

# **De Leon ISD Athletic Handbook**

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# Section I: General Information

## Foreword

De Leon ISD realizes the importance of an excellent athletic program and the value it provides to our students. Much careful thought is given to the continuous evaluation of the athletic program in our schools. This handbook has been written with this goal in mind. It will display the desire of the school to have an overall program second to none.

Athletic activities provide opportunities for teaching sportsmanship and citizenship. Proper attitudes and a competitive nature should result from participation in a quality program. These two traits will be invaluable to the individual student who must be able to live in our complex society and meet the challenges of society as well.

It must be remembered, however, that a quality athletic program must be an integral part of the total school program. The academic achievement must remain the number one concern of the student, the teacher, the coach, and the administrator.

In proper perspective, participation in athletics develops the bodies and minds of students to greater levels of efficiency. In addition, it develops self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment. Leadership qualities are discovered and developed which are so necessary to the future welfare of the nation.

It is our hope that this handbook will serve everyone who has an active part in De Leon Athletics and will be an instrument that answers questions on policy and procedures.

## General Policy Statement

Athletics in the De Leon Independent School District has tremendous potential for meeting the needs of the youth of our community. Competition, cooperation, confidence, and self-discipline are vital ingredients for a successful life that can be attained through athletics. No student is obligated to participate in athletics. However, De Leon ISD will extend the privilege to all boys and girls that desire to be a part of this program, with the understanding that athletics is a privilege and not a right. Certain standards are necessary to maintain the integrity and reputation of our organization. DISD athletes represent the school and the district at all times. Each member must conduct him or her self in an exemplary manner at all times, whether during school, at a performance, or during leisure and social activities. The behavior, character, and personal appearance of each member should set a positive example for others at all times. Athletes should never be seen smoking, drinking alcohol, using any kind of illegal drug or other illegal substance, or engaging in any unlawful or prohibited activity. The coaches, under the supervision of the Athletic Director and De Leon Administration, shall have the authority to revoke the privilege of participation when the rules are not followed.

## Explanation of Athletics

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Locations and times of practices and contests
3. Team requirements, e.g., practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning, etc.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach in the appropriate manner
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

As your children become involved in the program at De Leon I.S.D., they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussions with the head coach are encouraged. Examples of these situations include the treatment of your child, ways to help your child improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much, when, or where you desire. It will be the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all students involved as well as the team. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. **Examples include team strategy, playing time for your son or daughter, other student-athletes, etc.**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. **There will not be a conference regarding playing time. There may be a conference on what improvements your son/daughter can do to get more playing time and these conferences will be with the student/athlete present.**

When conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director's office. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These meetings can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

Since research indicates that a student involved in extracurricular activities has greater success during adulthood, these athletic programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

## **De Leon Athletics**

According to the University Interscholastic League rules, being in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Only those students who abide by school and athletic policies will be allowed to represent DeLeon I.S.D.

When young men and women sign up for athletics and become a member of a team, they make a commitment. They are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the program. They are not forced to participate. It is voluntary; therefore, they are expected to follow rules of order.

Parents should strive to help their son or daughter to achieve success in athletics. Success is defined participating 100% of the individual's ability. We can never expect athletes to do more than they are capable; however, we do want them to obtain their fullest potential. Supportive parents / guardians can instill this desire in student athletes long after their playing days are over by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and the regulations.

## **General Policies**

All participants must abide by all the rules set forth by the University Interscholastic League. An Acknowledgement of Rules stating these rules is handed out each year. The parent and participants should read this document carefully before signing and returning it to the coach.

All participants must abide by all the rules set forth by the school district or the individual campuses throughout the district. The athletic code will not take the place of the DeLeon I.S.D. Student Code of Conduct.

All athletes must travel to and from contest in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are:

1. Injury to a participant, which would require alternate transportation.
2. Prior arrangement between the coach and parent only.

## **Section II: Athletic Programs**

### **High School Athletic Programs**

The Boys High School program will have a complete athletic program, which will include the following sports: football, cross-country, basketball, baseball, track, and golf.

The Girls High School program will have a complete athletic program, which will include the following sports: volleyball, cross-country, basketball, softball, track, and golf.

The athletic program will be under the technical control and supervision of the Athletic Director. It shall be the responsibility of each head coach to keep the Athletic Director informed of any problems or potential problems relating to his/her program.

The coach in charge of each sport at the high school level will work with each middle school coach in coordinating his/her particular sport or program. It will be the responsibility of the head coach to keep the Athletic Director informed on all phases of this program.

Workouts, scrimmages, and games will be consistent with the rules and regulations set forth by the University Interscholastic League and District policy

Medical forms must be completed before an athlete begins workouts. Equipment may not be issued, facilities used, or personnel involved in any way before the first day of school, or according to guidelines from the University Interscholastic League.

### **High School Off-Season Athletic Programs**

The main purpose of the off-season program is to work toward improving the strength, quickness, agility, and the basic athletic skills of the participants. It is important that the participants in the program learn to appreciate the benefits that can be attained from hard work and also how the benefits can be useful in all sports.

### **Middle School Athletic Programs**

The Boys Middle School program will have a complete athletic program, which will include the following sports: football, cross country, basketball, and track.

The Girls Middle School program will have a complete athletic program, which will include the following sports: volleyball, cross country, basketball, and track.

The coach in charge of each sport at the middle school level will work with the head high school coach in coordination of his/her particular sport or program. It will be the responsibility of the head coach to keep the Athletic Director informed on all phases of this program.

Workouts, scrimmages, and games will be consistent with the rules and regulations set forth by the University Interscholastic League and District policy.

Medical forms must be completed before an athlete begins workouts. Equipment may not be issued, facilities used, or personnel involved in any way before the first day of school, or according to guidelines from the University Interscholastic League.

### **Middle School Off-Season Athletic Programs**

The main purpose of the off-season program is to work toward improving the strength, quickness, agility, and the basic athletic skills of the participants. It is important that the participants in the program learn to appreciate the benefits that can be attained from hard work and also how the benefits can be useful in all sports.

Middle School coaches will organize and direct their off-season program based on the suggestions from the head high school coaches with the final approval of the Athletic Director.

## Section III: UIL Regulations and Eligibility

- All UIL rules and regulations regarding programs and eligibilities are found in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules (C&CR) published each year by the University Interscholastic League.
- The Athletic Director will have a copy in his/her office. You may also view a copy of the UIL Rules online ([www.uil.utexas.edu](http://www.uil.utexas.edu)).
- DeLeon ISD will offer all students participating in athletics a physical examination every year. UIL requires athletes entering seventh grade, ninth grade, and eleventh grade to have a physical. These forms are to be kept on file in the Athletic Director's office.
- Any athlete who fails two consecutive grading periods may be subject to removal from athletics.

## Section IV: Procedures

This athletic handbook coexists with, but is not intended to supersede or overrule, the DeLeon ISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct.

This handbook does not address every possible situation that could occur in a program; therefore, any questions not addressed in the handbook, as well as the interpretation, will be answered by the Athletic Director, High School Principal, and a committee of coaches. Some organization guidelines may result in more severe consequences than those outlined below.

### Minor Offenses

The offenses below will be dealt with on an individual basis by the head coach of the sport. Repeated violations of these rules may lead to the suspension of the participant at the coach's discretion.

- A. Excessive absence from workout
- B. Unexcused absence from workout
- C. Tardiness
- D. Profanity
- E. Misconduct in class
- F. Inappropriate dress, hair or jewelry
- G. Inappropriate conduct at a school sponsored activity
- H. Equipment damage, misuse or lost equipment
- I. Unsportsmanlike conduct – may result in suspension from team and athletic program
- J. Conduct unbecoming of a team player – may result in suspension from team and removal from athletic program
- K. Inappropriate pictures or comments posted on the internet.

## **Major Offenses**

The following offenses will result in a two-week suspension for the first offense and a 30-day suspension for the second offense. The suspension period will begin upon notification to the student from the school and will take place during the athlete's sport. Following the third offense, the athlete will be suspended from athletics for one calendar year. The Principal and the Athletic Director must approve any attempt for readmission into the program.

- A. Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs. This includes but is not limited to MIP or DWI charges reported to the school by the authorities.
- B. Theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual's equipment or property.
- C. Any athlete charged with a felony crime will be suspended indefinitely until after their trial is over and then will be allowed back into the program if is deemed to be in the best interest of the program.

## **Section V: Awards Policy – Receiving Awards**

According to University Interscholastic League rules, a student is permitted to receive one major award, not to exceed \$60.00 during his/her high school enrollment. A student may receive symbolic awards not to exceed \$10.00 for each additional sport that he/she letters in.

The head coach of each sport, in conjunction with the Athletic Director, will determine the guidelines for students earning athletic awards at De Leon ISD.