

# Dansville High School

## Student-Athlete Handbook



*Home of the Mustangs*

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## Dansville Parent Athletic Code Philosophy

Athletic Participation is a **privilege** granted to **all students who voluntarily accept** the rules and regulations outlined hereunder. Students are considered a student-athlete and are therefore subject to the policies and procedures stated in the Athletic Code of Conduct from the first initial signing of the **Athletic Eligibility Status and Parent Consent Form**.

## Philosophy

The athletic program is an **integral part of the total middle and high school education process**. As such, it provides opportunities and emphasizes definite goals which are difficult to duplicate or achieve in other high school activities or later in life. It is desired that athletics be an enriching and healthful experience in which **physical, mental and social growth** can be stimulated through inter-scholastic competition. It is also desired that the athletic program will develop individuals who project self-confidence, exhibit improved skills and **practice good sportsmanship**. A genuine understanding of the athletic requirements, realized through a student-parent conference in which the rules of the Athletic Code are read and discussed, will help to bring about a greater understanding of the aims and objectives of the school athletic program In accordance with New York State Public High School Athletic Association regulations, enforcement of the Athletic Code is the responsibility of the school, parents and athletes.

## Developmental Levels of Athletic Performance

### **Modified Program**

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade interscholastic program is the first formal competitive opportunity for students. Participation is the priority as these student-athletes will begin to practice with a purpose and develop skills of teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline. These safe and supervised activities require an athletic code of responsibilities and its ensuing appropriate behavior to facilitate role models in our schools.

### **Junior Varsity**

As development continues for the athlete, he/she will become more familiar with the system used at the varsity level. Learning how to compete, becoming a member of a team and understanding how the individual fits in a team role are emphasized. Winning and success become more focused. Each individual will be given the opportunity to play during the season at the discretion of the coach.

## **Varsity**

Varsity athletics is the culmination of continuous commitment and dedication to a particular sport. Athletes in these sports participate in a highly competitive atmosphere at the interscholastic level. The athlete will be involved in league and possibly sectional and state competition. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

NOTE: The above mentioned competitive situations are limited in size and space. As a result, cuts may occur at all levels. Each individual will be given an equal opportunity to compete for a roster spot.

## **EXPECTED BEHAVIORS FOR A STUDENT ATHLETE**

### **Attendance**

Every athlete is expected to participate for a complete sports season, and to make all practices and athletic contests. All teams need a full squad for practice. There may be practices and contests on Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays and over school vacations.

The student-athlete will attend classes and will be on time for school.

Athletes are expected to abide by the rules of attendance established by the Eligibility Policy.

Coaches are expected to clearly inform students of their attendance policy so athletes are fully aware of the coach's expectations.

**Athletes must be in attendance in school by the end of first period to legally participate in an athletic event or practice.** Athletes who arrive after first period may participate in practice and/or game if they provide documentation of a medical visit from the medical professionals office. Student athletes may participate in practice and/or a game if they gain prior approval from the athletic director, coordinator or building principal for a funeral or college visit.

- *Parental notes will not be accepted after 1st period.*
- Students who are excused during the school day, must return before the end of 8th period in order to participate that day. Extenuating circumstances such as medical appointments and/or driver's road test, must be pre-approved by athletic administration or the building principal.

- JV and Varsity athletes may be suspended from the team for the remainder of the sports season if they have two unexcused absences from practices, a scrimmage or a game. An unexcused absence is one in which a student attends school and does not go to practice. In the event of an unexcused absence, a legal reason must be presented to the Athletic Director and head coach.
- Modified athletes may be suspended from the team for the remainder of the sports season if they have three unexcused absences from practices, a scrimmage or a game.
- Any athlete who receives three discipline referrals that lead to consequences other than a warning will no longer be eligible to participate in that sport during that season.

### Sportsmanship

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to:

- Demonstrate self-control and respect for others at all times be they officials, spectators or other athletes.
- Remember that participation in athletics is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Deal with opponents with respect. Shake hands after the competition and congratulate them on their performance.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
- Remember that improper behavior while in uniform reflects poorly upon yourself, your family, your school and your community.
- Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
- Accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity.

### Sportsmanship Code

The athlete must understand and comply with the following Sportsmanship Code:

1. Follow the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. Eliminate all possibilities that tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. Stress values derived from playing a game fairly.
4. Show cordiality and courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. Establish positive relations with visiting teams and hosts.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
7. Follow the Section V, NYSPHSAA and the High School rules of eligibility.

8. Encourage leadership, use of initiative and good judgment by teammates.
9. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual player.
10. Remember that an athletic contest is **ONLY A GAME**, not a matter of life or death, for any athlete, coach, school, spectator or community.

### **Elements of Good Sportsmanship - Livingston County Sportsmanship Code**

In an effort to promote GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP at athletic contests, spectators should be aware of the following expectations while attending contests in our school or as visitors in another school. Fans should be aware that the cheerleaders, players, coaches and the crowd are being judged at each event. The County Athletic League provides a sportsmanship award to the schools that display the best sportsmanship for each sport.

### **Section V Sportsmanship Policy**

Learn and understand the rules of your sport. Play hard, play to win, but play fairly within the rules. Do not allow your temper to distract you from the fundamentals of good sportsmanship. Maintain self-control. Respect your opponent. Never taunt. Congratulate him or her at a game's end. Acknowledge good play. Respect integrity and judgment of officials. Never question the decision of an official. Be an example for your school, teammates and opponents. A player who is disqualified from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior by an official is prohibited from playing in the next regularly scheduled contest. A player who strikes or otherwise physically assaults an official will be subject to suspension from athletic competition. A physical confrontation with an official is any incident in which a player either strikes, bumps or otherwise physically intimidates an official prior to, during or after a contest or game.

### **Spectator/Parent Behavior**

Spectators are an important aspect of the District's co-curricular program and enhance the accomplishments of the individual athletes. Spectators are expected to conform to the accepted standards of sportsmanship and must never distract from the accomplishments of the District's athletes by creating a negative impression of the District's co-curricular program or by embarrassing athletes. All spectators and parents must follow the following rules of conduct:

1. Respect officials, visiting coaches, visiting players, visiting cheerleaders, visiting organizations and visiting spectators. Treat all visitors as guests to our community and extend all courtesies to our visitors.
2. Booing, whistling, disrespectful remarks and obscene gestures must be avoided and will not be tolerated.
3. Bells, horns and other noise devices will not be allowed at indoor contests.
4. All spectators must refrain from making derogatory comments toward any player, coach, official or spectator.
5. ***Parents or citizens who wish to observe a practice are required to arrange such visits in advance with the coach, so that practice disruption is kept to a minimum. Anyone who does not abide by this rule will be asked to leave the premises.***
6. Pep bands or school bands under the supervision of school personnel may play during time outs, between periods, or at half-time. Bands must coordinate their play so as to not interfere with a cheerleading squad on the floor or field.
7. The throwing of debris, confetti or other objects from the stands is prohibited. Offending individuals will be asked to leave the premises. A forfeiture may be declared by the officials.
8. Spectators should encourage each other to observe courteous behavior. Swearing and/or derogatory remarks or signs will not be tolerated. Improper behavior should be reported to the school officials.
9. All posters for display at an activity shall reflect good taste and acceptable language. The supervisor at the home school shall determine their acceptability.
10. Spectators will observe the rules of the local school concerning food and drink consumption, littering and parking procedures.
11. Spectators will refrain from walking on the court or field before, during and after the game.
12. Elementary school students must be accompanied by an adult when attending interscholastic contests.
13. Spectators will maintain a respectful attitude during the flag ceremonies and the national anthem.
14. Spectators will not bring alcoholic beverages or other controlled substances onto school grounds, smell of or acting as if under the influence of alcohol, tobacco products or other controlled substances will result in removal from school grounds.
15. Spectators who leave the building before or during the contest may not be readmitted.
16. Students should have rides waiting for them in the parking area when the contest is over.

17. Spectators will respect and obey all school officials and supervisors at athletic contests.

18. Accept the judgment of coaches and officials. Encourage other spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

Fans at athletic contests should realize that there is a difference between sportsmanship and rowdiness. Spectators are encouraged to support our teams and help bring about the type of school spirit we can be proud of.

### **Procedures**

If a parent would like to communicate with a coach, it must be done outside of practices or games.

The following concerns must be left to the discretion of the coach and therefore **WILL NOT** be discussed with parents:

- **Playing time**
- **Team strategy**
- **Other players on the team**

We ask that all players, parents and coaches adhere to the following guidelines if issues or questions arise.

- A 24 hour “cooling off” period is to be observed prior to attempting any resolution with a coach.
- **First, the player is encouraged to seek out his/her coach and discuss his/her concern.**
- If no resolution has taken place, the player’s parent(s) should contact the coach involved to arrange a meeting with the coach.
- After meeting with the player’s coach, if no resolution has taken place, contact the Varsity Coach to arrange a meeting.
- After meeting with the Varsity Coach, if no resolution has taken place, contact the Athletic Coordinator to arrange a meeting.
- After meeting with the Athletic Coordinator, if no resolution has taken place, contact the High School Assistant Principal / Athletic Director to arrange a meeting.
- After meeting with the High School Assistant Principal / Athletic Director, if no resolution has taken place, contact the High School Principal to arrange a meeting.
- After meeting with the High School Principal, if no resolution has taken place, contact the Superintendent of Schools to arrange a meeting.



### **For Parents Only**

Both parenting and coaching are time consuming, challenging and rewarding. By listening and understanding one another, we are able to work together to make better decisions for your son/daughter. Parents have a right to understand the expectations that are placed on their children. This begins with clear communication from the coach. Involvement in an athletic program may provide your child with some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. We recognize that there may be times when parents and/or student athletes disagree with a coach or an official. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Parents should understand:

- There is no inherent right to play interscholastic sports and that the coach alone determines who plays and how much.
- The coach and official are entrusted with student athletes and will act in the best interest of all.
- Confronting a coach or official at any time, particularly right after a contest, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. A meeting with a coach may be set up by a parent after an incident or concern.
  
- The following are not acceptable and will not be tolerated:
  - Yelling derogatory comments about coaches, officials, players or others at any time.
  - Swearing or any use of profanity
  - Attending an athletic event under the influence of alcohol or drugs
  - Being offensive in any manner

### **ACTIONS THE SCHOOL MAY TAKE AGAINST A PARENT WHO VIOLATES THIS CODE:**

- A written or verbal warning
- Removal from the premises
- The prohibition of contact with the team
- Banishment from school activities/properties
- Legal proceedings

## **Student Athlete Code of Behavior/Ethics**

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to:

- Demonstrate self-control and respect for others at all times be they officials, spectators or other athletes.
- Remember that participation in athletics is a privilege that is not to be abused by unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Deal with opponents with respect. Shake hands after the competition and congratulate them on their performance.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials.
- Remember that improper behavior while in uniform reflects poorly upon yourself, family, school and community.
- Understand and abide by the rules and regulations of the game.
- Accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity.
- Remember that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, is detrimental to the game and its participants.

## **Behaviors**

Students will not be permitted to fight or strike teammates and opponents unless in the context of a contact sport where such physical conduct is required or permitted.

- The student-athlete will not engage in disruptive behavior, including angry outbursts, inappropriate gestures and fighting.
- Instigating a fight with players or fans will be classified as a most serious offense.
- Verbal harassment and/or taunting between teams, team members or fans before, during or after a game is unacceptable.

Athletes are expected to obey a coach's directions.

Disobedience, unwarranted comments, and other insubordinate behaviors may interfere with the coach's ability to conduct a practice/competition and may distract from the time a coach should spend for the purpose of the team. Athletes are expected to communicate with coaches before or after practice/competition to avoid distracting team practice/competition and achievement of team goals.

The student-athlete will not berate coaches, teammates or fans.

- Disagreements will not be conducted in public, in front of fans or in front of team members.

Athletes are expected to follow the rules and protocol of their sport and should not intentionally violate the rules of the sport that they are playing during practice or competitions.

- Each student-athlete will conform to the specific training rules of his or her sport.
- Each student-athlete will conform to the specific rules and regulations of the school.
- The student-athlete will be courteous and respect the rights of others and will exhibit a high degree of self-discipline.

### **The Athletic Season**

An athletic season will commence on the first day of preseason tryouts and/or practice. The last day of a season will be after the final contest in which any athlete participates during that season.

### **Eligibility**

A pupil shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the ninth grade and prior to graduation. A pupil reaching the age of 19, before July 1, may not participate during that school year.

### **Academic**

The district has established academic eligibility standards for participation in extracurricular activities.

### **Physical Education**

Any student athlete, in grades 7-12, who does not participate in Physical Education may not participate in athletic events on that day. This includes both practices and games.

### **Practices**

All student-athletes are expected to participate for a complete sports season. If they do not, they forfeit all awards. They must make all practices and athletic contests. There may be practices and contests on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and school vacations. Practices on Sundays and holidays are not encouraged, but may be necessary for post-season competition and tournaments. Any such practices would be scheduled in consideration of the student athlete's faith based and family obligations.

## **Family Vacations**

When parents and student-athletes choose to take their vacations during the sports season, it must be understood that the time missed can affect personal conditioning and team chemistry. Student-athletes who attend all practices during a vacation will clearly benefit and may be rewarded with additional playing time.

## **Outside Participation**

The NYSPHSAA allows outside participation. Dansville student-athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first. Outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a Dansville team. There may be occasions when a student-athlete should not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect on themselves or the team. At the junior varsity or varsity level, there should be no conflict between club participation and interscholastic competition. If there is any conflict, it will be considered an unexcused absence and a student athlete may be subject to consequences determined by the coach. If the conflict is reoccurring, and results in 2 unexcused absences, a student athlete may be dismissed from the team.

At the modified level, student-athletes are to make their coach/advisor aware of any conflicts as far in advance as possible. If a serious difference of opinion arises, the conflict will be resolved jointly by the student-athlete and the adult advisors/coach. If a compromise position cannot be made, the student-athlete may need to make a choice between inter-scholastic competition and club sports.

## **School Conflicts**

Advisors/coaches should make every effort to coordinate schedules annually and/or seasonally, to minimize scheduling conflicts. Student-athletes are to make their coach/advisor aware of any conflicts as far in advance as possible. When a conflict occurs between school sponsored scheduled practices, the student-athlete may choose either activity without the loss of membership, academic penalty or status in the other activity. When a conflict occurs between two school sponsored competitions/performances/activities, the student-athlete may choose either activity after consulting with the adult advisors/coach in a timely manner. If a serious difference of opinion arises, the conflict will be resolved jointly by the student-athlete and the adult advisors/coach. Ultimately, the student-athlete may need to choose between the competition and the performance/activity.

### **Athletic Rules and Expectations**

To be a member of a Dansville athletic team is a privilege and each student-athlete should strive to perform to the best of his/her athletic and academic potential.

- Each student-athlete will conform to the specific training rules of his or her sport.
- Each student-athlete will conform to the specific rules and regulations of the school.
- The student-athlete will attend classes and will be on time for school.
- The student-athlete will be courteous and respect the rights of others and will exhibit a high degree of self-discipline.
- The student-athlete will not berate coaches, teammates or fans.
- The student-athlete will not engage in disruptive behavior, including angry outbursts and fighting.
- The player shall remain with the team at all times. Mingling with the fans and family is discouraged. The student-athletes focus during competition and practices should be on the team and the task at hand.
- Student-athletes are expected to wear a clean, pre-assigned uniform to all games. Any deviations in the uniform must be approved by the coach.
- Uniforms are to be worn for games and scrimmages only unless authorized by the coach.
- The use of obscenities is inappropriate for players on the bench or in the game.
- Should a player disagree with the decision of the official, the player will make his or her feelings known only to the coach or the team captain.
- Instigating a fight with players or fans will be classified as a most serious offense.
- Verbal harassment between teams, team members or fans before, during or after a game is inappropriate.
- Disagreements with the coach will not be conducted in public, in front of fans or in front of team members.
- Players are expected to ride to and from all competitions on the team bus and appropriate behavior is expected at all times. If a parent wishes to take home their child from an athletic event, they must sign the athlete out with the coach.
- Student-athletes' attire for home/away games must meet the requirements of the Athletic Department and the approval of the coach.

### **Profanity, Abusive Language and/or Actions**

Foul language and insulting remarks are not permissible.

The conduct of a student-athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. Your conduct is a reflection of the total education institution you represent. It is important that your behavior be above reproach in all areas. The use of profane or abusive language and/or actions is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Furthermore, if profanity, abusive language and/or action is directed toward a person (coach, official, etc.) the participant will be removed from the situation for a cooling-off period. This may result in a period of suspension and/or removal from the squad as determined by the coach and/or Administration.

### **Student-Athlete Social Media Agreement**

Social media can be a useful tool to communicate with teammates, fans, friends, coaches and more. Social media can also be dangerous. Every picture, link, quote, tweet, status, or post that you or your friends put online is forever part of your digital footprint. You never know when that will come back to hurt or help your reputation during the recruiting process, a new job, or other important areas of your life.

Recognizing the above, all Mustang student-athletes are expected to:

- Take responsibility for his/her online profile, including posts and any photos, videos or other recordings posted by others in which I appear.
- Respect and not degrade opponents before, during, or after games.
- Post only positive things about teammates, coaches, opponents and officials.
- Use social media to purposefully promote abilities, team, community, and social values.
- Consider “Is this the me I want you to see?” before posting anything online.
- Ignore any negative comments about me and the team or coach and not retaliate.
- Discuss negative posts with my coach and/or teammates.
- Student athletes must not use social media to post negative comments about other teams and athletes, officials, teammates and coaches. Any student athlete that is found to be posting comments unbecoming of a Dansville student athlete will be disciplined according to the Code of Conduct.

### **Issuing of School Equipment/Uniforms**

Athletes may be issued school equipment/uniforms specific to each sport. Athletic equipment/uniforms issued to the student-athlete is that individual's responsibility and must be returned immediately to the coach upon completion of the season or upon individual's non-participation in the sport. A student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in a second sport until all equipment/uniform is returned. Any item that is altered or not returned by the athlete must be paid for at its replacement cost. Any graduating athlete that has not turned in or paid for replacement equipment/uniform will be subject to having their diploma and/or transcripts withheld.

### **Preseason Meeting**

Coaches will hold a meeting for all student-athletes and parents. One of the most important ingredients for a successful sport season is effective, open and appropriate communication between the coach, parents and student athlete. In order to ensure that this communication takes place, preseason meetings are scheduled by the coaches. Topics of these meetings include athletic department policies, individual team expectations and rules, the health and safety of the student athlete and a variety of other subjects. When preseason meetings are scheduled, student athletes are required to attend while parents are strongly urged to attend. Coaches will hold a parent night meeting no later than the end of the second week of practice, which will allow for parent attendance. This meeting is in addition to the athlete preseason meeting held before the season begins.

### **Locker Rooms**

Athletes should understand that locker rooms are provided for them to dress in before and after practices and competitions. Athletes should refrain from "hanging out" in the locker room, as these areas are difficult to monitor. The district is not responsible for items stored in the locker rooms, especially those that are not securely locked in an athlete's locker. We encourage students to refrain from bringing items of considerable value to athletic activities.

- Use of cell phones in Locker rooms is prohibited. Specifically, photographing and videoing are strictly prohibited.

### **Supervision of Athletes**

Coaches are responsible for student athletes' safety during scheduled team activities. Student athletes are responsible for their belongings and behavior before and after events and activities. Student athletes are expected to leave school grounds after the completion of athletic events, unless they are attending another school function.

### **Medical Re-Certification**

New York State guidelines for sports physicals state, "Students shall have a health history interview prior to the start of practice sessions." Students are prohibited from practice until this form is completed and turned in. This form may be obtained from your coach or at the Athletic Office.

### **Risk Factor in Sports**

Participation in sports involves a certain degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of activity and vary in nature, be it a "contact" or "non-contact" sport. Furthermore, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and by volunteering to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity, a student-athlete and his/her parents/guardians accept the inherent possibility of risk from injuries. Athletic injuries can range from minor to severe. Student athletes and parents are expected to report any injury immediately to their respective coaches.

### **Sports –Related Injuries and Reporting Procedure**

- Report any injury, no matter how small it may seem at the time, to your coach immediately.
- An accident report will be completed by the coach and submitted to the DHS nurse within 24 hours. Immediate notification is preferred.
- Any medical expenses incurred must first be submitted to the student-athlete's insurance company.
- If there is a remaining balance, the parents may submit a claim for full or partial reimbursement to the DCSD insurance carrier.



### **No Tobacco Policy**

To comply with federal and NYS law and to acknowledge the dangers of tobacco use, particularly in an environment where children are present, the Dansville Board of Education prohibits the use of tobacco in all school facilities, on all school grounds and in any vehicle on school grounds.

### **Transportation to and from Contests**

Student-athletes will travel to and from all away contests on the school bus or school transportation provided for them. They may not drive to games. Parents/guardians may authorize their child's release at an away contest in writing by signing a transportation release form. When arranging for a student-athlete to ride home with another adult, the parent must submit a written note to the Transportation Supervisor in advance of the contest. Under no circumstances may a student-athlete be released to ride home with another student or person under the age of 21.

### **Cleated Athletic Shoes & Spikes**

Athletes may not wear cleated athletic shoes or spikes in the halls of the school. They also are not to be worn on the buses. They should be removed and other footwear should be worn to and from any game.

### **Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)**

DASA prevents discrimination and harassment against students on school grounds. Harassing conduct may take many forms including verbal acts, name-calling, graphic and written statements, the use of cell phones or the Internet or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents.

Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. When such harassment is based on race, color, national origin, sex, or disability, it violates the civil rights laws that OCR (Office of Civil Rights) enforces.

The goal of the 'Dignity for all Students Act' is to provide all students with a safe and nurturing school environment conducive to learning by putting an end to harassment and discrimination based on, but not limited to, race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

## **Hazing**

“Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed at a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, club or athletic team whose members are or include other students.

Hazing in any form is strictly forbidden by NYS law. No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in a physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed on this campus or in athletics. It is further understood that we have a duty to report any acts of hazing that we see or know of to a coach or administrator and participation in or failure to report any hazing acts will result in a disciplinary review and possible suspension and dismissal from the athletic program.

## **Leaving a Team before the End of the Season**

If a student-athlete irresponsibly quits or is dismissed from a team after the initial try-out period or 5 days worth of practices, he/she will be ineligible to participate in 10% of the contests of the next season in which he/she participates.

A student-athlete may transfer from one (1) sport to another during the same athletic season if the change is made prior to the conclusion of the tryout period and/or the first athletic contest. In addition, both coaches and the athletic director must agree to the transfer.

## **ATHLETIC MISCONDUCT**

### **Consequences for Violating the Dansville High School Code of Conduct**

Athletic participation is a privilege that could be forfeited for violations of the code of conduct. On occasion, a student-athlete’s behavior might warrant the loss of privileges. Missed practices or games might also result in the loss of privileges.

The coach, Athletic Director or other District Administrator will be responsible for determining the nature of any offense and assigning disciplinary action for a student-athlete who exhibits conduct unbecoming of a Mustang student-athlete.

Student-athletes who lose privileges will not be denied access to awards in multiple seasons for the same violation.

A student-athlete who is serving an In-School Suspension or Out-of-School suspension for a violation of the DHS Code of Conduct or the Athletic Code will **NOT** be eligible to participate in any team ceremonies/events during his/her suspension (this includes team dinners and one-time events such as Senior Night, Pep Rally, Exceptional Senior game, etc). Furthermore, a participant who exhibits conduct unbecoming of a Mustang student-athlete could be prohibited from earning awards or individual recognitions, letters, certificates.

The student and his/her parents have the right to appeal to the superintendent any determination made. The student will not be allowed to continue participation in athletic activities until a final decision has been made.

Additionally, the board of Education has the power to review the decisions of the Superintendent. Any persons involved may contact the President of the Board of Education to arrange for such an appeal. The student will not be allowed to continue participation in athletic activities until a final decision has been made.

### **Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Violations**

The use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATODs), as well as, juuls/vapes/e-cigarettes, is unhealthy and interferes with an athlete's ability to reach his/her full potential. The use of ATODs is self-defeating and negatively impacts individual and team performance.

Therefore, the use of ATODs is strictly prohibited.

Furthermore, socializing with underage persons who are actively engaged in ATOD use represents **tacit** approval of a counterproductive lifestyle. Mustang athletes are expected to achieve higher character standards. Therefore, student athletes may not engage in ATOD use and may not be in the presence of underage persons who are engaged in the use of ATODs.

Any student found to use, possess, or be in the presence of underage persons engaged in the use of ATODs on or off school property at any time, will be suspended from participating in athletics. Students who find themselves in the presence of ATODs, are expected to remove themselves from the situation immediately.

Energy Drinks- Additionally, caffeinated or stimulant based sugary energy drinks are discouraged. Energy drinks are especially dangerous for children and adolescents. The

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends energy drinks should never be consumed by children or adolescents. FDA does not regulate or limit the amount or content of ingredients in these drinks; you may not know exactly what you are drinking when you consume these products.

### **Enforcement**

This code is not intended to interfere with parents' rights and responsibilities. Rather, the code is intended to support parents in teaching their sons and daughters the importance of maintaining a healthy and productive lifestyle.

Allegations of ATOD use will be reported to the athletic director who will then contact the parents, coach(s), principal, athlete and any other relevant persons to investigate. Allegations will be thoroughly investigated and action will be taken when an infraction is proven to have occurred. If the ATOD use is a violation of the law, local and State authorities may be contacted for assistance with investigations and enforcement.

Attendance at a family gathering where alcohol is served to legal adults is not a violation of this code. Consumption of wine during a religious service is not a violation of this code. However, student-athletes should inform their coaches prior to attendance at such an event to avoid speculation of a violation.

The NYSPHSAA, Inc. recognizes the use of mind-altering/performance enhancing chemicals as a significant health problem for many adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning and the total development of each individual. The use of mind-altering/performance enhancing chemicals affects co-curricular participation and development of related skills. The lives of other adolescents are affected when family members, team members and other significant persons use these chemicals.

If an allegation is determined to be conclusive the following actions will be taken:

## Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Infractions

### **1st offense:**

- Suspended from 10% of total regular games/season (rounded to the nearest whole number of contests).
  - A minimum of five (5) thirty (30) minute counseling sessions with the Student Assistance Counselor and complies with the counselor's intervention plan.
    - A letter from the Student Assistance Counselor stating **successful participation** with the intervention plan must be submitted to the athletic director prior to the student athlete's return to competition. This allows the student to return to competition before successful completion of the counselor's intervention plan.
    - Upon full completion, a letter will be submitted from the student assistance counselor to the athletic director, stating the student has met all the requirements of the counselor's intervention plan.
    - If a student does not meet the requirements of the counselor's intervention plan, the student will be removed from competition immediately until successful completion of the intervention plan has been documented.
  - Letter to teammates and coach or personal apology.\*
- The minimum suspension will be one game.

### **2nd offense:**

- Suspended from 25% of total games/season (rounded to the nearest whole number of contests).
  - A minimum of ten (10) thirty (30) minute counseling sessions with the Student Assistance Counselor and complies with the counselor's intervention plan.
    - A letter from the Student Assistance Counselor stating **successful participation** with the intervention plan must be submitted to the athletic director prior to the student athlete's return to competition. This allows the student to return to competition before successful completion of the counselor's intervention plan.
    - Upon full completion, a letter will be submitted from the student assistance counselor to the athletic director, stating the student has met all the requirements of the counselor's intervention plan.
    - If a student does not meet the requirements of the counselor's intervention plan, the student will be removed from competition immediately until successful completion of the intervention plan has been documented.
  - Letter to teammates and coach or personal apology.\*
- The minimum suspension will be one game.

**3rd offense:**

- Athletic Superintendent Hearing. Length of suspension to be determined not to exceed 12 months.
- Student may not participate in practices and athletic events.
- A minimum of twenty (20) thirty (30) minute counseling sessions with the Student Assistance Counselor and complies with the counselor's intervention plan.
  - A letter from the Student Assistance Counselor stating **successful participation** with the intervention plan must be submitted to the athletic director prior to the student athlete's return to competition. This allows the student to return to competition before successful completion of the counselor's intervention plan.
  - Upon full completion, a letter will be submitted from the student assistance counselor to the athletic director, stating the student has met all the requirements of the counselor's intervention plan.
  - If a student does not meet the requirements of the counselor's intervention plan, the student will be removed from competition immediately until successful completion of the intervention plan has been documented.

**Additional offenses:**

- Mandatory appearance before the Review Board. Members of the Review Board are the Athletic Director, DHS Principal, CASA counselor, Superintendent, and the Coach(es). Additional members may include a Board of Education member and a faculty/staff advocate for the athlete. The review board shall meet within five business days of the violation to determine an appropriate response.

**Self-Referral.** A student may refer him/herself to the administration, coaching staff or CASA counselor. Self-referrals may be facilitated by a parent. Self-referrals must be made prior to any formal charges or reports have been filed with the school, police or health facility/agency. Self-referral will result in a 50% reduction in the suspension but has no bearing on the intervention plan. The minimum suspension will be one game.

**Practices.** Student athletes who have committed a first or second violation are expected to participate in all practices. They are also expected to attend all games in street clothes, remain with their teammates on the bench and coach but shall not participate.

Student-athletes shall follow and abide by all recommendations from the counselor.

\*The letter/personal apology must include a sincere statement of culpability to the team, a statement of commitment to the future of the team, and a written understanding that another infraction will result in additional suspensions.

### **Notes**

- During a suspension from school an athlete may not participate in any extra-curricular activities, including sports practices and games.
- Violations related to tobacco, alcohol, and drug use are cumulative throughout a student's athletic career at DHS.
- If a student-athlete quits a team to avoid a suspension he/she will have the suspension applied to the next sports season in which he/she participates.

### **Appeal Process**

The parent or legal guardian may appeal a suspension by written request to the Superintendent within five (5) business days. The Appeals Committee, consisting of the athletic director, DHS Principal and the Superintendent will meet within five (5) business days after receipt of the written request.

The committee may meet with the student-athlete, his/her parents and the coach to gather information. The committee will meet to determine:

1. If procedures were followed by DHS and the athlete.
2. If the allegation(s) are **conclusive**.

If DHS followed correct procedures and the allegation(s) are **conclusive**, the suspension will be upheld.

If DHS did not follow correct procedures but the allegation(s) are found to be **conclusive**, the procedures will be corrected and the suspension will be upheld.

If DHS followed correct procedures and the allegation(s) are **inconclusive**, the athlete will immediately be reinstated to full team privileges.

At least two of the three members of the Appeals Committee must be in attendance at the appeal meeting. In order for the committee to reinstate participation, at least two (2) members must agree that the change is warranted.

## **Dual Sport Participation**

The Dansville High School Athletics Department has approved dual sport participation for student-athletes in grades 9-12 with the rationale that some athletes have talents, abilities, a desire and motivation that permit them to contribute to more than one team in a particular athletic season. Being a dual sport athlete will be a joint decision made by parents, athletes, coaches and administration. It is important to know that competing in two sports during the same season is not the norm and therefore the following guidelines MUST be met in addition to all athletic policies and procedures:

1. Students wishing to participate in two sports in the same season will need to obtain a **Dual Participation Request Form** from the athletic coordinator and adhere to the following guidelines set forth by the athletic department involving dual participation.
2. After receiving and reviewing the dual sport participation request form, the athletic director and athletic coordinator will determine if the initial request is approved. If so, there must be a face to face meeting involving the athlete, parent, athletic director, athletic coordinator, and the head coaches of each sport. This meeting must occur before practices begin for each sport. All individuals in attendance must agree to the student athlete being involved in both sports.
3. A student who wishes to participate in two sports during the same sport season MUST designate a primary sport and secondary sport on the dual participation request form.
4. A primary sport is defined as the sport taking precedence over another sport in the event there is a conflict of schedule or other matter that could lead to conflict. The student MUST adhere to the primary sport in the event of any conflicts of schedule. **If one sport has a contest and the other has practice, the contest will take precedence. Otherwise the primary sport will always take precedence over the secondary.**
5. The student must practice in both sports and meet the NYSPHSAA practice requirements for each sport. In addition, the student must meet the requirements of each head coach and the handbook for each sport.
6. The student must have no less than an 80 average in all courses and this must be maintained during bi-weekly grade checks. The ATHLETE is responsible for submitting a BI-WEEKLY signed run around sheet to the athletic coordinator to maintain dual participation. If any course average falls below 80, if still academically eligible, the athlete will have 1 week to raise their grade. If the grade is not raised after a week they may participate only in the primary sport for the remainder of the season.
7. Approval may be denied due to academic concerns at any time during the sport season. The athlete then will participate in the primary sport only.
8. Once the team is selected for sports with tryouts or after 2 weeks for sports without tryouts an athlete cannot quit the primary sport to focus on the secondary sport. If an athlete quits the secondary sport he/she will be subject to a 10% contest suspension of their primary sport that could continue into the following sport season.
9. If the athlete is removed from either program he/she cannot continue participation in the remaining program until a conference is completed with the athlete, parent, both



coaches, the athletic coordinator and the athletic director/HS principal. After the conference the committee will determine a consequence for the remaining program ranging from 10% suspension to complete removal from both programs. Consequences could also carry over to the following sports season.

10. In the event that a student is disciplined for any infraction of the athletic code of conduct, which results in game suspensions, the consequence will be applied to the primary sport. The student will from that point forward lose the privilege of dual sports participation.
11. An athlete may compete in more than one athletic contest in one day if the schedule permits.
12. Transportation must be provided by the student-athlete's parent/guardian when he/she cannot be released from their primary sport in time to ride on the team bus. Return transportation back to DHS will be provided on the team bus.
13. Head coach of each sport has the final say in playing time and playing positions.
14. A head coach always has the right to deny or rescind the dual participation if the coach feels that the dual participation is detrimental to the athletes potential or to team chemistry.
15. The dual sport athlete is expected to practice with both teams as much as possible. This may include 2 practices in one day.
16. The athlete and his/her parents agree that splitting time between two sports might result in less participation/playing time in both sports.
17. The coaches, athletic coordinator and athletic director/HS principal will meet to evaluate this agreement at approximately the midpoint of the season. At this meeting, it will be determined if the agreement should be continued for the remainder of the season or should the athlete focus on the primary sport only.
18. The coach of the primary sport must agree with the scheduling of any practice time for the student athlete to participate in a secondary sport.
19. NYSPHSAA, Section V, LCAA or DCSD will not move sectional, county or league contests for dual participant conflicts. It needs to be understood that conflicts could arise for league, county, sectionals and into the state tournament. The student athlete would be expected to stick with the primary team for conflicts unless approved by both coaches, AD/Asst. Principal, and athletic coordinator..
20. Student athletes disqualified for participation in any sport due to discipline by an official, or administration cannot participate in the other sport and will receive the same or equivalent consequence in the other sport.
21. Both coaches must be in agreement to allow dual participation. If either coach is not in favor of it, the student-athlete will be required to choose one sport.
22. The application is good for only one sport season. A new application must be completed for each season of each school year.
23. If the dual participation request is denied, there is no appeal process.

## Dual Participation Request Form

*(This form needs to be completed by the student athlete and parents/guardians, and returned to the athletic coordinator at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the season.)*

First and Last Name of Student Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade-level: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of any of the following: (X indicates that you are a member)

High School Band: \_\_\_\_\_

Chorus: \_\_\_\_\_

Musical: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Participation in the musical disqualifies an individual from dual sport participation)*

***My signature indicates an understanding and agreement with the above and that I am in support of going through the dual sport participation process.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name - Print                      Signature of Student                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name - Print                      Signature of Parent/Guardian                      Date

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***The following signatures indicate an agreement of the students dual participation (To be completed at the meeting).***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Sport H.C. - Print                      Signature of Primary Sport H.C.                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Sport H.C. - Print                      Signature of Secondary Sport H.C.                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Coordinator - Print                      Signature of Athletic Coordinator                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
AD/ HS Principal - Print                      Signature of AD/HS Principal                      Date