

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

DEA encourages all students to participate in athletics and other extra-curricular activities. Research shows that students who engage in a variety of school activities have higher grades than those who do not. Also, many colleges and universities carefully evaluate student participation in such activities in their admission decisions. Active participation fosters leadership, encourages cooperation and initiative, promotes teamwork, and improves academic knowledge and skills.

1. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

A student who has passed in 5 unit subjects for the first semester is eligible for the second semester. A student who passes in 5 unit subjects, or their equivalent, for the second semester or for the year is eligible for the following year. Of the 5 unit subjects, 3 units must be in the following subject areas: English, Foreign Language, Science, Social Science, Mathematics, or Bible Studies.

A student has eight consecutive semesters from the first date of entry into the 9th grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition. Eligibility in the 8th grade will be for one year only for varsity. In other words, an 8th grader who participates on the varsity level cannot repeat the 8th grade and play on the varsity level again in the same grade.

A student who turns 19 prior to May 1st preceding the school year of participation will not be eligible to play varsity sports the following school year.

A student cannot participate in any athletic contest as a professional under contract.

2. ATHLETIC ATTIRE

Generally, the school provides uniforms for student-athletes. Items purchased by the school which are designed to be worn as part of athletic attire, but which will be kept by the student-athlete after the conclusion of the season, must be paid for by the family of the athlete.

3. ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Athletics is an important part of DEA and the educational experiences of our athletes. DEA offers a well-rounded program to encourage as many students as possible to participate in football, softball, cheerleading, cross country, basketball, golf, track, soccer, and tennis. The following guidelines apply:

- Athletes must be present at school for four (4) classes in order to practice or play in any interscholastic contest. On early dismissal days, attendance for the scheduled activities is required.
- Doctor or dentist appointments, funerals, or other situations can be considered excused absences, but must be cleared with the Administration, Athletic Director, and/or Coach. Advance notice is expected for excused absences except in case of emergency.
- All athletes must have a physical examination by a physician each year.
- Student-athletes are expected to wear school-issued or school-approved practice apparel and equipment at all practices. Standards of modesty must be maintained, such as shorts being of appropriate length.
- Should a team desire to have a team shirt or other apparel, the design and slogan must be approved by the Athletic Director.
- In order to receive a varsity letter in any sport, an athlete must be an active member of the team, demonstrate teamwork, team spirit, and finish the season in good standing with the coach and the team.
- If a student quits a team during the season without being released by the coach, that athlete cannot participate in any other athletic activity until the sport he/she quit has finished its season. An athlete who quits a team during the season will not letter or be eligible for any awards in that sport.
- Any athlete or spectator who incurs a fine at an athletic event must pay the fine to the school before returning to any other athletic event.

4. ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

DEA strives to prepare students for athletic competition in a Christian environment where integrity is the highest of priorities. We expect our athletic teams to relentlessly pursue victory while displaying character, integrity, good sportsmanship, and honor at all times.

The coaches pass on technical skills and knowledge to their players so that they will have the opportunity to experience success. This is not, however, the cornerstone of our program. It is our desire for each student-athlete to be a better person for having been a part of the athletic program.

Our goal is to be competitive and exciting, year after year. The winning tradition that we develop is a by-product of the Christian principles of our program, the loyalty of our players, coaches, and supporters, and will be evident at all times in our athletic teams.

5. ATHLETICS PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

Planned and polished practice is imperative for improvement at any skill level. Attendance at practice is considered mandatory unless excused for good reason. Unexcused (practice or game) absence penalties are as follows:

First – Sit out $\frac{1}{4}$ of next competition

Second – Sit out $\frac{1}{2}$ of next competition

Third – Sit out $\frac{3}{4}$ of next competition

Fourth – Sit out next competition (but must attend the game)

Fifth – Dismissal from team

6. CHEERLEADING

Cheerleading is considered a sport and athletic eligibility and other rules apply. As a sport, cheerleading involves skills and activities that require good physical health and conditioning. It is expected that anyone who participates in cheerleading is willing and physically able to participate in these activities.

Cheerleaders must be present at all games which they are scheduled to attend and cheer, unless there is a written explanation for an illness, family emergency, or school related absence. Practice attendance requirements are the same as for other sports. Violation of this policy will result in the loss of a letter and/or dismissal from the squad.

Cheerleaders are allowed to participate in another sport, but must coordinate with the Athletic Director and cheerleading sponsor if they are going to miss practices or games.

7. CONDUCT

Students must be in good standing at DEA in matters of discipline and citizenship. Students may be held out of competitions or not allowed to travel as a result of academic non-performance/probation, excessive absence or tardiness, accumulation of discipline referrals, failure to return uniforms or equipment, or other rules violations.

Behavior which brings about technical fouls or expulsion from games is unacceptable and may result in further sanctions from the school administration. Conduct on or off the field which brings dishonor to the team or the school will not be tolerated and may result in suspensions. In extreme cases, dismissal from the team or the school may result.

DEA students who attend games, either home or away, are under the authority of the designated school official for that contest. Currently enrolled students, even if not members of the team at an athletic event, must conform to school rules and behavior expectations.

Eligibility requirements apply to all interscholastic competitions, including middle school and junior varsity levels.

8. PARENTS AS COACHES

Current parents should not be the head coach of an interscholastic team (middle school or high school) whenever an alternative to such a situation is available. This does not apply to parent-coaches who are employees of the school. Parents may serve as paid or volunteer assistant coaches with the approval of the head coach and the administration.

All interscholastic coaches must comply with state association requirements, as well as, the rules and regulations of national governing agencies such as the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

9. TRAVEL FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Students remain responsible for all their school work even when trips require early departure from school or late returns.
- If teams go on trips which require staying overnight, the cost of meals and accommodations for participants is the responsibility of the parents.
- When student-athletes are selected to participate in all-star games, the school will pay any entry fee; however, parents are responsible for travel to the contests and for lodging expenses.
- All school rules remain in force during trips. In addition, students may be held to higher standards of appearance for certain events. Participants will be notified by their coach in advance if the regular dress code is modified for certain trips.
- Students are expected to be punctual, arriving at school on the day after a trip at the normal time for classes.
- Generally, students are required to travel to out-of-town events with the teams in school-provided transportation and to sit with team members in an area designated by the coaches or sponsors.
- It is acceptable for parents in attendance at off-campus events to take their own children home with them, but not other students without specific written permission from the other students' parents. Such permission documents should be provided to the school office on the morning of the trip. Arrangements are also permitted whereby pick up and/or drop off students takes place near their homes when such arrangements are requested in advance and the location is on the way to the event.

10. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Student-athletes are responsible for the upkeep on any athletic uniform and equipment issued to him/her. This includes proper washing of uniforms and repairs if necessary. Uniforms that are lost or not returned to the coach must be replaced by the parent or guardian at cost.

Athletes will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the previous coach has cleared the athlete of his/her uniform and equipment responsibilities. Seniors and 8th graders will not graduate until all athletic uniforms or equipment responsibilities are cleared and approved by the coach or athletic director.