

DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

"Home of the Blue Devils"



2020-2021

Committee

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Adopted September 2020

Part I: Eligibility

In order for a student in grades 7-12 to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, the student must meet the eligibility requirements governing interscholastic athletics as set forth by the Dolgeville Central School District and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association in regards to age and level of competition. Particular rules and regulations are available in the Athletic Director's office, Principal's office and the office of the Superintendent.

Every student athlete and his/her parent/guardian shall sign a statement certifying that they have read and understand the Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it.

Part II: Philosophy and Goals of Athletics at Dolgeville Central School

- **Modified Athletics:** The goals of modified athletics are the development of sport-specific skills and an understanding of rules of play, team unity, and sportsmanship. The New York State Athletic Association dictates playing time for some, but not all, student-athletes participating in modified athletics.
- **Junior Varsity Athletics:** The goal of junior varsity athletics is to build on the development of sport-specific skills and an understanding of rules of play, team unity, and sportsmanship, with an emphasis on preparing student-athletes for competitive varsity play.
- **Varsity Athletics:** The goals of varsity play are to win the season and progress to post-season competition without losing sight of the development of sport-specific skills and an understanding of rules of play, team unity, and sportsmanship.

Part III: Medical Standards – Eligibility for Participation

- **Health Examinations (Physicals):** A student-athlete who tries out for interscholastic competition must receive and pass an adequate health examination.
 - The health examination (physical) shall be conducted by the Dolgeville School physician.
 - If a student-athlete would prefer that a private physician conduct the physical, the physical must first be approved by the district's medical staff before the student-athlete will be deemed eligible for athletic participation.
- **Self-Reporting Injuries and Illnesses:** It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to inform the coach and/or athletic trainer (when available) if the student-athlete is ill or injured before, during, or after any activity associated with the sport in which the student-athlete is participating.
 - Students must also report any illnesses or injuries that cause absence from athletic participation over a weekend, scheduled vacation, or holiday.
- **Participation after Injury:** A student-athlete who seeks and receives treatment for an injury must provide a written statement from the emergency room or other physician before returning to athletic practice or play.
- **Participation after Concussion/Head Injury:** Dolgeville Central School has adopted a specific concussion protocol that shall be followed by any coach/athlete when the athlete sustains a head injury. The concussion protocol may be found on the District website under the **"Athletic Forms"** link.
- **Medical Excuse from Participation:** Student-athletes who are injured or ill may be excused from participation by their physicians.
 - Student-athletes excused from participation must have releases from their physicians before they will be allowed to return to participating.

Part IV: Athletic Placement Process

- A student is eligible for junior varsity or varsity standing and play as a freshman.
- Under some circumstances, some students may be eligible for junior varsity or varsity standing and play prior to their freshman year if,
 - The coach of a specific sport requests that a student-athlete be considered to move up in classification. In making this request, the coach will take into consideration the following criteria:
 - The student is in good academic standing.
 - The student has a record of good attendance.
 - The student has a record of good conduct.
 - The student has previous play and demonstrates exceptional performance in the sport.
 - The athletic director or athletic administrator approves the athlete to begin the Athletic Placement Process.
 - The student-athlete's parent(s) give(s) permission for the student to move up in classification.
 - The student-athlete passes a maturity physical administered by the school's designated school physician. (Other physicals will not be accepted.)
 - The student-athlete passes a physical fitness test as per New York State regulations.

An Athletic Placement Process form shall be submitted to Section III for any student-athlete who meets all criteria listed above.

Part V: Attendance

- **Daily Attendance:** In order for a student-athlete to attend or participate in a practice or game, it is necessary that the student attend classes for the full school day on the day of the activity.
 - Students will not be allowed to participate in the day's event or practice if they enter school after 10am. Medical excuses (from a doctor), court requirements, and bereavement are the only exceptions to this rule. Students will be expected to attend practices or events, but will not be allowed to participate.
 - Student-athletes excused early for a medical appointment must bring a medical excuse to return to school for an athletic practice or event. Medical excuses should be submitted to the attendance office or the coach if returning outside normal school hours.
 - If a student-athlete is absent from school on the last scheduled day of the week, the student-athlete will not participate in practices or games for the remainder of the week, including Saturday and/or Sunday, unless the student-athlete's coach is presented with a legal excuse for the day's absence at the beginning of the practice or game.

Part VI: Team Travel Rules

- On team trips, student-athletes will ride to and from the event on district transportation unless otherwise determined by the **athletic director or school administration**.
- With the coach's consent, a student may leave an event with their parents and/or guardians, or with prior approval, grandparent or sibling. In this case, the parent, guardian, grandparent, or sibling must sign out the student-athlete in person on an "Off-Campus School Sponsored Event Sign-Out Sheet."
- Student-athletes are prohibited from leaving off-campus events with anyone other than a parent, legal guardian, grandparent or sibling.
- Failure to adhere to these rules may result in disciplinary action.

Part VII: Equipment and Property

All student-athletes are held personally and financially responsible for the equipment issued to them. If school equipment is lost, returned in poor condition (given consideration for normal wear and use), or not paid for, the student-athlete will forfeit any honors/awards for that sport and will be ineligible to participate on an athletic team until the equipment is returned or paid for. A senior athlete who fails to return equipment, replace it, or pay for it prior to graduation will forfeit participation in the graduation ceremony.

Part VIII: School Vacation/Recess Participation Policy

For the safety of our student-athletes, students who do not participate in scheduled practices/contests during a school vacation/recess **may be subject to** participate in a period of reconditioning upon their return. The length of the period of reconditioning before participation in an actual athletic contest will be determined at the discretion of the coach.

Part IX: Varsity Awards and Honors

- Following the first year of completion of a varsity sport season in good standing, the student-athlete shall receive a varsity letter and a sport-specific pin. For subsequent years of completion of the same varsity sport season in good standing, the student-athlete shall receive a bar pin.
- Captain pins shall be awarded to varsity captains for each full varsity season that the student-athlete holds that title, at the discretion of the coach.
- All-Star pins and/or patches shall be awarded to student-athlete All-Stars per sport as dictated by the Center State Conference.

Part X: Training Rules and Team Discipline

A. Training Rules:

In order for athletes to perform at their maximum ability without compromise to their personal health and team integrity, training rules are in effect from the first day of the official athletic season and conclude at the end of the day of the final contest of the season. All team rules and regulations relating to practices, individual conditioning, curfew hours, proper nutrition and game conduct are set forth by the coach of each sport, clearly establishing expectations for that sport.

B. Team Cuts:

Should a student-athlete be cut from a team prior to a final roster and wish to try out for another team, they may be eligible to do so. This can only be done if the student-athlete requests approval from the coaches of the sports involved, as well as the Director of Athletics.

C. Season Completion:

- a. Two-Week Grace Period: If an athlete chooses to leave a team within the first two weeks of an athletic season, the athlete must inform the coach of his/her decision and may leave the team without penalty.
- b. If there are extenuating circumstances regarding an athlete completing an athletic season after the two week grace period, a meeting will be held with the athlete, his/her parent/guardian, and the athletic director.
- c. If an athlete wants to leave a team any time after the first two weeks of the season, a meeting will be held with the athlete, his/her parent/guardian, the coach, and the athletic director. The result of this meeting may include a practice or play penalty for the next season.

D. Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Use

It is clearly understood that the use of tobacco products, any nicotine-containing products, and vaping of any substance; the consumption of alcoholic beverages; and the use of illegal drugs or misuse of prescription drugs is dangerous to the health and general maturation of the adolescent and impacts negatively a student-athlete's ability to perform. Therefore:

- The possession, sale or use of alcohol, tobacco products, any nicotine-containing products, vaping of any substance, illegal drugs (including but not limited to marijuana, cocaine, synthetic marijuana, bath salts, heroin, LSD, steroids or any other drug with the potential to cause impairment to the student-athletes' health and performance) or the unauthorized use of prescription or nonprescription drugs/inhalants is strictly prohibited on or off school grounds.
- Under no circumstances, is a student-athlete of the Dolgeville Central School District allowed to consume alcohol or use/abuse drugs at any time.
- Student-athletes who violate this regulation are subject to consequences including the potential to lose all honors, privileges and awards.
- Any student athletes who are in attendance at a gathering/party where there is underage alcohol use, tobacco use, or drug use shall physically leave and report any safety concerns to an adult. Student athletes who fail to leave or report safety concerns will face a minimum of a one-game suspension.

Part XI: Penalties for Athletic Code Infractions

Should an infraction take place during school hours or at school activities, the penalties outlined below will be applied concurrently with and/or in addition to any school or district penalties prescribed by the District Code of Conduct.

The following three levels of consequences for infractions of the athletic code will apply to student-athletes in grades 7-12:

First Offense:

- The student-athlete will be suspended from competing and scrimmaging in 25% of the total consecutively scheduled contests for the season.
- If the infraction occurs at the end of the regular season, the suspension will carry into post-season play (if any) and into the student-athlete's next season in which they participate.
- If the suspension carries over into the student-athlete's next season, the remaining percentage of games to be suspended will be determined by the Director of Athletics and the coach of the student-athlete's next sport season.
- During this period of suspension, the student-athlete is required to participate fully in all practices and to attend all contests in street clothing and sit with their team.
- Athletes not fulfilling this responsibility will be dropped from the team.
- It is recommended that the athlete will attend drug/alcohol counseling.

Second Offense:

- If the second offense occurs in the same season as the first offense, the student-athlete will be removed from the team and will be suspended from competing and scrimmaging in 50% of the total consecutively scheduled contests for the next sport season in which they participate.
- If the second offense occurs in a subsequent sports season, the student-athlete will be suspended from competing and scrimmaging in 50% of the total consecutively scheduled contests.
- During this period of suspension, the student-athlete is required to participate fully in all practices and to attend all contests and sit with their team.
- It is recommended that the athlete will attend drug/alcohol counseling.
- If the student-athlete has an unexcused absence from a practice or contest, it will result in suspension from participation in Dolgeville interscholastic athletics for 50% of the subsequent season.

Third Offense:

- The student-athlete will be suspended from participation in athletics for one (1) calendar year.
- The athlete must undergo outside substance abuse counseling, at the family's expense, in a certified program for a time period dictated by the counseling agency.
- The review board (consisting of the athletic director, building principal, guidance counselor and the coach of the sport during which the student-athlete committed their third offense) will convene to determine when participation might resume following the one (1) calendar year suspension.

Part XII: Self-Reporting of Alcohol or Substance Use/Abuse

- When a student who confidentially self-reports to a Dolgeville Central School staff member, coach, or administrator that they violated the Athletic Code by being involved in alcohol or substance use/abuse will be:
 - Granted a one-time confidential waiver of consequences.
 - Recommended to attend substance abuse counseling.
 - Allowed to continue participating as a student-athlete, provided that the determination is made that continued participation is not a health risk to the individual or a safety risk to other athletes or to coaches.
- Should the violation of alcohol or substance use/abuse be repeated, the student shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in Part XI: Penalties for Athletic Code Infractions.

Part XIII: Reporting Student Athlete Violations

- The following persons are required to report alleged athletic code violations that they have personally witnessed to the student-athlete's coach or principal, or the athletic director:
 - Any DCS employee or School Board member.
 - Any adult acting as a chaperone.
 - Any adult assisting with a school activity at the request of a district employee.
 - Any law enforcement agency or officer.
 - Any parent or legal guardian of the student-athlete involved.
- Athletic code violations personally witnessed by the aforementioned shall be investigated by the student-athlete's principal and the athletic director.
- Reports of alleged violations by persons other than the aforementioned may be investigated by school administration, provided the administration believes that the evidence warrants such an investigation.

Part XIV: Citizenship

- Athletic teams and student-athletes are representatives of their family, their school, and their community. Therefore, it is important that the student-athletes conduct during any activity concerning the sport in which they are engaged be governed by a basic respect for:
 - All facilities at the home school and at away games.
 - Locker rooms and athletic facilities at the home school and at away games.
 - Buses and any other forms of transportation.
 - Equipment.
 - Any individuals they may relate to as a member of a Dolgeville Athletic Team, including but not limited to students, spectators, coaches, officials, teachers, administrators, custodians, bus drivers, and chaperones.
 - Student Athletes will conduct themselves, both in and out of school, as responsible young adults. Athletes should refrain from acts of behavior that are incompatible with the purpose and goals of the interscholastic program.
- When posting athletic information on social media, student athletes will avoid making derogatory or inflammatory statements about other athletes, schools, coaches, or officials associated with their team or an opposing team.
- Student athletes will not post digital photographs of other athletes, coaches, or officials associated with their team or an opposing team without the permission of those persons in the photographs.
- A student-athlete may be subjected to dismissal from a team, or lesser penalty as may be imposed to more accurately reflect the severity of the violation.
- A student-athlete who has violated the District "Code of Conduct" and been assigned to in-school suspension (ISS) or out-of-school suspension (OSS) forfeits his or her participation in athletics during the period of suspension.
 - If the suspension (ISS or OSS) involves the last day of the school week and the first day of the subsequent week, the student-athlete will be suspended from participating in any weekend practices or games.
- Student-athletes are strictly prohibited from hazing or participating in any acts of initiation or coercion that may result in humiliation or endanger the safety of other students.
 - Hazing is defined in the District "Code of Conduct" as *the performance of any act or the coercion of another to perform any act of initiation that causes or creates a risk of humiliation or dangerous activity, or that risks inflicting mental or physical harm. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in the policy.*
- Depending on the severity of an inappropriate behavior, a student-athlete may be disciplined. For more severe behaviors, a student-athlete may be subject to dismissal from a team.

Part XV: Automatic Team Suspension

- Any student charged with a felony will be suspended from all interscholastic athletic teams pending an appeal.
- A student who receives a criminal summons, appearance ticket, or is arrested must notify the athletic director within 48 hours. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the team.
- Appeal Process:
 - An athlete suspended from participation, as well as the parent/legal guardian of the suspended athlete, may appeal the suspension to a committee consisting of the athletic director, high school principal, and a faculty member.
 - Student-athletes will not compete in any contests during the appeal process.
 - The appeal must be in writing.
 - The appeal must be submitted to the athletic director or high school principal within five days of their notification of the suspension.
 - The written appeal must contain exact reasons and details why the suspension is being appealed.
 - The review board will consider the matter and meet with the student.
 - The committee's decision on the appeal is final.

PART XVI: Athletics and Academic Standing

It is the expectation that all student-athletes make educational achievement their highest priority. This priority will be demonstrated when student-athletes consistently complete all course requirements punctually, thoroughly and accurately, and maintain passing averages in all subjects.

Student-athletes who are not in good academic standing shall:

- Be required to use **advisory** to complete work in that subject, study for tests, and/or meet with the teacher of that subject for additional assistance. Until the student maintains a passing average in that subject, is current in all assignments/tests, and is demonstrating effort, the student-athlete will be prohibited from participating in any other **advisory** activities or clubs.
- Be required to meet with the teacher to study for tests of that subject for additional assistance until the student maintains a passing average in that subject, is current in all assignments/tests, and is demonstrating effort.
- To ensure that all teachers and coaches know which students are participating in a sport, the Athletic Director will provide all teachers and staff members with rosters for all teams.

At every five week period (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35) the guidance office secretary will provide each coach with a list of students on his/her team who are failing any subjects. The coach and teachers will collaborate to ensure that those students are using Block 5 and Study Den to meet with teachers and complete work until 3:30 PM daily, unless students need to leave at a specified time prior to 3:30 PM for a game.

As much as possible, student-athletes who are having academic difficulties will be scheduled with mentors or core subject teachers during Block 5 for the purpose of assisting the student-athletes organizationally and academically.

PART XVII: Parent and Spectator Behavior, Ethics, and Consequences

“Student-athletes compete with honor and integrity, and play for the love of the game, so let’s all cheer for our team, have fun and support the spirit of Section III Athletics.”

~ New York State Public High School Athletic Association

- **General Guidelines:** The following are guidelines for parent and spectator behavior and ethics which are promoted by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

1. Direct all energies to encouraging your team.
2. Avoid actions which offend visiting teams or individual players.
3. Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
4. Learn the rules of the game in order to be a more intelligent spectator.
5. Treat all visiting teams in a manner in which you would expect to be treated.
6. Accept the judgment of coaches and officials.
7. Encourage other spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
8. Be positive.

- **Parent Conflicts with Coaches or Officials:** From time to time, conflicts arise between parents and their children’s coaches or the officials. At no time is it appropriate to go onto a field or court of play to approach a coach or official whether before, during, or after an athletic contest, regardless of the venue. Additionally, it is inappropriate for a parent to verbally confront a coach or official at any time before, during, or after an athletic contest. If a parent has a conflict with a coach or official, it is expected that the parent will contact the coach or the athletic director via phone the day after the athletic contest to discuss the conflict or ask to set up a meeting to address the conflict in person. The athletic director, building principal, and/or superintendent will be in attendance at the meeting.

- **Consequences for Unacceptable Parent/Spectator Behavior**

Parents or spectators who engage in unacceptable behaviors before, during, or after athletic contests – regardless of the venue – will be warned and requested by school staff (principals, superintendent, athletic director, coaches, chaperones) or officials to stop the said behaviors. Parents or spectators who do not comply with said requests will be directed to leave school premises. Parents or spectators who refuse to leave shall be subject to ejection and/or arrest. Depending on the severity of the behavior or repeated violations over time, the parent/spectator may be immediately ejected and/or banned from attending athletic events in the future.

PART XVIII: Athletic Participation Forms for Student-Athletes

There are several forms that must be completed and on file before an athlete can participate in athletic practices or contests.

To streamline the process for student-athletes, parents/guardians, and school medical and athletic staff, all forms will now be completed on-line through FormReLeaf.

For parents/guardians who do not have computer access or are unable to navigate the system on their own, the district will open the high school computer room and school staff will be on site to assist with setting up parent/guardian accounts and entering information.