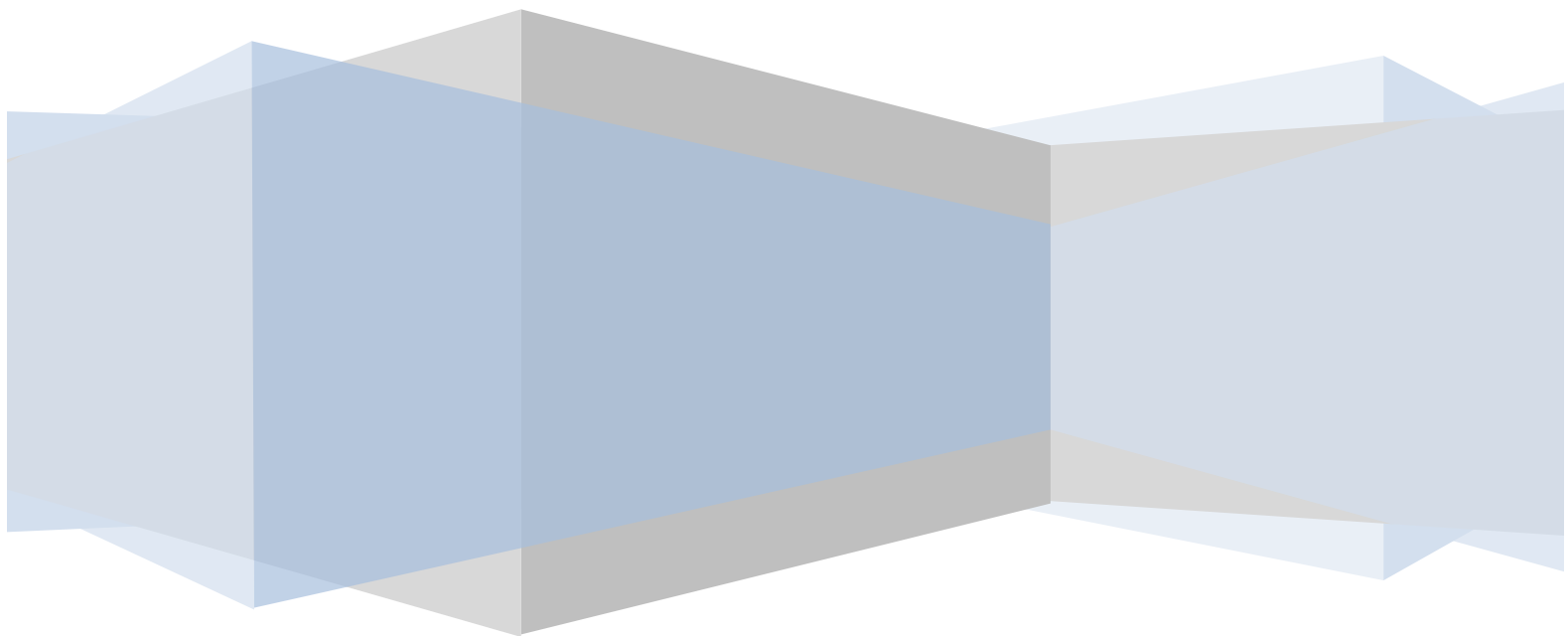


# Athletic Handbook

DeWitt School District



## **DEWITT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

The Athletic Department of DeWitt Public Schools is dedicated to the development of the total student athlete. Our goal is to produce young men and women to be successful citizens. The athletes will be given the opportunity through training, excellent equipment and quality coaching to reach their maximum potential, athletically, if they commit themselves to our program.

We also want our student athletes to be able to say they were proud to have been a part of our school's athletic program; the role in contributing to this pride, which brings honor to students, school and community, is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned.

### **ATHLETIC GOAL**

The goal of the DeWitt Athletic Department is to provide our student athletes with the skills needed to become productive, responsible citizens, capable of making positive contributions to society.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

1. Promote good sportsmanship by teaching self-control through competitive practice and competition.
2. Instill discipline by encouraging student athletes to strive to do things the right way.
3. Encourage the total person through physical fitness and proper nutrition.
4. Teach the social skills of being able to work as a team member.
5. Develop through practice the proper safety and fundamentals required for each sport.
6. Promote academics.
7. Develop all programs in such a manner that he/she will know that success will be found through hard work and commitment.
8. Mass participation is emphasized at all levels of our program.
9. Emphasize that athletic participation is a privilege that carries definite responsibilities.

### **BEHAVIOR AND CITIZENSHIP**

Many closely observe the conduct of an athlete. It is important that an athlete's behavior be above reproach. Appearance and actions always influence people's opinion of the athletes and the sport itself. Once you have volunteered to be a member of a team, you have made the choice to uphold certain standards expected of all athletes in this community. **Be proud to be an athlete; it is a privilege, not a right.**

We expect you to be a leader in all things you do, from appearance to your actions in the school and community.

## **COMPLAINTS**

The following order should be followed in reporting a complaint by conferring with

1. The coach with direct supervision of the athlete at the time.
2. The head coach of the sport in which the athlete participates.
3. The Athletic Director of the DeWitt School District.
4. The Superintendent of the DeWitt School District.

## **ATHLETIC ELGIBILITY RULES**

1. Meet all AAA requirements.
2. All students are able to try out for the sports offered. Tryouts are held and cuts may be made.
3. Good discipline in the classroom and in the community must be maintained to remain in athletics.
4. To maintain status as a team member, students are required to attend and participate in all practice sessions. Failure to do this may result in temporary benching or being dropped from the team.

## **DROPPING A PLAYER**

In case of violation of eligibility, training rules, or insubordination, the coaches will advise the offender and should the situation continue the student will face possible dismissal from the team. The Head Coach will confer with the Athletic Director regarding any dismissal. Major Sports: Football/Basketball -- the student will be placed in a Study Hall until the sport has completed their season.

## **COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM**

An athlete will have a two-week trial period at the start of each sport. If they feel that they are not interested in that sport they may quit the team (within the two week period) and continue to be in the off-season training program. They will be able to prepare for another sport. If the two-week period has passed and the student decides to quit they will be placed in study hall until the sport has completed their season. This applies to the major sports.

In spring sports or any other minor sports the student will have the same two-week trial period as stated above. If the student quits after the two-week trial period they will be allowed to participate in the other spring sports that they are already involved in. If a student quits a sport after the two-week trial period they will not be allowed to participate in that sport the next year. There will be some extenuating circumstances that will be addressed by the Athletic Director on an individual basis.

## **DEWITT ATHLETIC TRAINING RULES**

- A. Tobacco Usage: Absolutely no smoking or dipping/chewing at any time.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense - extra running (minimum one mile for the next five practices).
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - double the running.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense - one-year dismissal from the team.
- B. Alcohol: Absolutely no drinking at any time.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense - suspended from 20% of the regular season games and make-up as prescribed by the Head Coach and approved by the Athletic Director
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - prohibited from participating in all athletics for the remainder of the semester and the next semester.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense - athlete will be permanently barred from participating in any athletic program in the district.
- C. Drugs: Same as B above.
- D. Stealing: One-year dismissal from the team.
- E. Vandalism: Dismissal from the team.

One year will be defined as 365 days.

### **SUSPENSION/TEAM RULES**

- A. If a student is suspended from games in one sport, he/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the suspension is served. Off-season offenders will be subject to disciplinary action determined by the coaching staff and Athletic Director.
- B. The Head Coach of that sport may set rules pertinent to a particular sport after clearing them with the Athletic Director. This will encompass in-season, off-season, and pre-season time periods. All athletes will follow the team rules and will be responsible for upholding the beliefs of DeWitt Athletics.

### **TEAM RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Team goals and group loyalty.
2. Self-discipline and personal sacrifice for the team goals.
3. The team practices come first over any outside responsibilities.

### **OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING**

All DeWitt student athletes will participate in a strength and conditioning program. This program will involve strength/endurance exercises. We feel that all athletes will benefit from this activity from both a physical participation and injury prevention standpoint. This will include skill work for their specific sport, within AAA guidelines.

## FACILITY MANAGEMENT

1. All coaches will be involved in the care and upkeep of the district's athletic facilities.
2. All athletes will be responsible to care for and maintain their personal equipment and uniforms that the school has issued them.

## CARE OF EQUIPMENT

1. Equipment should be turned in within one week following the end of the season.
2. An athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her.
3. An athlete must treat school equipment as if it were his/her personal property. It should never be abused.
4. If an athlete is involved in the theft of school equipment, he/she will be dismissed from the team.

## ATHLETIC INJURIES

1. Any injury, large or small, should be reported to the coach in charge.
2. Let the coaching staff help in the procedure of care for the athlete.
3. If under a doctor's care, a doctor's release to participate is needed before the athlete will be allowed to return to any practice or game.
4. **The parent must inform the coaching staff as to any injury that they feel needs attention. The Athletic Director, as needed, will provide the proper insurance forms. (See Insurance Disclosure).**
5. Injuries not requiring a doctor's care should be left up to the coach in charge to assess the athlete's ability to play or practice.

## PARTICIPATION OF ATHLETES IN DIFFERENT SPORTS

1. The Athletic Department's philosophy is that each sport compliments the other.
2. The student/athlete will be encouraged to participate in all sports by the coaching staff.

## SUMMER WORKOUTS

This will be at the discretion of the coaches of the sport that the student is involved in. They will be encouraged to attend summer camps as an individual or as a team. The gym and weight room will be open over the summer as scheduled by the coaching staff. All scheduled summer workouts are mandatory.

## PRE-POST GAME CONDUCT

During away games, all participating athletes will sit together in support of the teams playing. Any conduct unbecoming to our program or school will not be allowed.

## INSURANCE DISCLOSURE

The DeWitt School District has entered into a contractual agreement with Student Insurance and underwritten by the MEGA Life and Health Insurance Company to purchase insurance on all students on each of the six campuses. This coverage is for students at school, on a bus, or any supervised school activity.

The DeWitt School District assumes no responsibility as a result of injuries that occur at school or supervised school activities; however, this insurance is provided at the District's expense. This is **SECONDARY INSURANCE** to whatever health insurance the parent or guardian has for their children, and all claims should be filed with the primary health insurance company and with Student Insurance. You will need to indicate on the Student Insurance claim form the name and address of your insurance carrier. If the student has no other insurance coverage MEGA will become the primary carrier and will pay accordingly. The parent or guardian should indicate on the claim form if they have no other health insurance.

All policies have limitations and exclusions. MEGA will pay up to the amounts that are listed on the student brochure. Please review the Policy Exclusions and Limitations that are listed on the brochure.

In case of an injury, **it is the responsibility of the parent to file a claim form.** These forms are available in the principal's office, school nurse, or coach. These forms need to be signed by the sponsor in charge when the injury occurred. The coaches, nurse, sponsor, or building principal will be happy to help complete the form; however, **no school district employee is responsible for filing your claim.**

Treatment must begin within 30 days from the injury and claims must be filed within 90 days of the injury. Benefits will be paid for covered expenses incurred within 52 weeks from the date of the accident.

If you wish to take out the 24 hour supplemental plan offered by MEGA, mail the brochure with your check or money order to Student Insurance at the address listed. All information listed in the above information should be followed for 24-hour supplemental coverage.

**The DeWitt School District and its employees are NOT responsible for any cost for any bills or treatment to your child by any doctor, clinic, or health care facility.**

## ATHLETIC AWARDS REQUIREMENTS

### FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL

- A. Participate in a total of one quarter per regular scheduled Varsity game.  
Football - 10 quarters; Basketball - 20 quarters
- B. A member of a team for three years without lettering; will letter senior year.
- C. An athlete will letter with approval of the head coach.

### TRACK AND FIELD

- A. Score a total of one point for each scheduled meet of the season.
- B. Score a point at the Conference or State meet.
- C. A member of a team for three years without lettering; will letter senior year.
- D. An athlete will letter with the approval of the head coach.

### SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL

- A. Participate in a total of one inning per regular season scheduled Varsity game.  
(Ex.: play 15 games; participating must have played in 15 innings for the season.)
- B. A member of a team for three years without lettering; will letter senior year.
- C. An athlete will letter with the approval of the head coach.

### GOLF

- A. Play in 50% of matches scheduled for the season.
- B. Advance to the next level of competition as a team or individual.
- C. A member of a team for three years without lettering; will letter senior year.
- D. An athlete will letter with the approval of the head coach.

### CROSS COUNTRY

- A. Participate in scheduled meets.
- B. Score a point at the Conference or State meet.
- C. A member of a team for three years without lettering; will letter senior year.
- D. An athlete will letter with the approval of the head coach.

### BOWLING

- A. Play in 50% of matches scheduled for the season.
- B. Advance to the next level of competition as a team or individual.
- C. A member of a team for three years without lettering; will letter senior year.
- D. An athlete will letter with the approval of the head coach.

## ATHLETIC AWARDS

Athletic Award Guidelines for all Senior High Sports:

1<sup>st</sup> Year Lettering, Senior High

Athlete will receive varsity letter with icon for sport(s)

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Lettering, Senior High

Athlete will be awarded letterman jacket with icons and/or bars for sport lettering

3<sup>rd</sup> Year Lettering, Senior High

Athlete will receive bar for sport lettering

4<sup>th</sup> Year Lettering, Senior High

Athlete will receive bar for sport lettering

Letterman jackets will not include the extra flap on the back for cheer, etc. If parents choose to pay extra for added flap they must inform the booster club prior to ordering in May.

Senior year, athlete will receive a plaque if lettering 3-7 times during high school career. Athlete will receive a varsity blanket if lettered 8 or more times during high school career.

### DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY FOR CHEMICAL SCREENING AND TESTING OF STUDENT ATHLETES

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY. The District has a keen interest in assuring that student athletes are drug free because they potentially could suffer injury during participation in interscholastic sports and because they are role models for other students, especially younger students. Therefore, it is the policy of the DeWitt School District to discourage student athletes from using drugs in order to provide for their own health and safety and to encourage other students to remain drug free.

2. CONSENT. All student athletes and their parent or guardians shall sign a form provided by the District consenting to the drug testing requirements.

3. DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENT. All students in grades 7 through 12 who wish to participate in interscholastic athletic programs shall submit to drug testing by urinalysis before participating in interscholastic sports. Once a student athlete has been successfully tested it will not be necessary for that athlete to be tested again unless he or she is selected for random testing.



4. RANDOM TESTING. Once each month during the season the names of all student athletes for that sport shall be placed in a pool. A teacher, who is not a member of the athletic coaching staff, in the presence of two school administrators, will blindly draw the names of ten percent (10%) of the student athletes for random testing. Students selected from random testing are to be notified and tested that day or as directed by the Athletic Director or head coach. If a student fails, without good cause, to report for drug testing on the day his or her name is selected or as directed by the Athletic Director or head coach, that student athlete shall be immediately and temporarily suspended from any participation in that sport until he or she has successfully completed, at the student's own expense, a drug screening test.

5. DRUG TESTING EXPENSE. The District will pay for the initial and all random testing of student athletes. However, the student athlete shall be responsible for re-entry testing after he or she has tested positive.

6. TESTING PROCEDURE. The Athletic Director and/or School Nurse will collect urine specimens. An athlete will have up to 3 attempts to provide a specimen within 24 hours of being called to test. If a student is taking prescription medication, the student must identify the prescription medication to the Athletic Director and or Nurse before being tested. Any attempt to deceive the drug test will result in dismissal from all athletics for one year. (One year will be defined as 365 days.)

TESTING OF SPECIMEN. The Drug Check Kit will test for amphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, and methamphetamine. The Drug Check Kit will show results in approximately 5 minutes. The decision of the District to test for other drugs shall not be based on the identity of the student being test.

RESULTS OF TESTING. The Athletic Director will retain the test results in his files. Any specimen showing positive will be sent to Drug Detection Devices for further analysis by the company lab. The district administration will notify the parents or guardians of positive results and results sent to the lab. Specimens showing negative will be destroyed immediately. The test results shall only be made available to the Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Director,

and Head Coach. The District will only keep the test results until the student graduates or transfers to another district at which time the results will be destroyed. Students that leave the district and return will be retested before being allowed to participate in activities.

#### POSITIVE RESULTS.

FIRST OFFENSE. If a student tests positive, the student athlete and his or her parents or guardians will be notified to meet with the school principal, Athletic Director, and head coach of that sport. At the time, the student and parents will be notified that the following procedures and options will be followed:

1. The student will be placed on probation, suspended for 20% of the season, and complete work as prescribed by the coach.
2. The student will be retested on the next random testing date.
3. The student must attend counseling on drug abuse.
4. If the student athlete refuses to comply with the above, he or she shall be suspended from all athletic sports for the remainder of the school semester. Before he or she will be permitted to engage in any interscholastic sport, he or she shall be tested by the physician selected by the District and shall be required to furnish written proof that he or she has successfully completed a negative drug screening test.

SECOND OFFENSE. Any student athlete who tests positive on a second drug screening test shall be prohibited from participating in all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the current school semester and the next school semester.

THIRD OFFENSE. Any student athlete who is tested positive for substance abuse on a third occasion shall be permanently barred from participating in any interscholastic athletic program in the District.

**CONSENT LETTER FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING**

Athletic Director  
DeWitt Athletic Department  
1841 S. Grandview Drive  
PO Box 700  
DeWitt, AR 72042

WE, the undersigned student athlete and his/her parents or guardians, do freely acknowledge our consent and agreement with the policy of the DeWitt School District and DeWitt Athletic Program that requires all student athletes to submit to chemical screening prior to participation in organized athletics. We consent to and agree to abide by and comply with all of the terms and conditions of the policy as a condition of participation in organized athletics in the DeWitt Public Schools.

We acknowledge that initial drug screening and any random drug screening will be at the expense of DeWitt Public Schools. However, we also acknowledge that after a student athlete has tested positive for substance abuse, any required testing for re-entry into the athletic program shall be at the student athlete's own expense.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(STUDENT)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT/GUARDIAN)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(PARENT/GUARDIAN)