



## POLICIES & 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- GIAA POLICY

To be eligible to participate and/or try out for a sport or activity, a student must be enrolled full-time in grades 8-12 inclusive at the school seeking eligibility for that student.

- Enrollment is defined as follows:
  - Fall Semester: when the student participates in a practice or contest before classes begin, or the student attends classes.
  - Spring Semester: when the student attends classes.
- A student may be enrolled in only one member school at a time, and must be under the direction of that school.
- The student must be in regular attendance.

Students who are ruled ineligible for GIAA competitions are prohibited from representing a GIAA school in a varsity contest regardless of the opponent.

A student must not have reached his 19th birthday prior to May 1st, preceding his year of participation. A student cannot participate in any athletic contest as a professional under contract.

A student has eight consecutive semesters or four consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition. A student is not considered to have entered the 9th grade when high school level courses are taken if the student is regularly enrolled in a school in a grade below the ninth grade. Credits earned toward high school graduation which are taken below the ninth grade may be used when considering high school eligibility. The provisions of the eight semester rule can only be waived in the case of an individual student by the Appeal Committee.

Students are allowed only one year of varsity eligibility as an 8th grade student. (students are not allowed to repeat the 8th grade and retain varsity eligibility during the second year as an 8th grade student) Students below grade 8 are not eligible to participate in any GIAA sanctioned varsity sports or literary events.

### Academic Standing

- To be eligible to participate, practice, and/or try out in interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible. A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 5 credits (per semester) counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation. Exception: First semester 9th grade students. Passing in all GIAA member schools is determined by the school by awarding a credit.
- For schools offering courses with year-long grading, eligibility will be determined at the end of each individual semester. Yearly averages will not be used for determining eligibility unless half credits are issued each semester.
- Students gain or lost eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester. The first day of the Fall semester will be interpreted as the first date of practice for the first sport. Exception: Students who successfully complete summer school to maintain eligibility become eligible the last day of summer school. Summer school is an extension of the previous semester and courses may be remedial in nature where a previously taken course is repeated in its entirety with a new

grade being given. Enrichment in nature where a new course is taken that results in new credit being earned.

- A maximum of two unit credits earned in summer school may be counted for eligibility purposes. Note: Additional credits may be earned.
- Summer school credits earned in non-accredited home study programs or non-accredited private school may not be used to gain eligibility. Accreditation recognized under the rule will be from the GIAA, GAC, or a regional accreditation agency (such as COGNIA or SAIS-COGNIA)
- An independent study course taken in summer school must be regionally accredited and accepted by the school for graduation credit. Courses completed after the beginning of a new semester may not be used to gain eligibility for that semester. Example: night school classes, correspondence courses, etc.
- 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, Religion, and Business Education. (At David Emanuel Academy, the Middle School will follow this same policy, except students must pass 3 of the 4 core subjects per semester.) Excluded from any credit is teacher's aide, office aide, or their equivalent.
- Students failing to pass the required 5 unit subjects for the first semester may be allowed to become eligible at the end of the 3rd nine weeks grading period if they are passing the required 5 unit subjects at that time. Students must have passed at least three subjects at the semester to be eligible to gain eligibility in this manner.
- All students must be currently taking 4 or more classes to be eligible.
- Interpretation for Joint Enrollment: students jointly enrolled in both a GIAA Interscholastic school and a local college must meet the following criteria to establish eligibility: At least ½ of the students' schedule or course load must be scheduled and pursued at the GIAA Interscholastic school; The school and school head must maintain full and complete discipline and control during the students' day; Both the local college and school must agree in advance toward the student full and graduation credits for jointly enrolled courses.
- A student who participates on an intercollegiate athletic team may not participate in any GIAA activity.
- Regaining Academic Eligibility:
  - Make-up programs occur when a course has not been completed and an "Incomplete" has been given and the student is given an opportunity to complete the coursework.
  - The student is ineligible until such time as the coursework is completed and the required passing grade has been recorded.

## 2. ATHLETIC ATTIRE

Generally, the school provides uniforms for student-athletes. Uniforms purchased by the school remain school property. Accessories which will be kept by the student-athlete after the conclusion of the season, must be paid for by the family of the athlete and remains their property.

## 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.

The following guidelines apply:

- a. Athletes must be present at school for all required classes in order to practice or play in any interscholastic contest unless excused and approved by Administration. On early dismissal days, attendance for the scheduled activities is required.
- b. Doctor or dentist appointments, funerals, or other situations may be considered excused absences, but must be cleared with Administration. Advance notice is expected for excused absences except in the case of an emergency.
- c. All athletes must have a physical examination by a physician each year to be filed in the main office.
- d. 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.
- e. Should a team desire to have a team shirt or other apparel, the design and slogan must be approved by the Athletic Director.
- f. 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.

- g. 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.
- h. Any athlete or spectator who incurs a fine at an athletic event is responsible for paying the fine.

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. In the event that student athlete's conduct is detrimental to the program or season, the coach has authority to discipline which could include suspension and/or dismissal from the team.

The winning tradition that we develop is a byproduct 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. 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 Athletic Director.

6. TRAVEL FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Students remain responsible for all their school work even when trips require early departure from school or late returns. Any sibling wishing to attend a scheduled athletic event may depart at time of team dismissal. Leaving campus before team dismissal time is considered unexcused.
- 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 of students takes place near their homes when such arrangements are requested in advance and the location is on the way to the event.

7. ATHLETIC 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:

- a. First – Sit out  $\frac{1}{4}$  of next competition
- b. Second – Sit out  $\frac{1}{2}$  of next competition
- c. Third – Sit out  $\frac{3}{4}$  of next competition
- d. Fourth – Sit out next competition (but must attend the game)
- e. Fifth – Dismissal from team

8. 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 (if coaches approve/allow), but must coordinate with the Athletic Director and cheerleading sponsor if they are going to miss practices or games.

9. 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.

Parent or student behavior which brings about technical fouls or expulsion from games is unacceptable and may result in further sanctions from the Administration (including fines issued by the league/association). 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.

Parents are responsible for the actions of their children at athletic events.

DEA is not responsible for any injuries. Parents, not DEA, are responsible for children at any after school event. Students are not to be left after school for any athletic event without the supervision of an adult.

10. 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, Athletic Director, 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).