Main Office and in the Athletic Office.
6. You will deal directly with First Agency on all claims. Dexter Community Schools does not assume any responsibility for follow-up with the insurance agency in case of an accident, claims or bills.

If your student athlete is already covered by another insurance policy, please be aware that DCS will not pay medical bills that are not covered by your insurance policy. If you feel you do not have adequate insurance coverage, we are happy to make this student accident insurance plan available for you to purchase.

VI. PARENT CONSENT AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

A parental consent form and a physical form must be on file with the Athletic Department **before** the student is allowed to tryout, practice or compete with a team. The physical must be given after April 15 and is valid from that day forward through the end of the following school year.

The consent form allows the coach or athletic trainer to seek emergency medical care on behalf of the athlete in the event the parent or guardian cannot be contacted. It also gives permission for the athlete to travel with the team to away events. Form must be completely filled out by athlete/parent/doctor.

VII. EQUIPMENT AND LOCKERS

1. All equipment issued to the student for athletic participation is the property of the Dexter Community School District. The student is financially responsible for all that is issued. Failure to return all equipment in good repair will result in the athlete being billed for its replacement **at new replacement cost**. Failure to make restitution will result in being denied participation in another sport or a delay in obtaining final academic records.
2. Each athlete is required to check his/her equipment daily and report any problems to his/her coach. Failure to comply may result in injury (i.e., football equipment).
3. Keep all equipment clean. Protective pads should also be cleaned on a regular basis.
4. All equipment is to be used properly.
5. Keep equipment and valuables locked in your locker. The Athletic Department is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Athletes will be held responsible for the replacement costs of any school issued lost or stolen items.
6. Keep the locker clean. Food and wet clothes are not to be stored in the locker.

VIII. TRAINING ROOM

1. All athletes are required to report any injury to the trainer/coach.
2. The coach and trainer are to know if the athlete is taking any type of medication.
3. The coach and trainer need to know of any medical problems or concerns such as diabetes or epilepsy, etc.
4. When a student-athlete is required to see a physician for an injury or illness, he/she must provide the coach or athletic trainer with a **written** clearance from the treating physician before they are allowed to return to practice or competition
5. Take care of your body; shower properly and report any skin infections to the trainer and your coach.
6. Put all refuse and used tape in trash containers.

IX. PARTICIPATION

A student who quits one sport (in good standing) may join another team in the same athletic season if the change is made prior to the first athletic contest. Also, coaches of both sports must recommend the change to the Athletic Director, who must then act on the transfer.

A student who quits a sport may not practice in any sport without permission from BOTH coaches AND the Athletic Coordinator.

X. TRAVEL

1. The standards of good conduct, as established by the coach, are expected at all times while on trips.
2. All rules and regulations pertaining to Dexter bus codes are to be adhered to on athletic trips.
 - i. No food or drink is to be consumed on the bus, water is acceptable
 - ii. Athletes are not to wear cleats on the bus.
 - iii. When in transit, athletes are to remain seated.
 - iv. Noise is to be kept to a minimum so as to not distract the driver.
 - v. Cooperation with the driver's requests is expected.
3. Appropriate dress, which is established by the coach, is a must on all trips.
4. All athletes are to travel to and from athletic events by transportation provided by the school district.

IF A PARENT DESIRES TO TAKE THEIR SON OR DAUGHTER HOME WITH HIM/HER AFTER AN ATHLETIC EVENT, A NOTE FROM THE PARENT MUST BE GIVEN TO THE COACH **BEFORE** THE CONTEST. THIS PRACTICE MAY ONLY OCCUR IN CASES WHERE THERE ARE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

Overnight trips

In the event that an athletic event requires an overnight stay, the coach will be responsible to work with the Athletic Department to make the following arrangements:

1. A complete itinerary of the trip will be provided to the parents including phone numbers
2. Teams will travel by bus when at all possible.
3. Students will not be allowed to drive.
4. Adult chaperones will be required.
5. Parental consent forms for each athlete must be signed and returned to the coach prior to the trip.
6. All school and athletic department regulations are in force during the trip.

XI. ATTENDANCE

- 1. The athlete must be present at all games and practices** as designated by the coach unless absent from school due to personal illness or excused by the coach prior to the absence.
- 2. The athlete must be in classroom attendance all day** in order to dress and participate in an athletic contest and/or practice that day, unless excused by a prearranged special excuse. A special excuse is defined as a doctor, dentist appointment, or a funeral. The student must demonstrate proof upon request from the Coach and Athletic Director. Staying home to rest or calling in sick for half the day is not considered excused absences. This will not meet the all day requirement and the athlete will not be allowed to participate.

Under emergency circumstances exceptions to the rule **MAY BE GRANTED** by the Director of Athletics, Principal or Assistant principal. The coach is to be notified of the granting of the waiver.

XII. GENERAL TRAINING RULES

Athletes are required to adhere to the rules set forth in the K-12 Parent/Student Handbook.

1. If you are suspended from school for any reason, you may not practice or compete during the time the suspension is in effect.
2. You are required to observe all team rules set forth by your coach including curfews.
3. When in uniform or letter jacket, athletes are representing Dexter Schools and must demonstrate exemplary conduct.
4. Athletes are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and citizenship in school and during competition. Examples of poor sportsmanship and citizenship include: destruction of property, theft, fighting, foul language, falsifying excuses/records, and insubordination. These are causes for disciplinary action by your coach and/or the Athletic Director.
5. When in attendance at a social event (party), no matter the location, if the use of alcohol or other drugs is taking place by other students, the athlete is required to leave immediately. Athletes who remain at such parties will be treated as if they themselves are in violation of the substance abuse policy. (XV)

XIII. INVESTIGATION OF TRAINING RULES VIOLATIONS

The importance for the Code of Conduct should be apparent to everyone. If a student-athlete is reported in violation of these rules; the case will be investigated by one or more of the following the Coach, Athletic Director and Principal/Assistant Principal.

If the circumstances of the investigation substantiate the charge the following process will take place:

1. The athlete will be notified of the charges and the parents will be notified in writing as to the particulars of the case.
2. The athlete has a right to a hearing with the "Board of Athletics Appeal Committee," within 48 hours of the incident, where he/she can present evidence and witnesses on his or her behalf. The athlete will also receive the details of the case in order to prepare for the hearing.
3. The athlete has the right to appeal. The appeal progression goes from Athletic Director, Board of Athletics Appeal Committee, to seeking legal counsel.

XIV. ATHLETIC SUSPENSIONS

1. Major training violations will result in suspension from the team. These violations include the possession or use of alcohol, other illegal drugs or the use of tobacco products. Refer to section XV, the substance abuse policy.
2. A suspension from participation (practice/game) may occur for infractions such as destruction
3. of property, fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, falsifying information or other behaviors that bring embarrassment to the Dexter Athletic Program. The length of the suspension will be determined by the severity of the infraction. It can range from one day to the remainder of the season.
4. A practice/game suspension may result from infractions of the coaches written team rules.
5. Travel and attendance infractions may result in a game suspension.
6. Repeated violations may result in the athlete being removed from the team.

XV. SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The use, possession, and/or being under the influence of alcohol, other drugs or tobacco products is strictly prohibited. The selling, distribution or possession of alcohol, other drugs, look-alike drugs or drug paraphernalia is also prohibited. In all cases of violation of these rules, the Director of Athletics will notify Principal, Assistant principal, Police Liaison Officer, Coach and Parents.

An athlete who recognizes that they have a substance abuse problem can seek assistance and avoid a penalty through a **self-referral process**. Self-referral is defined as seeking assistance prior to being caught and/or charged with a violation of the substance abuse policy.

The following steps must be taken to make a self-referral.

1. The athlete must meet with a school employee, such as a teacher, principal, assistant principal, Student Assistance Coordinator, coach or Athletic Director and inform them of their desire to get help.
2. Parent or guardian will be notified and the athlete will be referred to the Student Assistance Coordinator who will aid the individual in meeting with appropriate licensed agency for evaluation and treatment.
3. The athlete must keep appointments and follow the recommended course of treatment.
4. Failure to comply with the treatment program will be treated as a first offense in the substance abuse policy.
5. Self-referral can only be used once to avoid penalty.

1ST OFFENSE

Any student-athlete in violation of the substance abuse policy of the DCS will be withheld from competition for two consecutive weeks (14 days) or two contests; whichever is greater, from the date of the decision.

2ND OFFENSE

Suspension for 6 consecutive weeks (42 days) of competition or six athletic contests whichever is greater. The student will also be required to receive full assessment and follow the recommendation. Failure to adhere to this action will result in the infraction being treated as a third offense.

3RD OFFENSE

The student will lose eligibility for participation in athletics for one sports year from date of the offense.

THESE OFFENSES WILL BE CUMULATIVE THROUGHOUT THE STUDENTS' MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL CAREER.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

1. The Athletic Director will hold a conference with the parents, coach, and athlete within two days of the decision.
2. **THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY COVERS THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR AND INCLUDES THE SUMMER.**
3. The athlete must attend all practices throughout his/her suspension. On days of competition, the athlete must be present with the team but remain dressed in street clothes.
4. In all cases where the discipline is not fully served in a particular season, the remaining time will be served in the next season in which the athlete participates. The time remaining to be served will begin the first day of competition. Tryouts and preseason practice days will not be counted toward the remaining time. An athlete must complete the next season of participation in order for the discipline to be considered served.
5. All violations will carry over from middle school to high school and from year-to-year.

XVI. DUE PROCESS

In all cases of denial of participation, the following due process procedures will apply.

Level 1 -- The student will meet with the coach and his/her decision will be rendered within 24 hours. Parents/guardian will also be notified of the coaches' decision.

Level 2 -- The student may appeal to the Athletic Director within 48 hours of the decision. During this hearing the student may explain his/her actions, ask questions, address mitigating circumstances or otherwise state their position and feelings.

Level 3 -- The student may appeal to the Board of Athletics Appeal Committee within 48 hours of the decision. The Committee will consist of the building principal, another district principal, a coach out of season, a faculty member and a faculty member or coach selected by the student and/or parents. A final decision will be given by this committee and rendered in writing to the student and/or parents.

Purpose of This Committee: To determine the validity of any appeal in relation to academic ineligibility, code of conduct violations and/or any other incidents that result in disciplinary action by the Athletic Coordinator. This committee has the ability to modify, agree with or disagree with the Athletic Coordinator's decision.

Academic Eligibility Due Process Criteria:

If a student-athlete does not meet Dexter academic eligibility requirements, he/she may appeal, however, the following criteria must be met for the appeal to be granted:

1. All teachers judge the student-athlete to be working to capacity, giving his/her best effort.
2. The student-athlete meets the MHSAA minimum eligibility standards.

XVII. PAY-TO-PARTICIPATE

The DCS Board of Education requires a pay-to-participate fee for students in athletics.

The fee structure is as follows:

First sport - \$150.00 per sport for 7th & 8th grade athletes
Second sport - \$100.00 per sport for 7th & 8th grade athletes
Third sport - \$75.00 per sport for 7th & 8th grade athletes

First sport - \$250.00 per sport for high school athletes
Second sport - \$150.00 per sport for high school athletes
Third sport - \$100.00 per sport for high school athletes

\$700.00 family maximum

There are financial scholarships available. These scholarships are funded, in part, by donations from the Bishop Scholarship Fund. The forms are located in the Athletic Office. Your application must be made three days before the first competition.

Pay-to-participate fees supplement the general fund and assist with the cost of various items such as:

- Equipment and Uniforms
- Transportation to and from Events
- Officials' Fees
- Game Management and Supervision
- Tournament Fees
- Athletic Trainer Services
- Athletic Awards

PROCEDURES

1. Payment must be received BEFORE the student-athlete may play in the first competition.
2. Payments should be made online through RecPro which can be found at the following website.
<http://www.onlinedexter.com/Default.aspx?id=45>

REFUND GUIDELINES

Refunds **will not** be made to students who:

- Drop out of a sport before the sport is completed.
- Are suspended from a sport because of a rule infraction.
- Become academically ineligible.
- Are injured and unable to compete unless the injury occurs at the beginning of the season.
- Move out of the school district.

Payment of the fee for participation in athletics in no way guarantees that the student will participate in contests or events.

XIII. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

When a person (such as a student, a parent, a coach, a teacher, or an administrator) has a question, concern, or complaint regarding an athletic situation, we have found the following line of communication very effective in resolving issues.

- 1. START WITH THE SOURCE.** Talk directly with the coach, in private, face to face, away from the practice site or game arena. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment.
- 2. IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE HEAD COACH OF THE SPORT;**
- 3. IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR;**
- 4. IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE PRINCIPAL;**
- 5. IF NECESSARY, TALK NEXT WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT, OR HIS/HER DESIGNEE.**

All complaints **MUST** be heard at the lowest possible level **BEFORE** intervention by a higher authority can occur. This system works very well so we are committed to abide by it. However, the next level arbitrator will always be willing to meet with a complainant if sub level discussions do not accomplish their intended purpose. When stating your concern be prepared with facts in so far as you understand, or can ascertain them. Think through your expectations for the outcome resulting from voicing your concern. Be clear about what you hope will happen as a result of your meeting.

As you converse with the coach, or other authority, repeat back what you hear him or her say to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk and listen. Perhaps take notes.

Before the session ends, have a plan, which is clearly understood by all parties. Check for mutual understanding. Set a time and method of responding if necessary.

Work to help your child learn and resolve their own conflicts, when a student successfully deals with difficult situations, they learn and grow. Of course, a parent always retains the right to intervene on behalf of a child.

We always assume that all parties have the best interest of the student in mind when concerns are discussed, and we make every effort to assure that the student is not penalized or placed in an awkward position as a result of voicing a complaint.

XIX. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICY SCHOOL CLOSING/ INCLEMENT WEATHER

Under the present district policy athletic events have the option of being played on days that school is closed. The decision to allow events to continue is based on the premise that conditions that cause the school closing at 5:00-6:00 AM may significantly improve by 3:00-4:00 PM when the buses have to travel, making it possible to play scheduled games.

Under this rationale the following guidelines must be followed:

1. The Athletic Coordinator, with advisement by the proper school authorities, will determine if it is safe to continue with the scheduled events by 12:00 PM (noon) on the day in question. The coach is responsible to contact the Athletic Office between 10:00 AM - Noon to let them know where they can be reached once the decision is made.
2. Each team should have a phone fan-out system for contacting members. Athletes should be informed that they are to assume that scheduled events will take place unless otherwise notified. Noon will be the deadline for making the final decision.
3. If school is cancelled for the day - NO MANDATORY PRACTICE may be held. The word OPTIONAL must be used and no player should experience any consequence if they or their parents decide that he/she is unable to attend.
4. If school is let out early because of developing weather problems, all practices and events will be cancelled. Athletes will not stay for practice.
5. In the event the cancellation results in missing a league game, varsity games will be rescheduled. All other teams may or may not be rescheduled based on the time of the season and open dates available.
6. Middle school games will not be rescheduled.

XX. NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

The NCAA has established a central clearinghouse to certify eligibility for Divisions I and II. If you intend to participate in Division I and II athletics as a freshman in college you must be registered with and certified by the NCAA Initial-eligibility Clearinghouse.

To be certified for Divisions I and II, you need to graduate from high school and have a 2.0 grade-point average in the core curriculum of at least 13 academic courses (as defined by the NCAA) and achieve a qualifying test score on the ACT or SAT.

You should register with the Clearinghouse whenever you decide you would like to participate in athletics as a college freshman. It generally is best to register after your junior year grades appear on your transcript. Although you can register anytime prior to participation, if you register late, you may face delays that will prevent you from practicing and competing.

To obtain registration materials contact your high school counselor or Athletic Director. Your counselor should call the Clearinghouse at 319-337-1492 to obtain the forms. These materials include a student-release form and a red brochure entitled *Making Sure You Are Eligible to Participate in College Sports*.

HEALTHY SPORTS FOR YOUR YOUTH: Tips for Parents

- Remember why our children play sports. Surveys have shown that the main reason young people play sports is “to have fun”. Winning ranks a distant 8th, behind doing something with friends, staying in shape, improving skills, and playing as a part of a team.
- Encourage and support your child regardless of the degree of success, the level of skill, or playing time.
- Look for positives in performance and discuss only your positive observations with your child, especially immediately after competition.
- Model respect for the coach and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the team and its success.
- Attend and participate in preseason school sponsored meetings. Communicate with coaches and agree to support guidelines for healthy sports.
- Ensure a balance in your student-athlete’s life; encourage participation in multiple sports and other activities while placing academics first and foremost.
- Recognize the developmental stages of your child, ensuring enjoyment, skill development, and team play as cornerstones of sports experiences.
- Leave coaching to coaches and avoid placing too much pressure on your child about playing time and performance.
- Be realistic about your child’s future in sports, recognizing that only a select few earn a college scholarship, compete in the Olympics, or sign a professional contract.
- Avoid leading your child to early specialization, year long play in one sport, and the potential of burnout.
- Understand that today’s youth strive for excellence, compete to win, but cherish participation most while rejecting “winning at all cost.”
- Be there when your child looks to the sidelines for a positive role model. Do not berate officials, school staff, or opponents before, during or after the game.
- Do not speak negatively about a referee, coach or player in front of your child. Blaming officials, coaches or individual players for outcomes removes the responsibility from the team and allows players to use this as an excuse for not succeeding as a team.

We, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and **student-athlete** have read and understand the DCS Athletic Handbook and agree to **accept** the responsibilities and obligations required to participate in athletics. **The Head Coach has reviewed the enclosed material with me.**

Student-Athlete _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Coach _____