

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES POLICY

Adopted by De Soto Area School Board on June 20, 2011

EXTRA-CURRICULAR 6-12 HANDBOOK

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NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The De Soto Area School District does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, religion, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in its education programs or activities.

The district encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. If any person believes that De Soto Area School District or any part of the school organization has failed to follow the law and rules of s.118.13, Wis. Stats., or in some way discriminates against pupils on the bases listed above, he/she may bring or send a complaint to the administration office at the following address: District Administrator, De Soto Area School District, 615 Main Street, De Soto, WI, 55624.

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES POLICY

All athletic rules and policies in this handbook, including the WIAA Rules and Regulations, apply to all students in grades 6-12

The student will be governed by: De Soto School District Parent/Student Handbook Rules and Regulations; WIAA Rules and Regulations; and Civil and Criminal Laws of the community, county and state (policy 230 & 542).

These are the current student policies as approved by the De Soto School Board. Additions and deletions are an ongoing process. Notification will be given to staff and students when required. For interpretation of policy see school administration.

MISSION STATEMENT

De Soto School activities exist as a vehicle in which we work to build better citizens by providing a positive experience for all students with a developmentally appropriate balance of competition and growth. The De Soto Area School District is pleased to have you participate in its extra-curricular program. As an integral part of the total school experience, the program is designed to help students become successful individuals and better citizens of our school, community, state, and nation. Additionally, the activities and athletic programs allow each participant to make a personal commitment to healthy involvement in activities which expand and enrich their academic and physical program. The intent of this extra-curricular policy is to provide you and your parents or guardian with a reference to your responsibilities and the school's expectations for your participation in the De Soto Schools extra-curricular program. NO code can be all inclusive; whenever conduct or behavior is deemed inappropriate, collaborative discussions between coach, athletic director, and principal will determine a suitable consequence.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

De Soto School's philosophy of athletics emphasizes the student athletes: those who excel on the field of play **TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY**, and in the classroom as well. True competitors will do their best in everything they attempt. A full effort in the classroom will have a correlation with giving a full effort on the playing field. In the term "Student-Athlete", it is no accident that the student comes first. Student-Athletes are leaders in the school. They are young men and women who are dedicated, willing to discipline themselves, willing to make sacrifices, willing to work, willing to follow rules and willing to pay the price of hard work. Those wanting to be a part of the De Soto School Athletic Program must be able to meet this criteria.

The district believes that the opportunity to take part in school activities should be made available to as many students as possible. Although all students are invited to participate, the exact number of participants shall be determined by the available facilities, student talent, and ability of staff to give adequate individual attention to each participant. There is no exclusion based on race, sex, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

There is an expectation that coaches and advisors bring a high level of dedication and commitment to the program they supervise. Additionally, the student participant is expected to accept the dedication and hard work that compliments a successful program. All employees by virtue of their employment with the De Soto School District endorse and enforce the activities code.

In a general sense, students who participate in the school's extra-curricular program are expected to conduct themselves, at all times and in all places in a positive manner that will bring credit to themselves, their parents, their school, and community.

Extra-curricular activities covered

Football, Volleyball, Cheerleading, Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, Softball, Track, School play, Forensics, National Honor Society, Leadership, Student Council, Jazz Band, Honor Band, Swing Choir, Leo Club, Book Club, F.F.A and any other organizations/activities that are not associated with regular course curriculums.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Students violating the attendance and behavior policies, rules, and regulations during regular school hours may be removed from participation in any extra-curricular activities.

All students and parents/guardians of students who participate in any extra-curricular activities are required to sign a PARENT-STUDENT PARTICIPATION CODE AGREEMENT. These signatures are required in order for a student to be eligible to participate. Their signatures will indicate acknowledgment and understanding of the De Soto Area School Student Activities Code. Signed Acknowledgment forms are maintained on file in the Athletic Director's office.

To be eligible to participate in any activities in the extra-curricular program, a student must meet all minimum academic and attendance standards. Students assigned to out-of-school suspension will be subject to an Extra-curricular Code violation procedure.

Rules and regulations pertaining to extra-curricular participation are found in the Activity Handbook. All rules in this extra-curricular handbook are in effect 12 months per year. The 6-12 principal has the discretion to interpret all rules relative to this extra-curricular code.

Students in 2 or more activities must be aware that the contests of one take precedence over practice of the other activities. Students are allowed to be in 2 or more activities as long as the parents and students understand that limitations will occur in the student's participation. If contests are scheduled at the same time the parents and students must choose which contest to participate in. Parents and students must understand that coaches and advisors will naturally lobby for the activity that they are responsible for.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR BROAD GOALS

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and abilities in the students during their school years and for a lifetime. Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year, whether away from school or at school. Students who wish to have the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities which are illegal, immoral, or unhealthy. Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures. The principal shall keep records of violations of appropriate conduct. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity.

1. Serve the varied needs, interests, and abilities of district students.
2. Provide positive outlets for student energies and provide a place to succeed.
3. Allow students to acquire new skills and enhance existing ones.
4. Enhance peer and adult interaction and cooperation.
5. Provide activities which bring students together for mutual expressions of interests at all age levels.
6. Help students develop responsibility, leadership and skills of competition.
7. Provide opportunities for the expression of gifted and talented abilities.
8. Provide the community identification and pride in their schools.
9. Encourage lifetime interests in programs begun in school.

All students who desire to participate in any extra-curricular activity sponsored by the District must agree to be bound by the same Code of Conduct to which all public school students are bound with regard to extra-curricular activity participation. In addition, violations of such Code by students will be addressed pursuant to the procedures in the Code and may lead to the termination of the students' privilege of participating in District-sponsored extra-curricular activities as specified by the Code. All students who are permitted to participate in District-sponsored extra-curricular activities shall be provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct prior to participation and must sign the "Student-Parent Agreement" as representation of their agreement to abide by such rules and procedures. Additionally, all such students must also abide by the rules and conditions set forth by their coaches/instructors for continued eligibility and participation in each extra-curricular activity in which they may participate.

The following activities are covered by the board's policy and these rules:

Athletics, Managers/statisticians, Cheerleading, Pompons, Forensics, Musicals, Academic Decathlon, Swing Choir, Year Book, Solo Ensemble, Band or Vocal, National Honor Society, Play/talent Shows, FFA, High School Odyssey of the Mind, all honorary and elected offices (e.g., Homecoming King/Queen/court, class officer, student government officer or representative) and all other school clubs and activities. It is understood that any other activities that gain school sponsorship during the school year will automatically fall under the expectations contained in this handbook.

SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS, AND INTEGRITY IN HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

COACHES CODE OF ETHICS:

Code authored by Vern Seefeldt, director, Youth Sports Institute, Michigan State University.

1. Treat each player, opposing coach, official, parent, and administrator with respect and dignity.
2. Learn the fundamental skills, teaching and evaluation techniques, and strategies of the sport/activity.
3. Become thoroughly familiar with the rules of the sport/activity.
4. Become familiar with the objectives of the youth sports/activity program with which coach is affiliated. Strive to achieve these objectives and communicate them to the students and their parents.
5. Uphold the authority of officials who are assigned to the contests, and assist them in every way to conduct fair and impartial competitive contests.
6. Learn the strengths and weaknesses of the students so that they may be placed in situations where they have a maximum opportunity to achieve success.
7. Conduct practices and games/contests so that all players have an opportunity to improve.
8. Cooperate with administration and the athletic director of De Soto Schools in the enforcement of rules and regulations, and report any irregularities that violate sound competitive practices.
9. Protect the health and safety of the students by insisting that all of the activities under the coach's/advisor's control are conducted for the students' psychological and physiological welfare, rather than for the vicarious interests of adults.
10. Set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT PARTICIPANTS:

1. Follow all directives of the coach/advisor.
2. Treat opposing coaches, participants and fans with respect. Shake hands with opposing team after contests
3. Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the contest and display no behavior that could incite fans.
4. Cooperate with officials, coaches and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
5. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing your school, community, friends, and yourself; display positive public action at all times.
6. Live up to high standards of sportsmanship established by your coach/advisor.
7. Follow and abide by the school's Code of Student Conduct.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

1. Support and respect the coach and my child's team mates;
2. Respect the coach/advisor as the coach/advisor of the activity and refrain from coaching my child or other participants during an event or contest;
3. Learn the rules of the game and the policies of the game/contest;
4. Be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every practice, game, or event;
5. Not engage in any unsportsmanlike conduct with any player, official, coach, or parent including booing, taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures;
6. Discourage any behavior or practice that could endanger the health and well-being of the athlete;
7. Teach my child to respect other players, coaches, officials, and spectators regardless of race, creed, sex, or ability;
8. Teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or by his/her performance;
9. Praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard;
10. Not ridicule my child or any other player for making a mistake or losing a competition;
11. Promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win;
12. Respect the officials and their authority during games and never question, have a discussion with, or confront coaches at the field. Take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place. Allow coaches to conduct practices and coach contests without interfering by word or action; (this includes not confronting a coach after a contest to criticize, harass, or intimidate the coach);
13. Follow proper complaint procedures. (See attached - "We Have A Problem");
14. Support the coach's/advisor's philosophy of participation;
15. Help students acquire the necessary self-discipline skills for participation;
16. Insure that my child is in daily attendance;
17. Insure that the coach/advisor has up-to-date emergency telephone numbers;

Failure to comply with these expectations may result in possible expulsion from the event or practice or suspension from attending events for the remainder of the season. A committee made up of the coach, athletic director and principal has the authority to enforce the expectations of this policy when violations occur. If a coach, Athletic Director or principal feels that a parent is not in compliance and is hindering the effectiveness of the coach, the coach, Athletic Director or principal has the authority to ask that parent to leave the premises. The coach, at anytime, may request administration to bar said parent from further attendance at practices and/or events during the remainder of the season.

SPORTSMANSHIP & CITIZENSHIP

Sportsmanship and citizenship are as much a part of an athletic contest as the game itself. Sportsmanship on the part of students and adult fans reflect upon the community and how the people of that community are perceived. In the Ridge and Valley Conference, we believe that athletics play a vital role in the student athlete's education. We believe that the lessons of sportsmanship and citizenship are taught every day in our lives, including athletics. We all have an important role in teaching the lessons of sportsmanship and citizenship. The Ridge and Valley Conference is working hard to promote sportsmanship and citizenship among our students and athletes. We need your help and support in this effort as well.

General Guidelines

- * Be gracious hosts and show respect for your opponents
- * Respect the decisions made by the contest officials
- * Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including the content of cheers and signs

Fundamentals of Sportsmanship

- * Gain an understanding of and appreciation for the rules of the game
- * Exercise representative behavior at all times
- * Recognize and appreciate skilled performance regardless of affiliation
- * Exhibit respect for the officials
- * Openly display respect for the officials
- * Display pride in your actions at every opportunity

SUGGESTIONS FOR GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Acceptable Behavior

- * Applaud during introduction of players
- * Shake hands with the opponent
- * Accept all decisions of the officials
- * Cheerleaders lead fans in positive cheers
- * Treat competition as a game, not a war
- * Applaud at the end of the contest for the performance of the participants
- * Show concern for an injured player, regardless of the team
- * Encourage surrounding people to display only the best sportsmanship in their conduct

Unacceptable Behavior

- * Taunting, trash talk and other intimidating actions
- * Not admonishing those sitting around you who engage in the practice of poor sportsmanship
- * Yelling during an opponent's free-throw attempt
- * Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures
- * Booing or heckling an official's decision
- * Criticizing officials in any way or displaying anger at an official's call
- * Yells that antagonize or single out players
- * Blaming the loss of the game on an official, coach, or player
- * Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent
- * The use of profanity or displays of anger
- * Confronting a coach after a contest to criticize, harass, or intimidate the coach

SPECTATOR DECORUM FOR ALL SPORTS

The following regulations are set forth by the WIAA and De Soto High School concerning student and adult spectator decorum. WIAA By-laws provide that a school may be suspended when the conduct of its team, students, or team followers is unsportsmanlike and results in actions which are detrimental to individual, school and public welfare and which are prejudicial to the purpose of WIAA.

WIAA By-laws dealing with athletic courtesy provide that:

Any spectator who continually shows evidence of poor sportsmanship should be requested not to attend future contests.

The following regulations will be strictly adhered to at all sporting events:

- Vulgar, unsportsmanlike, or rude language or cheers will not be tolerated.
- Signs on poles or sticks are not permitted. Signs must show good taste.
- Law enforcement officers and administrators have the authority to remove, and/or arrest, any spectator whose conduct is detrimental to the activity taking place.
- All school regulations apply to home and away events.

ANY STUDENT VIOLATING ANY REGULATIONS AT HOME OR AWAY EVENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND FUTURE AFTER-SCHOOL EVENTS.

Spectator Code Of Conduct

1. To cheer for my team, not against my opponent. Demeaning others only lowers me.
2. To be ever mindful that high school athletics are played solely for the enjoyment of the players.
Spectators are allowed to view contests only in the role of support personnel.
3. To respect the decisions of game officials, realizing that their job is extremely difficult. This teaches young people to accept hardships that will reoccur countless times throughout their lives. It also teaches them that the only way to overcome adversity is to increase your effort.
4. To withhold caustic criticism of players and coaches that would later be embarrassing to both yourself and the person criticized. Anger does not portray your real person.
5. To be the kind of fan who leaves the opposing crowd with a feeling of envy: envious of our enthusiasm and class.
6. To appreciate the efforts of the boys and girls who have worked many hours before the actual contests.
To understand that their involvement in the activity is their most important accomplishment

ACCIDENTS/INJURY

If a student is involved in an accident or injury in the school building or on school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school, the procedure listed below must be followed:

1. Report immediately to the person in charge.
2. The director and/or responsible staff member involved will make a decision (with the student's welfare foremost in mind) and attempt to contact the parent/guardian, and will call for medical assistance if a life-threatening situation is evident.
3. The coach or person in charge must fill out an accident report within 24 hours.
4. Give the report to the Principal and a copy to the Athletic Director

If a student has been injured or is under the care of a doctor for any medical reason, a medical release from that doctor is required before the student will be allowed to participate or continue to participate in extra-curricular athletic practice or competition.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

An athlete with an unexcused absent will not be allowed to practice or participate in an event that day. A coach has authority to determine who start's, plays or not plays if they miss practice. If an athlete has an excused absent within their 10 allowable days an athlete will be allowed to practice or participate in an event. Excused absences (family, medical, funerals, college visits & out of school activities). SENIOR skip day is an unexcused absence!!

****PLEASE NOTE:** An athlete who misses part, or all of a school day due to medical reasons, will not be allowed to participate in that day's activity unless they have express written approval for participation by a doctor. Any student who has been injured will not be allowed to participate in any activity unless they have express written approval for participation by a doctor. Pre-planned medical appointments are an exception. Students who are late and unexcused (10 minutes or more) will not be eligible to participate in that day's event. An athlete who misses part, or all of a school day due to any illness, will not be allowed to participate in that day's activity.

Purpose

A. The School Board, Administration and Staff believe that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.

B. This policy also recognizes that class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by the student, parent/guardian, teacher and administrators. This policy will assist students in attending class.

General Statement Of Policy

A. Responsibilities.

1. Student's Responsibility. It is the student's right to be in school. It is also the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes and study halls every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class or study hall. Finally, it is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence. Students are encouraged to not miss school.
2. Parent or Guardian's Responsibility. It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absence, and to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.
3. Teacher's Responsibility. It is the teacher's responsibility to take daily attendance and to maintain accurate attendance records in each assigned class and study hall. It is also the teacher's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly. It is also the teacher's responsibility to provide any student who has been absent with any missed assignments upon request. Finally, it is the teacher's responsibility to work cooperatively with the student's parent or guardian and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise. Teachers may include daily participation points into the student's total grade point. Students who miss a class may miss out in their daily participation points, which could reduce their grade point average.
4. Administrator's Responsibility.
 - a. It is the administrator's or his designee's responsibility to require students to attend all assigned classes and study halls. It is also the administrator's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly to all students, to maintain accurate

records on student attendance and to prepare a list of the previous day's absences stating the status of each. Finally, it is the administrator's responsibility to inform the student's parent or guardian of the student's attendance and to work cooperatively with them and the student to solve attendance problems.

b. In accordance with the regulations of the Wisconsin Department of Education and the Wisconsin Compulsory Instruction Law the students of the school district are **REQUIRED** to attend all assigned classes and/or study halls every day school is in session.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL AFTER AN ATHLETIC EVENT

Students must be in school on time the day after an athletic event unless permission is given the day before by the administration. This also pertains to long trips when the bus returns late (for example, a basketball play-off game during the week when athletes arrive home at a late hour). Students who violate this will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled activity of the group whether it is a practice or event and will be unexcused truant from school.

OBJECTIVES OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

1. To provide a positive image of school athletics for all of our school sponsored teams.
2. To strive always for playing excellence that will produce successful teams while staying within the bounds of good sportsmanship and mental health of the student athlete.
3. To provide sufficient activities to have an outlet for a wide variety of student interests and abilities.

The athletic programs should provide adequate opportunities for:

1. Physical, mental and emotional growth and development.
2. The acquisition and development of special skills in activities of each student's choice.
3. Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence, and the ideals of good sportsmanship that make for winning and losing graciously.
4. Achievement of initial athletic goals as set by the school and the student as an individual.

Specific objectives that the student athlete should learn:

1. To work with others - in a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. We will strive for team effort over individual goals.
2. To be successful - our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.
3. To develop sportsmanship - to accept any defeat like a true sportsman, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others, as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
4. To improve – continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete you must establish a goal and you must constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and those characteristics set forth as being desirable.
5. To enjoy athletics - it is necessary for athletes to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all the personal rewards to be derived from athletics, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
6. To develop desirable personal health habits - to be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal completion has been completed.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION PHILOSOPHY

Sixth through Eighth Grades:

1. The primary goal is to provide a program that will allow each athlete optimal participation regardless of their skill level.
2. Each team member will play in every contest as equal as possible when practice attendance, criteria, and conduct requirements have been met. If a member is not allowed to participate, the Guardian/parent, Athletic Director and Principal will be notified as to the reason why.
3. Coaches will work with all participants as equally as possible.

Each middle school coach must follow the philosophy of participation. This is not always easy for coaches. The desire to win must never come before the desire to include every athlete. Players should not quit because they feel insecure about their skill level. This also promotes team identity and cooperation. The better athletes really try to support and help players because they realize these athletes count as much as they do. Each coach must play and organize his/her practices to deal with the wide variety of skill levels.

Junior Varsity (when numbers warrant):

1. The team is selected by level of ability. It will include student from grades 9 - 12. The focus of this program is developmental in nature. This is the age when participation tends to allow athletes to develop their skill level when they get a chance to play.
2. Coaches are encouraged to provide coaching and quality playing time for all participants, but some might play more dependent upon their ability level.
3. Coaches will give all students a legitimate chance to participate until it becomes obvious that some participants have earned more participation time than others.
4. Coaches will spend practice time helping non-starters to improve their skills to enable them to earn more playing time.
5. Students are encouraged to work on individual skills outside of the scheduled program in order to improve their skills.

Varsity:

1. This is a competitive varsity program. This is the best team our school can provide.
2. Starting position on the varsity team is to be supported by established criteria showing that an individual athlete has earned that position.
3. Players are selected on the basis of ability from grades 10 – 12. Coaches must give prior notice to the Athletic Director and principal prior to moving a 9th grade student to the varsity level. This advancement of a 9th grade student above other students must be supported by evidence that this move would benefit the team and the student. Unless there is an unusual situation, 9th grade students should not be moved up before the season has begun. He/she should have time to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills to be successful at the varsity level. The advancement of a 9th grade student to the varsity level requires prior approval of the Athletic Director and the principal.
4. In order to increase a team's chances for success, those athletes with the most skill will participate more.
5. Playing time for individual participants is determined by the head coach on the basis of the player's ability and the needs of the team.
6. Even though winning is emphasized, coaches are encouraged to play as many athletes as possible so all feel as a contributing member of the team.
7. Coaches will spend time with the non-starters in practice to improve their skills to enable them to earn more playing time.
8. Coaches are encouraged to use as many athletes as possible during the early part of the contest, not just the last few minutes or seconds.

9. Students are encouraged to work on individual skills outside of the scheduled program in order to improve their skills.

In all the sporting teams, coaches should try to use as many athletes as possible without jeopardizing the outcome of the contest. All players should be given responsibilities, which permit them to have a real sense of contribution towards the total team effort. Playing time is not a right, which comes with joining a team, but is earned through developing skills, positive attitudes, teamwork, sportsmanship, respect for team members and coaches.

STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION

As determined by the WIAA the participation in high school athletics is a privilege not a right. The coach/advisors shall determine what students will play, who will start, and how long a student will play in any given contest. Athletes that participate in interscholastic high school athletics are not guaranteed any amount of playing time.

Some of the reasons a participant may be dismissed from the team by the coach, principal, or school are:

- * Failure to comply with the eligibility requirements.
- * Excessive excused absences from practices or during school hours as outlined by the state compulsory school attendance statute.
- * Unexcused absences from practice or during school hours as outlined by the state compulsory school attendance statute.
- * Unsportsmanlike conduct at practice, or events such as:
 - Use of profanity.
 - Insulting remarks to teammates, coaches, opponents, spectators, or officials.
 - Any act showing intent to do physical harm.
 - Any display of action showing lack of emotional stability.
- * Failure to comply with team rules.
- * Failure to comply with school rules.
- * Conduct unbecoming of an athlete.

PARTICIPANT/PARENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

All parents are requested to attend an informational session and sign the activity code each year for each activity in order for the student to be eligible for participation. The first meeting will be held in late August or early September. If unable to attend, the parent(s) must make an appointment to meet with the coach/advisor to verify their understanding of the extra-curricular activity code and also must sign the participation code agreement in order for their child to participate.

Parents and student participants need to attend the informational meeting for each activity. Informational meetings will be scheduled for each activity by the head coach/advisor. These meetings will address potential concerns and other information of that particular activity. These meetings are necessary in-order to promote a better understanding by parents and students of the expectations and criteria of that particular activity.

STARTING DATE FOR PARTICIPATION

Athletes must sign-up before the first scheduled contest unless otherwise agreed thru the Athletic Director's office. All athletes must practice the required number of days before the first contest as prescribed by the WIAA.

SPORTS SEASON

A sport season is defined by the WIAA. In all sports at all levels the season will end with the state tournament for that sport. In determining extra-curricular code violation consequences a season is the number of contests scheduled, not including the WIAA Tournament, unless a carry over is in effect. Then the number of contests played will be used to determine the length of the violation. A contest is competition in which an official score is recorded, and the end result is a win, loss or tie.

An athlete under suspension must practice and complete the current season in good standing if he/she chooses to participate in that or any other sport/activity, after his/her suspension is fulfilled. Once a season has started, an athlete cannot join a team in order to fulfill a suspension.

AWARDS and LETTERS

The school will supply no more than 5 varsity and 3 junior varsity plaques for individual awards per extra-curricular activity grades 9 - 12. If a coach wishes to present more or different "awards" than the allotted type and number, that coach will be responsible for the purchase and selection of the excess.

Letters are to be earned and are not a gift. Letters will be determined by amount of playing/participation time, regional, sectional, and state competition. Eligibility for letter awards will be set by the head coach prior to the start of the season. The school will supply the certificates of letter, certificates of participation, letter jacket "D" or letter sport pin, letter sport bars, the four year letter winner plaque, and the Ridge and Valley Conference Champion certificates.

Awards controlled by the school and school personnel, such as any coach's award or team awards, are at the coach's discretion. However, any student with an extra-curricular code violation during that specific season should be aware that the coach will exclude that student from receiving any coach's and/or other team awards given by the school, with the exception of the "awards" listed in the second paragraph of this section.

If a student is involved in or in attendance at a gathering where there is the possession and/or use of alcohol, possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and/or use, possession, buying, or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES), or any code violation as described in the Ridge and valley Conference bylaws, that student will become ineligible for all awards given by the conference or coach/team for that season.

PHYSICALS

Athletes are required to have a physical examination every two years. The De Soto School District recommends that students have a physical examination during the summer of their freshman and junior years of high school.

A student must have on file in the High School Office an Athletic Physical card or a signed Athletic Alternate Year Permit card in order to be eligible for participation in any activity requiring physical activity.

FULL TIME STUDENT POLICY

A full time student is one who meets the state requirement for attendance by being enrolled in classes throughout the regular school day. A full time student is also a student enrolled in the equivalent of 7 classes each school day. The enrollment will take into consideration alternative placements in accordance with IEP=s, At-Risk Placements, Ed for Employment opportunities or other educational endeavors. All placements must be approved by the administration or school board and be in accordance with all state laws.

TRANSPORTATION

Busing will be arranged by the Director or Supervisor. All participants must ride the bus unless other arrangements are made by the Administration, Supervisor, or Athletic Director. A coach/supervisor may give permission for an athlete/participant to ride home with his/her parent/s either by personal contact or a note signed by the parent using the form provided by the school. Athletes/participants may ride home with a parent of another athlete/participant only if the approved form is received by the coach/supervisor. Under no circumstance will athletes/participants be allowed to ride home with another student. At least one coach/supervisor must be on the bus at all times unless an emergency situation exists.

School board policy is clear: “The school district furnishes transportation to and from out-of-town activities in a school approved vehicle accompanied by an advisor/director/chaperone/coach. Any student riding a school bus to an event must return on the same bus. The school is not responsible for the safety of students who travel in private cars. There are occasions when return trips with parents or a parent designee may be acceptable. If a parent requests that their child ride home with a “designated adult”*, the parent must make the request, in writing, 24 hours prior** to the start of the activity. This permission must be granted by either the school principal or coach/advisor. A parent may request that their child ride home with them at any time. In all cases, parents or parent designee (1st degree relative or parent of another student of De Soto Schools) will have to be the party with whom the student is riding home. The adult giving the ride will present him/herself to the advisor/coach after the contest before the student is excused. Failure to comply will result in denial of the request and future travel restrictions and possible contest disqualification. Individual coaches/advisors may suggest that the participant ride home with the school provided vehicle.”

* “Designated adult” means another parent of one of our students.

** 24 hour prior approval means that the request is to be presented to the office and be initialed and dated by an administrator.

At no time is a student to ride with another unrelated student.

At no time is a student to drive to an activity or event, without prior approval, when transportation is provided for that specific activity/event. Students must return to a pre-identified destination within the district if not getting off at school.

POINTS OF DEPARTURE

As a general rule athletes will assemble behind the school building to leave for away contests and will arrive at the same point after the game. Coaches may arrange other points of departure with the Athletic Director.

CONDUCT

Foul language, immoral talk, or bad conduct is not condoned during school hours or while participating in any after school activity. This type of inappropriate behavior unbecoming of an athlete may result in an in- or out-of school suspension or game suspension(s). Rough housing, loud talking or boisterous behavior is not allowed at the opposing school or on the bus. Squads should have a good time on a trip, but they should avoid conduct that is unbecoming an athlete. We expect good behavior from all students at De Soto School, and we will accept nothing but good behavior from our athletic representatives.

EQUIPMENT

The athlete/participant that checked them out must pay for any lost or damaged items. The charge for a lost, or stolen, or damaged item is the replacement cost.

USE OF OTHER SCHOOL'S FACILITIES

The facilities used by De Soto Students should be left in the same condition as it was when the participants arrived. Student athletes/participants are ambassadors of the school and community and should show the utmost respect for the property and facilities of other schools and their own school.

MANAGERS

Managers are an important part of an athletic team, and should not be looked upon as persons who are only around to look after the needs of the athletes. They play a vital, unheralded role and should be treated with respect. Managers are also held to the same level of responsibility as the student athletes.

PEP FESTS

Pep fests should be held for the purpose of introducing athletes, presenting new cheers and building school spirit. At least one week before the respective sporting seasons begin, the coaches of the upcoming event, the Principal and cheerleading advisor will determine dates for upcoming pep fests. The cheerleaders will be required to present to their advisor the list of activities for each pep fest. **ATHLETES AND STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN EACH PEP FEST.** The Principal or his designee will determine the time of the pep fest.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Athletic Director will determine whether or not to hold a practice session if the weather is unfavorable. The coach must be the last person to leave the building and make sure that all athletes have a way home. No practice sessions or scheduled events will take place if school is canceled because of weather.

ATTENDANCE AT PRACTICE

An athlete with an unexcused absent will not be allowed to practice or participate in an event that day. A coach has authority to determine who starts, plays or not play if they miss practice. If an athlete has an excused absent within their 10 allowable days an athlete will be allowed to practice or participate in an event. Excused absences (family, medical, funerals, college visits & out of school activities). **SENIOR skip day is an unexcused absence!!**

*No student will be permitted to stay after school and practice for a sport that is not in season at that time.

*No student will be permitted to stay after school and practice unless the coach or advisor is present.

GUIDELINE FOR ATTENDING HOME ATHLETIC EVENTS

Students are encouraged to attend any or all home athletic events to cheer our teams on. The participating athletes enjoy and welcome fellow students' active support from the stands. The following rules will ensure that the athletic contest can be enjoyed by both spectators and athletes alike:

1. Students are to remain in the gym during the contest - no loitering in the lobby or any other part of the building - locker rooms are off limits.
2. Once leaving the building there is no re-admittance unless the student asks the supervisor for permission before the student leaves.
3. Students are to use the bathrooms and drinking fountain only between quarters and at half time of basketball games or between matches of volleyball games.
4. All students in grades K-6 must be supervised by a parent or responsible adult at all times and at all events. Unsupervised children at events can become problematic. If an unsupervised child becomes inappropriate, their parents/guardians may be contacted. If the parents/guardians of unsupervised children are contacted they may be requested to remove the unsupervised child from the event. The parents/guardians will be requested to supervise their child at all further events as requested by the event supervisor.

COMPLAINTS

Any complaints against coaches/supervisors must be first directed to the Coach/Supervisor, but **not** during or immediately after a game/contest/event. An appointment is to be made to discuss the situation with the coach/supervisor. If the person is not satisfied, the complaint should then be directed to the Athletic Director or Principal if non-sport related. The Athletic Director/Principal will investigate the complaint and then have a conference with the Coach/Supervisor. If the problem is not resolved, the complainant may wish to meet with the Principal, Coach/Supervisor and Athletic Director (if applicable). If the problem is not resolved, the complainant may request a meeting with the Superintendent.

SUSPENSION NOTICE

A letter of suspension, written by the Athletic Director or supervisor if non – athletic related, will be sent to the parents of any athlete/participant suspended from participation for extra-curricular code violation. A letter of expulsion/exclusion, written by the Coach and Athletic Director or Supervisor and Principal if non-athletic related, will be sent to the parents of any athlete/participant dropped from any team stating the reasons for expulsion/exclusion.

PRACTICE DURING SUSPENSIONS/DETENTIONS

Suspensions: Athletes suspended from participation for violation of WIAA policies or extra-curricular code violations must be at all practice sessions and contests unless excused by the coach.

This rule does not apply if suspended from school (in-school suspension or out-of school suspension). If an athlete is suspended from school because of problems that occurred during the school day, that athlete is not to practice or play during the days of **a school** suspension. This will not be considered an excused practice.

Detentions: Students who fail to follow directions of conduct, who show disrespect for themselves, others, or property; or who break a conduct/responsibility rule will be given consequences for their actions. Additional detention will be applied for violations involving non-teaching staff and/or substitute employees. Staff will complete a behavioral referral form for each disciplinary action taken for a student's inappropriate behavior.

Students may be given detention from any staff member. A report of the detention will be sent to the BIC Committee for processing. Staff is asked to use the utmost discretion when awarding detention for a student and avoid severe confrontations. Poor conduct in detention, removal from detention, or failing to report to detention will result in sterner consequences. Students must be responsible for reporting to the detention area on time, with proper study materials, and with an appropriate corrective attitude.

When the student receives their third or subsequent detention during school they must miss the game or practice on the day of the assigned detention. This will not be considered an excused practice or contest. The detentions are accumulative only during the current season.

Students will be expected to serve detention on the assigned date. Detentions will not be moved due to conflicts with athletic events, practices or school functions. Exceptions will be made for emergency situations with prior written parental request and final approval by the principal.

Any disrespectful actions, words, or behaviors during a detention, suspension, or corrective service time will result in severe actions and repercussions.

Students with persistent poor behavior, incorrigibility and severe disrespect will be expected to explain their behavior to the principal and are subject to the expulsion process.

INTERPRETATION OF THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK

If a situation arises where the meaning of any portion of this handbook is not clear, the person wanting clarification will go to the Athletic Director or principal if non-athletic related, for interpretation. If he/she is not satisfied with the Athletic Director's interpretation or clarification, he/she may request the Principal to clarify the rule. The Athletic Director/Principal may wish to call WIAA for a recommendation if he/she is unsure of an interpretation.

RULES OF CONDUCT

At all times, participants shall refrain from conduct which violates the ideals, principles, and standards of the De Soto Area School District. Participants violating these expectations may lose eligibility in activities.

Ethical and behavioral ideals, principles, and standards include, but are not limited to, negative and/or illegal acts against persons or property, and involvement in acts which are viewed as contrary to accepted moral and legal standards including severe profanity, abusive language, vandalism, fighting, cheating on tests or school work, deceit, harassment, intimidation, and theft or any other conduct that is believed to be unbecoming of an athlete. This also includes the use, possession, or transactions of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs, or their look-alike or in attendance at a gathering where illegal substances are in use. These rules apply to both on and off school grounds.

Participants must not be in violation of the following criminal laws of the State of Wisconsin:

Chapter 125 alcohol beverage; Chapter 161 controlled substance act; Chapter 939 crimes-general provisions; Chapter 940 crimes against life and body; Chapter 941 sexual morality; Chapter 945 gambling; Chapter 946 crimes against government; Chapter 947 disorderly conduct; Chapter 948 crimes against animals.

Participants shall not violate the following Wisconsin Statutes:

Statute 346.63 operating under influence of intoxicant/other drug; Statute 346.63 (2m) absolute sobriety; Statute 346.93 minor transport; Statute 346.935 open intoxicants by driver/occupant.

Furthermore, participants shall not be in violation of any municipal, county ordinance or laws of other jurisdictions in conformity with the previously listed statutes.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

School Board

The school board holds all school personnel responsible for maintenance of order within the school district and supports all personnel acting within the framework of this discipline policy.

Principal

The Principal shall establish guidelines and directives to carry out this policy; hold all school personnel, students and parents responsible for conforming to this policy; and support all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The athletic director and principal also shall establish guidelines and directives for using the services of appropriate agencies for assisting students and parents. Any guidelines or directives established to implement this policy shall be submitted to the school board for approval and shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

The school principal is given the discretion, responsibility and authority to formulate consequences, building rules and regulations necessary to enforce this policy, subject to final school board approval. The principal shall give direction and support to all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of this policy. The principal shall consult with parents of students conducting themselves in a manner contrary to the policy. The principal may also involve other professional employees in the disposition of behavior referrals and shall make use of those agencies appropriate for assisting students and parents.

Teachers

All teachers shall be responsible for providing a well-planned teaching/learning environment and shall have primary responsibility for student conduct, with appropriate assistance from the administration. All teachers shall enforce the discipline guidelines.

All De Soto personnel shall be responsible for contributing to the atmosphere of mutual respect within the school. Their responsibilities related to student behavior shall be as authorized and directed by the principal.

Parents Or Legal Guardians

Parents and guardians shall be held responsible for the behavior of their children as determined by law and community practice. They are expected to cooperate with school authorities and to participate regarding the behavior of their children.

Students

Each student is responsible to know and understand all rules and regulations as stated in the student extra-curricular handbook. All students shall be held individually responsible for their behavior and for knowing and obeying this policy. This handbook outlines what is expected of students in return for services provided by the school. Signing the Participation Code Agreement is similar to signing a contract.

Disciplinary Action May Include but is not limited to:

- Meeting with the teacher, counselor, principal, coach or athletic director
- Detention
- Loss of school privileges
- Parental conference with school staff
- Modified school programs

- Removal from class
- Suspension from school or from participation in events
- Exclusion
- Expulsion.

The School Board prohibits the use of corporal punishment.

Disciplinary action for student misconduct will be reported to the parent(s) at the discretion of the principal and/or staff member.

Penalties for extra-curricular code violations are progressive; meaning that they become more severe with each violation and that severe violations have harsher penalties. A penalty can not be less strict than is required by an affected governing body (such as WIAA or conference bylaws). Referral to the guidance department and/or other professional counsel may also be required. Consideration to modify local school consequences may be given to cases of self-referral and immediate admissions of guilt.

According to WIAA rules “a student is required to follow the school’s code of conduct on a year-round basis. In-season violations of the school code will result in immediate suspension of the student from interscholastic competition for no less than one day of competition (but not less than one complete game or meet) for acts involving (a) possession and/or use of alcohol, (b) possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and/or (c) use, possession, buying, or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES). The member school will determine minimum penalties for violation of any other provisions of its code of conduct, including all out-of-season offenses. The member school will determine minimum penalties for any other violation of any other unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of the school and this Association (WIAA), including but not limited to criminal behavior.”

According to WIAA rules “a Student, disqualified from a contest for flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct, is suspended from interscholastic competition for no less than the next competitive event (but not less than one complete game or meet).”

A student cannot elect to participate in an activity as a means to shorten the time missed as a result of a violation. If a sport season has started and the student had not registered for the sport, they cannot then go out for the sport in an attempt to shorten the penalty for another sport. A student shall be disqualified from all activities for an additional nine weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE

For the purpose of establishing standards to apply to many extra-curricular activities offered in the De Soto School District, two categories of participation are defined. Any penalty imposed must be served in all categories of participation.

Category I

Athletics, Managers/statisticians, Cheerleading, Pompons

Category II

Forensics, Musicals, Academic Decathlon, Swing Choir, Year Book, Solo Ensemble, Band or Vocal, National Honor Society, Play/talent Shows, FFA, High School Odyssey of the Mind, all honorary and elected offices (e.g., Homecoming King/Queen/court, class officer, student government officer or representative) and all other school clubs and activities. It is understood that any other activities that gain school sponsorship during the school year will automatically fall under the expectations contained in this handbook.

Category I Penalties for violation of the Extra-curricular guideline agreement.

This area includes all interscholastic athletic activities and other activities directly related to athletics where involvement normally occurs outside of the regular school day but may also apply to in-school and summer vacation. These violations will carry over starting from the 9th grade through the 12th grade level. A student athlete serving an athletic suspension will receive credit for the suspension only if the student athlete completes the season as a member in good standing with the team.

First Violation: The student shall be suspended from playing in a game or contest for a minimum period of 20% of the season if the student in question violates the School Code of Conduct. This includes if the offense involves the possession and/or use of alcohol, possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and/or use, possession, buying, or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES). During the duration of the suspension the student will not participate in any other school related activity that involves another school (i.e. scrimmage). Nor will the student represent the De Soto Schools while under this suspension.

- Football - 2 contests
- Volleyball - 3 contests on 3 different dates
- Basketball - 4 contests
- Wrestling - 3 contests on 3 different dates
- Softball/Baseball - 4 contests
- Track - 3 contests

Second Violation: The student shall be suspended from playing in a game or contest for a minimum period of 50% of the season if the student in question violates the School Code of Conduct. This includes if the offense involves the possession and/or use of alcohol, possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and/or use, possession, buying, or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES). During the duration of the suspension the student will not participate in any other school related activity that involves another school (i.e. scrimmage). Nor will the student represent the De Soto Schools while under this suspension.

- Football - 5 contests
- Volleyball - 8 contests on 8 different dates
- Basketball - 10 contests
- Wrestling - 8 contests on 8 different dates
- Softball/Baseball - 9 contests
- Track - 8 contests

Third Violation: Calendar year suspension (12 months from the date of penalty) and forfeiture of all awards and honors for activities involved in at the time of the violation.

Fourth Violation: Loss of eligibility in all extra-curricular participation for the remainder of the student's high school enrollment and forfeiture of all awards and honors for activities involved in at the time of the violation.

Category II Penalties for violation of the Extra-curricular guideline agreement.

This area includes all school clubs and activities (non-athletic).

First Violation: Suspension from activities the student is involved with will begin with the 1st scheduled event/contest/performance (excluding practice) and continue for the next 15 days excluding Sundays and

legal holidays when school is not in session. During the duration of the suspension the student will not participate in any other school related activity that involves another school (i.e. scrimmage). Nor will the student represent the De Soto Schools while under this suspension. All guideline rules must be followed by suspended students. Any remaining days of suspension not served during the initial activity's season shall be applied toward the season of the next activity in which the student participates.

Second Violation: Suspension from activities the student is involved with will begin with the 1st scheduled event/contest/performance (excluding practice) and continue for the next 30 days excluding Sundays and legal holidays when school is not in session. During the duration of the suspension the student will not participate in any other school related activity that involves another school (i.e. scrimmage). Nor will the student represent the De Soto Schools while under this suspension. All guideline rules must be followed by suspended students. Any remaining days of suspension not served during the initial activity's season shall be applied toward the season of the next activity in which the student participates.

Third Violation: Calendar year suspension (12 months from the date of penalty) and forfeiture of all awards and honors for activities involved in at the time of violation. An assessment program will be required and completion of said program is required to be eligible for further participation if the offense involves drugs, alcohol or tobacco products. During the duration of the suspension the student will not participate in any other school related activity that involves another school (i.e. scrimmage). Nor will the student represent the De Soto Schools while under this suspension.

Fourth Violation: Loss of eligibility in all extra-curricular participation for the remainder of the student's high school enrollment and forfeiture of all awards and honors for activities involved in at the time of violation.

The School District recognizes that many student problems can be successfully treated, provided they are identified in the early stages and referral is made to an appropriate type of care.

UNACCEPTABLE GATHERINGS

It is the responsibility of each participant to avoid attending or participating in any gathering that includes activities considered illegal under the law. If the participant is present when illegal alcohol consumption and/or illegal drugs are present, it is his/her responsibility to leave immediately.

Athletes/participants charged with attendance at an unacceptable gathering which is not chaperoned by a parent(s) or other responsible parent-aged adult where alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances are present and being consumed or have been consumed shall be held accountable by receiving the same consequences as described above in the section "PENALTIES".

Examples of acceptable gatherings are those with adult family members or close parental family friends, anniversaries, etc. which have parental permission and certain well publicized community related affairs. The intent of this section is to discourage students from attending peer group parties where there is known use of controlled substances or alcohol.

If, after arriving at a party, the student/athlete finds illegal use of controlled substances to be a fact he/she must depart the premises immediately. To enter the premises where an underage party is in progress will be considered to be in attendance.

EXCESSIVE VIOLATIONS

Except as herein above covered, a student/athletic member, whether or not a juvenile, who has been charged or could be charged with committing a crime, or could be charged with committing a crime, or what would be a crime if the student were not a juvenile [examples covered include but are not limited to: vandalism, breaking and entering, stealing, (including school uniforms and equipment) assault, attempted assault, (i.e. striking a teacher, administrator, or other person of authority), possession of a weapon or otherwise endangering the lives of others] shall be held accountable as follows:

Student/Athletes in Category I or Category II activities will be immediately suspended from participation in Category I or Category II activities practice/competition until an appeal process has established the student's innocence. If guilty or determined to be delinquent or if there is informal or other disposition which would show that the student committed prohibited acts, the student shall be suspended for one (1) calendar year from date of infraction.

Regardless of the findings of civil authorities, if school authorities find that student committed acts proscribed above, the student shall be suspended for one (1) calendar year from the date of the infraction.

ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE INFORMATION

1. Modification of consequences
Consideration to modify local school consequences may be given to cases of self-referral and immediate admissions of guilt or if extenuating circumstances are found to be pertinent to the welfare of the student.
2. Affect of disciplinary action on student record
Violations and consequences accumulate for the current school year except for alcohol, tobacco, chemical violations or violations leading to expulsions. Alcohol, tobacco, chemical violations and expulsions will be on the student's record for his or her remaining years as a De Soto School student.
3. Discipline procedures
All disciplinary actions shall be processed pursuant to De Soto School's discipline policy as outlined in the Student Handbook and Extra-curricular Handbook.
4. Definitions
Dismissal: means dismissing a student from school for one school day or less.
Exclusion: means an action taken by school administration that prevents a student from participating in a specific activity or activities for a period which shall not extend beyond the school year.
Expulsion: means an action taken by a school board to prohibit an enrolled pupil for further attendance for a period to be determined by the School Board.
Removal: means any action taken by a teacher, principal or other school district employee to prohibit a pupil from attending class for a period of time not to exceed five class or activity periods. A student may be removed from class for violating the district's discipline policy or for willful conduct that disrupts the rights of others to an education or which endangers other individuals or the property of the school.
School location: includes a school building, school grounds, school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles, the areas of entrance or departure from school premises or events, and all school related functions.
School personnel: means any person employed or under the direction/assignment of school personnel and who is acting within the scope of their assignment.
Suspension: means an action taken by the school administration, under the district's discipline policy, which prohibits a pupil from attending regular classes or activities for a defined period.
5. Corporal punishment
De Soto School strictly prohibits corporal punishment. Corporal punishment involves the hitting or spanking of a person with or without an object or any unreasonable force that causes bodily harm or substantial emotional harm.

6. Physical restraint
Physical restraint may be utilized by administrators, teachers and other staff only where it is necessary to use reasonable force to restrain a student from injuring himself or herself, others or property.
7. Search and Seizure
The schools director and other administrators may conduct a search of a student if they believe the student has drugs, weapons, alcohol, or other materials in violation of school rules or state law. The search may include inspection of clothing, purses, wallets, knapsacks, and other personal property including an automobile or other vehicle parked on school grounds. The search may also include an inspection of school property including student lockers, desks, and other areas in which items may be kept.
As soon as practical after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school must provide notice of the search to the student's guardian/parent unless such disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.
8. Unique situations

Because it is not possible to list every violation that occurs, those not specified will be responded to as necessary on a case-by-case basis. Unique or special circumstances may call for an adjustment in the discipline policies to meet the school or district's needs. The school reserves the right to make adjustments on a case by case basis.

WIAA TOURNAMENTS

If a student/athlete violates any of the violations proscribed in Category I or Category II during a WIAA tournament series, the student will be suspended from the remainder of the tournament.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY/PARTICIPATION POLICY

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and abilities in the students during their school years and for a lifetime. Students who participate in extra-curricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year, whether away from school or at school. Students who wish to have the privilege of participating in extra-curricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities which are illegal, immoral, or unhealthy. Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures. The principal shall keep records of violations of the Code of Conduct. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity including academic eligibility requirements.

All students who desire to participate in any co-curricular activity sponsored by the District must agree to be bound by the same Code of Conduct to which all public school students are bound with regard to extra-curricular activity participation. In addition, violations of such Code by students will be addressed pursuant to the procedures in the Code and may lead to the termination of the student's privilege of participating in District-sponsored extra-curricular activities as specified by the Code. All students who are permitted to participate in District-sponsored extra-curricular activities shall be provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct prior to participation and must sign the AStudent-Parent Agreement@ as representation of their agreement to abide by such rules and procedures. Additionally, all such students must also abide by the rules and conditions set forth by their coaches/instructors for continued eligibility and participation in each extra-curricular activity in which they may participate.

The following activities are covered by the board's policy and these rules:

Athletics, instrumental and vocal music performances , drama productions, speech contests, FFA, FHA, National Honor Society, all co-curricular clubs (e.g., Art Club, French Club), all honorary and elected offices (e.g., Homecoming King/Queen/court, class officer, student government officer or representative), state contests and performances for cheerleading and drill team, mock trial, Academic Decathlon, or any other activity where the student represents the school outside the classroom .

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

The following standards must be met by high school and middle school students in order to participate in extra-curricular activities:

A - Academic Eligibility

- * **Mid-quarter:** Students participating in extra-curricular activities must be passing all classes to be eligible for completion. Students who have one or more F's (failing grades) at Mid-quarter will be ineligible to compete until they are able to improve their grades to passing in all classes. It is the student's responsibility to obtain verification form from the teacher that they are now passing. Eligibility verification forms are available in the office or AD. Athletes are expected to practice with the team and sit with the team at events during this period of ineligibility.
- * **End of Quarter/Semester:** Students who have failed one F at the end of the quarter will be required to sit out the next 1 competition date. Students who have two or more failing grades or F's at the end of the quarter will be required to sit a minimum of one competition date for each final failed grade of F and the WIAA 15 school day/night rule will be applied for two or more failed grades.
Athletes are expected to practice with the team and sit with the team at events during this period of ineligibility.
- * For participation in fall activities the GPA for the 4th quarter of the previous year will be used. Failure to meet the above grade point averages will mean the student is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- * Special education students or students covered by a Section 504 plan shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress, as determined by the student's Special Education/504 team, towards the goals and objectives on the student's IEP or 504 plan.
- * Any incomplete on the students report card will cause the student to be ineligible until verification form and passing grade is sign by teacher. ***Summer school will be utilized for credit makeup only and not for eligibility purposes.***

B - Conduct Eligibility

Any student who, after a hearing before the administration, is found to have violated the Code of Conduct, during the school year or summer, is subject to the following:

- * The period of ineligibility attaches immediately upon a finding of a violation if the student is eligible for and currently engaged in an extracurricular activity and, if not, or if not completed during the current activity, is begun or carried over to the time the student seeks to go out for the next activity or contest.
- * However, if the period of time between a violation and an activity is twelve calendar months or more, the student shall not serve an ineligibility period for the violation.
- * An ineligible student shall attend all practices or rehearsals but may not "suit up" nor perform/participate.
- * If a student drops out of an activity prior to completion of the ineligibility period, the full penalty or the remainder of the penalty, at the administration's discretion, will attach when the student next seeks to go out for an activity, subject to the 12-month limitation above.
- * If a student violates the Code of Conduct while ineligible due to an earlier violation, the penalty for the subsequent offense will attach at the completion of the earlier penalty.

C - Participation Eligibility

- * Students are expected to attend every practice session of the activity unless excused by the head coach. Any student practicing with the team but is not allowed to participate in a contest for any reason must sit with the team as a team member during the contest. Non-compliance can result in the suspension from contests or from the sport or whatever the head coach deems necessary.
- * A student is not eligible if the student participates in a contest or event other than for the official interscholastic school team while that student is a member of that school team and during the entire

school season (start of practice to end of season) of that sport.

Letters and Awards: Students who are ineligible at the conclusion of an activity shall not receive a letter or award for that activity.

APPEAL PROCESS RELATED TO THE ATHLETIC/EXTRA-CURRICULAR GUIDELINES

The following provisions outlined shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for appeal:

1. The initial appeal of the decision will be directed to the building principal in writing within **3** working days. The building principal will refer the appeal to a review committee consisting of the Athletic Director, Principal, Coach, Counselor and a Faculty member not involved in the activity, for action within **3** working days. During this appeal process, a student will remain ineligible until the results of the appeal are determined. A majority vote will uphold or overturn the appeal.
2. The student and/or parent/guardian may appeal, in writing and within **3** working days, the decision of the review committee to the Superintendent. Upon review of the appeal, the Superintendent has the discretion to uphold, modify, or dismiss the consequences resulting from an extra-curricular violation unless the consequences are clearly outlined within this handbook. A decision will be rendered by the Superintendent in **3** working days from the day that the second appeal is requested.
3. The student and/or parent/guardian may appeal the decision of the Superintendent, in writing and within **3** working days, to the Board of Education. Upon review of the appeal, the Board of Education has the discretion to uphold, modify, or dismiss the consequences resulting from a extra-curricular violation. A decision will be rendered by the Board of Education at the next regularly scheduled School Board meeting from the day the third appeal is submitted.

ADDENDUM

At all times, participants shall refrain from conduct which violates the ideals, principles, and standards of the De Soto Area School District. NO code can be all inclusive, whenever conduct or behavior is determined inappropriate a consequence will be appraised as determined to be appropriate through collaborative discussions between coach, athletic director, and principal.

- A. **MAJOR VIOLATIONS:** Extra-curricular Code Violations that would require enforcement of the “Penalties for Violating the Extra-curricular Activity Code” section of the Extra-curricular Handbook. Major Violations include but are not limited to:
- Involved in the possession and/or use of alcohol, possession and/or use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco and/or use, possession, buying, or selling of controlled substances, street drugs and performance enhancing substances (PES).
 - In attendance or participating in any gathering that includes activities considered illegal under the law.
 - Illegal acts against persons or property.
 - Intentionally causing physical harm to another individual.
 - Severe profanity, abusive language, vandalism, fighting, cheating on tests or school work, deceit, and theft.
 - Violation of the Wisconsin Criminal Statutes.
 - Violation of Wisconsin Traffic Statutes - 346.63 operate under influence of intoxicant/other drugs; Statute 346.63 (2m) absolute sobriety; Statute 346.93 minor transport; Statute 346.935 open intoxicants by driver/occupant.
 - Violation of any municipal, county ordinance or laws of other jurisdictions in conformity with the previous listed statutes.
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct at events such as:
 - Use of profanity.

- Insulting remarks to teammates, coaches, opponents, spectators, or officials.
 - Any act showing intent to do physical or emotional harm.
 - Locker room misbehavior i.e. vandalism, causing locker damage, “trashing” the locker room, etc.
 - Inappropriate conduct considered unbecoming of an athlete/student representative of an activity and considered serious enough to be considered a major violation.
- B. MINOR VIOLATIONS:** Extra-curricular Code Violations that may involve partial enforcement of the “Penalties for Violating the Extra-curricular Activity Code” section of the Extra-curricular Handbook. This will be determined at the discretion of the Principal, the Behavior Intervention Committee, Athletic Director, or Coach.
- Minor Violations include but are not limited to:
- Disrespectful treatment of another player, opposing coach, official, parent, and administrator.
 - Criticizing officials in any way or displaying anger at an official’s call.
 - Taunting, trash talk and other intimidating actions during school hours, practice or at contests.
 - Not following the directives of the coach.
 - Failure to comply with team rules.
 - Attendance issues.
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct at practice, or during school hours such as:
 - Use of profanity.
 - Insulting remarks to teammates, coaches, opponents, spectators, or officials.
 - Any act showing intent to do physical harm.
 - Any display of action showing lack of emotional stability.
 - Riding to or from an event with an individual that is not a “designated adult”*.
 - Foul language, immoral talk, or any other unacceptable behavior during school hours.
 - Inappropriate behavior during school hours that result in disciplinary action.
 - Inappropriate conduct considered unbecoming of an athlete/student representative of an activity and considered serious enough to be considered a minor violation.
 - Poor academic daily performance. i.e. Assigned to the Academic Restricted list, not doing daily work, failure to complete homework, etc.
 - Causing continual classroom disruptions.

Parents and Athletes must sign Extra-Curricular Registration, Permission, Waiver, and Code agreement form prior to the season starting.