

# **DEPEW HIGH SCHOOL**



## ***INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS HANDBOOK***

*For Students and Parents*

Parents –

Thank you for reviewing our Athletics  
booklet with your child.



**DEPEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*High School Interscholastic Athletics*  
*Handbook for Students and Parents*

Introduction

This handbook has been prepared to be used as a reference by students, and parents of students, who have elected to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program for the Wildcats of Depew High School. It has been designed in an effort to define student and parent responsibilities as they pertain to the rules and regulations, as well as, policies and procedures for participation in the interscholastic athletic program in the Depew School District, Section 6, New York State, and the National Federation.

Student-athletes have chosen the opportunity, and are welcome to participate in interscholastic sports in the Depew School District; a program, which is afforded to all eligible secondary students (grades 7-12) as set forth in the Commissioner's Regulations and the New York State Public High School Guidelines. The student-athlete who participates in interscholastic sports should recognize that they have an obligation to themselves, their teammates, and the school community to strive for excellence; in the community, the classroom, and on the playing field. It is hoped that participation in the program will enable students to exercise self-discipline, self-control, good sportsmanship, and mature judgment.

Depew High School has always been proud of its outstanding interscholastic program and its athletes. As athletic representatives, the students are a visible extension of what Depew symbolizes. As such, each participant is expected to uphold the high standards which traditionally represent Depew. In insuring that Depew's standards are continued, this handbook provides athletic regulations and procedures, which have been established and approved by the Board of Education. Participants in the interscholastic athletic program are required to abide by these regulations and procedures or be ineligible.

In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the athlete must willingly assume these obligations as the role demands that the individual make sacrifices not required of others. You have inherited a wonderful tradition, a tradition you are challenged to uphold.

**Brian Wilson, Athletic Coordinator**

## DEPEW INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS PROGRAM

"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 ninth grade and prior to graduation, except as otherwise provided in the sub clause (4) (selective/classification). If a Board of Education has adopted a policy pursuant to sub clause (4) to permit pupils in the seventh and eighth grades to compete in senior high school athletic competition, such pupils shall be eligible for competition during five consecutive seasons of a sport. Commencing with the pupil's entry into the eighth grade, or six consecutive seasons of a sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the seventh grade. A pupil shall be eligible for interscholastic competition in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 until his/her 19th birthday. A pupil who attains the age of 19 years on or after July 1 may continue to participate during that school year in all sports."

Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, 135.4

### SPORT TEAMS

The following sport teams make up the interscholastic athletic program in the Depew Public School District:

#### FALL:

Cross Country (B & G)	Football (B)
Girls' Swimming	Boys' Soccer *
Boys' Volleyball	Girls' Soccer *
Girls' Volleyball	Football Cheerleading
Girls' Tennis	
Golf (B & G)	

#### WINTER:

Boys' Basketball	Bowling (B & G)
Girls' Basketball	Basketball Cheerleading
Wrestling *	Indoor Track (B & G)
Boys' Swimming	Girls' Ice Hockey **

#### SPRING:

Boys' Track & Field	Baseball (B)
Girls' Track & Field	Softball (G)
Boys' Tennis	Boys' Lacrosse

\* Combined with Cleve Hill

\*\* Combined with Lancaster/Iroquois

**N.Y S. P. H S. A. A. Inc.**  
**Code of Ethics**

**IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of incentive, and good judgment by the players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game - not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community, state or nation.

**COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

TITLE VI, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; TITLE VII, CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964; TITLE IX, EDUCATION ADMENDMENTS OF 1972, SECTION 504, REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AS AMENDED; 1974 AMENDMENTS TO THE WAGE-HOUR LAW EXPANDING THE AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 1967; AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975.

It is the policy of the Depew Public School System to comply fully with the non-discrimination provisions of all federal and state laws and regulations by assuring that no person shall be excluded from consideration for recruitment, selection, appointment, training, promotion, retention, or any other personnel action, or be denied any benefits or participation in any programs or activities which it operates on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, handicapping condition, or age. The Depew Public School District makes positive efforts to employ and advance in employment all protected groups.

Depew Board of Education  
Depew High School  
5201 South Transit Road  
Depew, New York 14043

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

### **1. Eligibility**

1.1 Each athlete will participate under the eligibility requirements, rules, and regulations of the NYS Commissioner of Education, and the NYS Public High School Athletic Association, as well as the Depew Board of Education, Section VI, and E.C.I.C. league standards.

1.2 Each student athlete must be a bonafide student registered in the equivalent of six (6) courses, including Physical Education.

1.3 Each student athlete must be in compliance with the requirements of the District Policy on student attendance.

1.4 A student athlete must have enrolled in school during the first fifteen (15) days of the semester.

1.5 Equal opportunity to participate in interschool competition, either on separate teams or in mixed competition on the same team, shall be provided to male and female students, except as outlined in the Commissioner's Regulations and regulations of the NYSPHSAA.

### **2. Physicals, Medical and Injuries**

2.1 Once each school year, every athlete must pass a sports physical examination prior to practice or participation in any interscholastic sport. One physical only is required for the entire year.

2.2 Depew maintains an accident student insurance plan, which is a secondary medical insurance coverage plan, covering all students. This school insurance only pays in excess of what the family's health insurance policy does not cover. All medical bills must be processed through the family's insurance first. The initial claim must be submitted within thirty (30) days of injury or forfeiture of payment will result.

2.3 Students changing dates on physical or medical exams will be subject to discipline action by the coach. This will range from suspension to expulsion from the squad.

2.4 The athlete must report all injuries, no matter how minor, to the coach. These injuries then must be reported to the nurse immediately. Insurance forms must be secured from the school nurse and must be completed by the parent and coach and returned to the school nurse as soon as possible.

2.5 Any sick or injured player, requiring the treatment of a physician, must have the doctor's approval before returning to active participation in the athletic program.

Players who are treated for concussion must complete the Return to Play Protocol as specified in the District's Concussion Policy. This policy may be viewed on the district website ([www.depewschools.org](http://www.depewschools.org)) by clicking Athletics and the Sports Policies.

2.6 **Warning:** Participation by a student in athletic activities involves some degree of risk of physical injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of sports activity, be it "contact" or a "non-contact" sport. Further, many injuries are truly accidental in nature and involve no negligence by anyone, including a student. By volunteering to participate in school-sponsored athletic activity, a student and his/her parent(s) assume the risks for injuries to occur.

### 3. Student Athletes Regulations and Procedures

3.1 To strive for academic achievement and for good attendance record.

3.2 To be loyal to the school, team, and coach.

3.3 To display the highest standard of conduct both on and off the playing field.

3.4 To attend all practice sessions and games.

3.5 To live by the training regulations, keeping regular hours and abstaining from alcohol, drugs, and smoking. Develop desirable personal health habits.

3.6 To travel to and from sporting events on the school bus. A player who misses a scheduled bus for an away athletic activity will not be permitted to participate in that activity. A player must use school transportation to athletic events except when the athlete has secured prior written permission from the Director of Athletics, his/her parents and the coach to ride with his/her parents. A coach may approve written parental permission requesting alternate transportation home from an athletic event.

3.7 To sit with their own team during the entire athletic event.

3.8 To remain on site, not leaving an athletic activity without permission from the coach.

3.9 To properly clean and care for all equipment. Lost and stolen equipment is the student's financial obligation. Failure to replace or return the items will result in the student being ineligible for any future athletic participation or awards.

3.10 To complete the sports season. (Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire.)

3.11 To be well groomed and dressed appropriately. Appearance, expression and action always influence people's opinion of athletes, the team and the school.

3.12 To do everything they can to avoid a conflict of involvement in too many extra-curricular activities on the same date. This means notifying faculty sponsors involved immediately when a conflict arises, not the day of the conflict. If a solution cannot be found then the student will have to make the decision based on the following:

- a. the relative importance of each event
- b. the importance of each event to the group involved
- c. the relative contribution the student can make
- d. how long each event has been scheduled
- e. parental cooperation

3.13 Academic success is the top priority for the Depew Union Free School District. All students at Depew Middle/High School must maintain Academic Eligibility in order to participate in any extracurricular club, activity or sport. **Students are academically eligible to participate as long as they are a registered student at Depew Middle/High, scheduled for the minimum of 6 classes per semester plus physical education, and have a passing grade in all subjects at each time that eligibility is determined. Eligibility will be determined at the 5, 10, 20, 30 and 40 week reports.**

This Academic Eligibility Policy applies to all extracurricular activities, athletic contests, school sponsored overnight trips and ticketed building events including, but not limited to the Homecoming Dance, Prom, and senior celebrations.

If the student is **\*failing one subject** at the time of eligibility determination, the student will remain eligible to participate as long as they receive remediation in the failed subject until the next 10 week report card. The Depew Eligibility Evaluation Form must be completed, signed, and turned in to the Athletic Office every Thursday by 12:00 p.m. indicating that the student is now in good academic standing. If the student does not receive remediation, he/she becomes ineligible. These forms are available through the Athletic Office.

If the student is **failing two or more subjects** at the time of eligibility determination, the student is **ineligible** for participation for a minimum of two weeks during which time the student must receive remediation in the failed subjects and complete the Depew Eligibility Evaluation Form each week for the remainder of the 10-week period. During this period of ineligibility, the student may rehearse, prepare, and in the case of interscholastic sports, practice but cannot participate in the activity or contest as a member.

This policy is ongoing and a student **MUST** hand in the eligibility form **EVERY THURSDAY** to the Athletic Office until the next 10, 20, 30, 40 or 5 week report. **PLEASE NOTE:** Even though a student brings their grade up to passing, it does not automatically remove that student from the eligibility list. A student, parent or teacher does not determine when a student goes off the eligibility list, the policy determines it.

*N.B. - New York State Public High School Athletic Association regulations require that student must meet mandated practice requirements in order to compete in an athletic completion.*

A student may have his/her eligibility reinstated at the end of the second full week of each 10-week period by submitting proof of successful remediation. The Depew Eligibility Evaluation Form must be completed, signed, and turned in every Thursday by 12:00 p.m. indicating that the student is now in good academic standing. If the student's work is not satisfactory, eligibility will not be given. The student must continue to remediate and complete the eligibility form each week until a new 10-week eligibility list has been issued. If eligibility is not initially reinstated, the student may attempt to regain eligibility in succeeding weeks.

Eligibility will be determined as follows:

- **At the 5, 10, 20, 30 and 40 week reports.**
- If a student is ineligible at the end of the year, he/she will be placed on **PROBATION** for the first 5 weeks of school. During the probationary period the student must remain in good academic standing in all subjects and complete the Depew Eligibility Evaluation Form each week.
- Students may avoid the probationary period at the beginning of the new school year by attending summer school to correct the deficiency after the 40<sup>th</sup> week.

Students who are working toward IEP (Individualized Education Plan) diplomas and who do not maintain standards of their IEP will be evaluated individually. The evaluators will include the IEP primary service provider, the coach or advisor, and the building Principal.

It is the coach or advisor's responsibility to monitor the student's academic progress. If a student has been ineligible for 5 consecutive weeks and making no effort, the student will be removed from the activity. A student's ineligibility status may be reviewed by a committee consisting of the building Principal, Athletic Coordinator, coach or advisor, and the teachers who classes have been failed.

\*A grade of incomplete will be treated as a failing grade until the work is submitted.

4. Rules - Violations - The importance of enforcement of all regulations should be apparent. A firm and fair policy of enforcements is necessary to prevent a travesty being made of regulations. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. It is our intent to preserve rules that reasonably pertain to the health and safety of the individual and to the orderly conduct of sports.

4.1 Each student athlete, upon entering the Depew athletic program, agrees to the following rules. All violators shall be subject to the sanctions listed upon meeting with the Athletic Director.

4.2 Behavior - Athletes are expected to exemplify good citizenship in both school and the community at large (including all forms of social media as listed in the Code of Conduct and DASA Regulations). The athlete will display good behavior both in practice and games.

4.3 Conduct - Athletes will allow officials to deal with abusive opponents during game play. Under no circumstances will an athlete provoke or otherwise engage in verbal or physical confrontations outside the rules of the game. The sole exception to this rule is the protection of oneself from bodily harm, through self-defense.

4.4 Alcohol - To refrain from the use and possession of alcoholic beverages.  
1st Offense - Ineligible for the season

4.5 Drugs - To refrain from the use and possession of illegal drugs and/or drug paraphernalia.  
1st Offense - Ineligible for the season

4.6 Tobacco - To refrain from the use and possession of tobacco or electronic smoking devices/paraphernalia.  
1st Offense - Ineligible for one contest  
2nd Offense - Ineligible for the season

4.7 Theft/Vandalism - Student athletes agree not to be involved in theft or vandalism. Athletes damaging or destroying property must pay for the damage. Vandalism and/or theft may result in external suspension. Violators will return to school after the student and parents have met the Principal and/or Athletic Director to determine continued eligibility. Athletes will also be subject to sanctions outlined in the Student Handbook.

4.8 Involvement with Disciplinary Infractions - a student athlete, while a team member, may be deemed ineligible from participation in school athletics, at the discretion of the Principal and/or Athletic Director, for a serious act of misconduct or general conduct unbecoming a team member or school representative.

4.9 External Suspensions - A student athlete must refrain from receiving external suspensions during the sports season.

1st Suspension - Ineligible for one contest

2nd Suspension - Ineligible for the season

3rd Suspension - Ineligible for all sports for remainder of year

Internal Suspensions - A student athlete must refrain from receiving internal suspensions during the sports season.

1st Suspension - Ineligible for one practice or contest that day

2nd Suspension - Ineligible for one game

4th Suspension - Ineligible for the rest of the season

4.10 Absences – For absences on a given day student athletes may not practice or participate in a game on that day.

**Physical Education Participation:** Students who do not participate in physical education on the day of a practice or game, may not participate in their sports activity on that day.

4.11 Quitting – Quitting the team in the same season and going out for another sport is permitted only with the permission of the Athletic Director.

4.12 Lost or Stolen Equipment – With the failure to pay a replacement cost of lost or stolen equipment, the student athlete may be ineligible from participation in school activities.

## 5. Appeal Process

5.1 Upon notification of a violation, the athlete may appeal the ruling by appearing before the Appeals Committee.

5.2 Appeals must be made within two (2) weeks from the date of the violation.

6. Athletic Awards

6.1 Modified team members who complete a season will receive a certificate for participation.

6.2 Junior Varsity team members who complete a season will receive a certificate for participation.

6.3 Varsity team members who complete a season will receive the following awards:

Girls:

(1) 1<sup>st</sup> year – “Old English” style D, with a pin representing that sport.

(2) Each succeeding year – a pin representing that sport.

Boys:

(1) 1<sup>st</sup> year – Block type D, with a pin representing that sport.

(2) Each succeeding year – a pin representing that sport.

6.4 Managers and statisticians who complete a season will receive a pin.

6.5 Any senior athlete who competes in the same sport for four (4) consecutive high school years may receive an award displaying that sport.

6.6 Any senior who competes in three different sports, for four (4) consecutive high school years may receive a special award, with all three sports displayed on the award.

6.7 Specials awards donated by private contributors may be presented after each season.

## **TRANSFER RULE**

NOTE: The Transfer Rule will be enforced as written with no variations permitted.

- a. A student in grades 9-12 who transfers, with a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) shall become eligible after starting regular attendance in the second school. A residence change must involve a move from one school district to another. Furthermore, when a student moves from public school district to another public school district for athletic eligibility the student must enroll in the public school district or in a private school within that district's boundaries of his/her parent's residency. The Superintendent, or designee, will determine if the student has met district residency requirements.
  
- b. A student who transfers without a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months prior) is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest in a particular sport for a period of one (1) year if as a 9-12 student participated in that sport during the one (1) year period immediately preceding his/her transfer. Students who transfer from any school to the public school district of the residence of his/her parents (or other persons whom the student has resided for at least six months) or a private school within that district's boundaries shall receive a waiver from the Transfer Rule. Such a transfer without penalty will only be permitted once in a high school career. Schools must submit the required transfer form to the Section office. Athletes are not permitted to practice before the form has been submitted. Athletes are not permitted to compete without approval.

NOTE: A student in a foreign exchange program listed by CSIET has one-year waiver of the Transfer Rule. If such a student elects to stay a second year he/she becomes a foreign student at the start of the school year with item (b) in effect. Exemptions to (b): For athletic eligibility a student must enroll in the public school district or in a nonpublic school within that district's boundaries of his/her parent's residency.

NOTE: Multiple High School Districts - The policies/boundaries of the school district will be followed. If the district has an open enrollment policy, the interpretation to be used will be same as used for students of K-8 school districts. When a student enrolls in 9th grade, that is the district (building) of their residence. Any subsequent transfer would be subject to the Transfer Rule.

## BYLAWS & ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS 136 V9/2014

1. The student reaches the age of majority and established residency in a district and can substantiate that they are independent and self-supporting.
2. If a private or parochial school ceases to operate a student may transfer to another private or parochial school of his/her choice. Otherwise, a student must enroll in the public school district of his/her parents' residency.
3. As student who is a ward of the court or state and is placed in a district by court order. Guardianship does not fulfill this requirement.
4. A student from divorced or separated parents who moves into a new school district with one of the aforementioned parents. Such a transfer is allowed once every six months.
5. A student who is declared homeless by the superintendent pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 100.2.
6. A student of a military employee who is transferred to an active military base may enroll in the non-public school closest to their residence and maintain eligibility if the student enrolls in a non-public school immediately following the change in residence.

NOTE: It is provided, however, that each school shall have the opportunity to petition the section involved to approve transfer without penalty based on an undue hardship for the student. c. Transfer students trying out for sports before school opens in the fall shall register and be accepted by the principal of that school before the medical examination and the first practice. This shall constitute the start of the regular attendance for falls sports.

NOTE: After approval by the school medical officer a student may practice immediately and must satisfy the specific sports standard according to the number of practice sessions. d. Practices at the previous school may be counted toward the minimum number of practices required provided the principal or athletic director of the previous school submits, in writing, the number and dates of such practices to the principal or athletic director of the new school.

## **E.C.I.C. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT POLICY SPORTSMANSHIP**

The conduct of athletes on and off the field is expected to be sportsmanlike. Such actions as taunting, jibes, vulgar language and disrespectful attitudes are not acceptable at anytime.

Any athlete who is expelled from a league contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will be subject to league penalty. (Example: fighting, swearing, etc.) This must be reported to the E.C.I.C. office and the review committee chairman. A written report must be filed within 48 hours of the incident.

Penalties imposed by the league may be considered minimal but do not prevent any school from bringing more stringent punishment to their own students, coaches, or staff officials.

Penalties - may range from removal from competition, or in more severe cases, expulsion from league activity for the season.

### **Parent Approval and Consent**

The purpose of this information is:

- (1) To secure the consent of the parent or guardian for participation of the student in local athletics.
- (2) To secure the consent of the parent or guardian for the release of transcripts for college recruiters and Section VI Scholar Athlete recognition.
- (3) To make the parent and student/athlete aware of the school's philosophy, policies and procedures, with the understanding that the school will provide safeguards for physical protection of the student, in the form of:
  - (a) Providing a physical exam with the school physician.
  - (b) Equipping each candidate with approved athletic equipment.
  - (c) All practices, locker rooms, and contests will be properly supervised by Coaches.
  - (d) All policies and procedures will be discussed with the team players prior to the first practice session.
  - (e) An Athletic Trainer (when available) may evaluate and treat athletic injuries.

It is hoped the policies, rules, and regulations provided in this booklet are discussed between the athlete and the parent or guardian. If there are any questions regarding any item, you are welcome to discuss them with the Coach or Director of Athletics, prior to the start of the Athletic season.

Have a good season!