



# **D'Arbonne Woods Charter School Athletics Handbook**

Revised July 8, 2024



# Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to explain the expectations of the D'Arbonne Woods Charter School athletic program, and to make all parties aware of all policies, procedures, and responsibilities.

Participation in D'Arbonne Woods Athletics is a privilege, not a right. All student-athletes, coaches, and spectators are expected to represent the school and the community in a positive manner, and follow all rules and regulations as set forth by both the school (DWCS) and the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA).

Success in athletics is not solely measured in wins and losses; at DWCS, it is our mission that every participant enjoys their time and involvement in sports, and that each grows individually not only athletically, but in character and self-esteem, and learns from the valuable life lessons that athletics best bestows. Each student-athlete and coach will be challenged to be the best version of themselves.

This handbook is an attempt to address as many areas as possible - however, if you think of a concern not specified here, or if you have questions about any of the information in this handbook, please contact me.

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## Core Values

D'Arbonne Woods Charter School is committed to the pursuit of excellence in all endeavors. As such, the following values are expected to be exhibited by our coaches, and instilled in our student-athletes:

- Commitment
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Teamwork
- Trust
- Respect

## Athletic Director Exception

The Athletic Director reserves the right to waive any policies outlined in this handbook with the agreement of the Executive Director.

# Student-Athletes

## Eligibility

All student-athletes who meet the eligibility requirements of the LHSAA are eligible and encouraged to participate in athletics at DWCS.

Upon promotion to 9th grade, a student is eligible for four consecutive academic years, so long as they do not turn 19 on or before August 1st of their fourth and final year. For DWCS, any incoming freshman who failed 2 or more classes in 8th grade or who had lower than a 2.0 GPA will be on a probationary status, and must pass 6 of 7 classes with a 2.0 GPA or higher at the end of their 1st nine weeks in high school to remain eligible for the 2nd nine weeks.

First semester eligibility requires students to have passed six units and have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA the previous academic year. Second semester eligibility requires students to have passed six units AND have earned a minimum annual 2.0 GPA the first semester. **NOTE: for Fall 2024 purposes ONLY, a C-average will be the previously used 1.5 GPA - thereafter, a C-average shall always be considered a 2.0 GPA.**

For Special Education students only, an LHSAA minimum of 1.5 GPA must be maintained.

All seniors are required to take four units both semesters. Seniors taking four units are required to pass all for units with a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Junior High student-athletes must fail no more than one course per semester while maintaining a 2.0 GPA in order to be able to participate in athletics.

## Discipline

Each head coach will develop and enforce their own policies towards discipline that coincide with the policies set forth in this document and that keep with the ideals of the vision and mission of D'Arbonne Woods Charter School Athletics. For the addressing of any concerns over these policies, please refer to "Addressing Concerns" in the Parents-Guardians section of this document.

## Attendance

Students are required to attend one-half (equivalent of four class periods) of the school day to be eligible to participate in practices and competitions. Any athlete serving out-of-school suspension is ineligible to participate in practices or contests for the entirety of the suspension.

## Substance Abuse Policy

For the purposes of this document, the term "substance" shall refer to, but is not limited to, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, nicotine delivery services, vaping, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, fentanyl, steroids, look-alike drugs, synthetic cannabinoids, or any other mind-altering or performance-enhancing substance.

The use or possession of any substance, unless in accordance with a lawfully issued prescription for the substance, is strictly prohibited. As referenced on our DWCS Drug Testing Policy & Consent Form, the school reserves the right to conduct drug testing of any student-athletes at any point in time.

The following are the minimum disciplinary actions that will be taken upon violation of the policy; each head coach can choose additional disciplinary action if they see fit in accordance with the Athletic Director:

- **First Offense** - Immediate loss of participation in athletics (including practices and contests) for a period of time deemed appropriate by the sport's head coach and the Athletic Director. In addition, the head coach and/or Athletic Director may require the student-athlete to complete an awareness and/or intervention program.
- **Second Offense** - Immediate removal from the team, and forfeiture of participation in athletics for the remainder of the current academic year.
- **Third Offense** - Immediate removal from the team, and forfeiture of participation in athletics for the remainder of the student-athlete's high school career.

## Social Media Policy

Social media can be a useful tool for communication when used responsibly, but it can be dangerous if the student-athlete is not careful. Every posting, picture, link shared, quote, etc. creates a permanent digital footprint, even if a posting is removed from a profile/account. You never know when something posted at any point in the past could be viewed or made aware of by someone, including potential recruiters or future employers. Each student-athlete is encouraged to take responsibility for all online postings, including actions taken in others' postings in which they could appear. They will not make any negative postings towards or about their school, coaches, community, or opponents.

## Policy on Quitting a Team

One of the core values that DWCS athletics strives to teach our student-athletes is commitment. As such, quitting a team prior to the conclusion of the season is strongly discouraged. Any student-athlete who quits a team before the conclusion of the season (or is removed from the team for any reason) will be ineligible for participation in practices and contests in any other sports until the conclusion of the original sport's season. A student is considered part of a team after the first playing date of the sport's season - offseason and/or summer activities are excluded from this criteria. In addition, student-athletes are still responsible for any outstanding financial obligations to the previous team prior to participation moving forward.

## Policy on Multi-Sport Athletes

DWCS coaches will encourage student-athletes to participate in any and all sports in which they have interest and/or aptitude. Choosing to play multiple sports which share the same season is at the discretion of the student-athlete and their parent(s)/guardian(s). The management of fulfilling the requirements of each sport shall be left to the discretion of the head coaches of those sports, and if no agreement is able to be reached, then as dictated by the Athletic Director.

## Letterman Jacket Policy

DWCS student-athletes, including Cheer, Band, and Choir/Music, will be eligible for a Letterman Jacket upon completion of 2 full seasons in a sport OR completion of one full season in which he/she makes All-District 1st Team or 2nd Team, All-State, All-American, or wins an individual State Championship award. Managers have the same criteria as student-athletes.

Jackets will be sized each semester, but will not be ordered until the student-athlete pays in full. Individual awards/patches will be left to the discretion of each head coach.

### Personalization:

- Back of the jacket may have first or last name only (no nicknames)
- Athletes have the option of adding patches for clubs/activities such as BETA, FBLA, etc.
- All students have the option of a sailor collar

## Collegiate Commitments & Signings

All DWCS coaches will make every effort to get our student-athletes recruited at the collegiate level equal to their capabilities. Please keep the coach informed of any communication between your student-athlete and colleges and universities. Arrangements can be made for official signing ceremonies once official commitments have been made.

# Parents-Guardians

Both parenting and coaching are difficult - by establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of each other, and to provide mutual greater benefit to our students-athletes. Both love and care for the student-athlete, and both have the child's best interest at heart. However, the coach is better equipped to assess each child's athletic potential, and its correlation to the operation of the team as a whole. Be realistic about your child's ability - understand that our coaches see these athletes at practice in competitive drills every day.

## Expected Communication

The following is communication you should expect from your student-athlete's head coach:

- Expectations the coach has for their program, as well as your student-athlete
- Locations & times of all practices and games, including prompt notification of changes
- Discipline policies in regards to team rules and/or policies

## Addressing Concerns

**The following are appropriate concerns to address with your student-athlete, coaches and/or administration:**

- Ways to help your child become a better student-athlete
- Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior

**The following issues are inappropriate to discuss with coaches, and will not be entertained by administration:**

- Playing time and/or starting line-ups
- Team strategy and/or play calling
- Student-athletes other than the parent/guardian's own child

**The Chain of Communication is as follows:**

- **Student-Athlete** - please ask your child to talk directly with their head coach about their concerns
- **Head Coach** - after the athlete has spoken to their coach and you need further information, contact the head coach directly about the issue(s). \*\* Please note that it is NOT recommended to approach a coach immediately following a practice or contest; these are emotional times, and meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.\*\*
- **Athletic Director** - if after talking with the head coach and the issue has not been resolved satisfactorily, the Athletic Director should be contacted
- **Executive Director** - if after talking with the Athletic Director has not resolved your concern(s), the Athletic Director will set up a meeting with the Executive Director

## Spectator Conduct

At DWCS, we will strive for an environment in which all individuals represent themselves and our community in a positive light. As such, it is a good policy to abide by the Golden Rule, "Treat others as you would want to be treated." It is our expectation to represent our school and community in a positive manner, to have humility in victory, and grace in defeat.

In regards to attitude towards officials, please keep in mind that officials do what they do because they love sports and giving back to the kids. Remember that officials have a better view of the contest than spectators. And finally, all people make mistakes.

It is expected that everyone respects the National Anthem, and we encourage fans to recognize outstanding performance, on both sides of the field or court. Any observed or reported instances of unsportsmanlike conduct will be investigated, and could result in being banned from attendance at both home and away athletic events for a period of time as determined by the Athletic Director and Executive Director.



# Student-Parent Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we have read, understand and agree to abide by all policies as specified in the DWCS Athletics Handbook.

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_