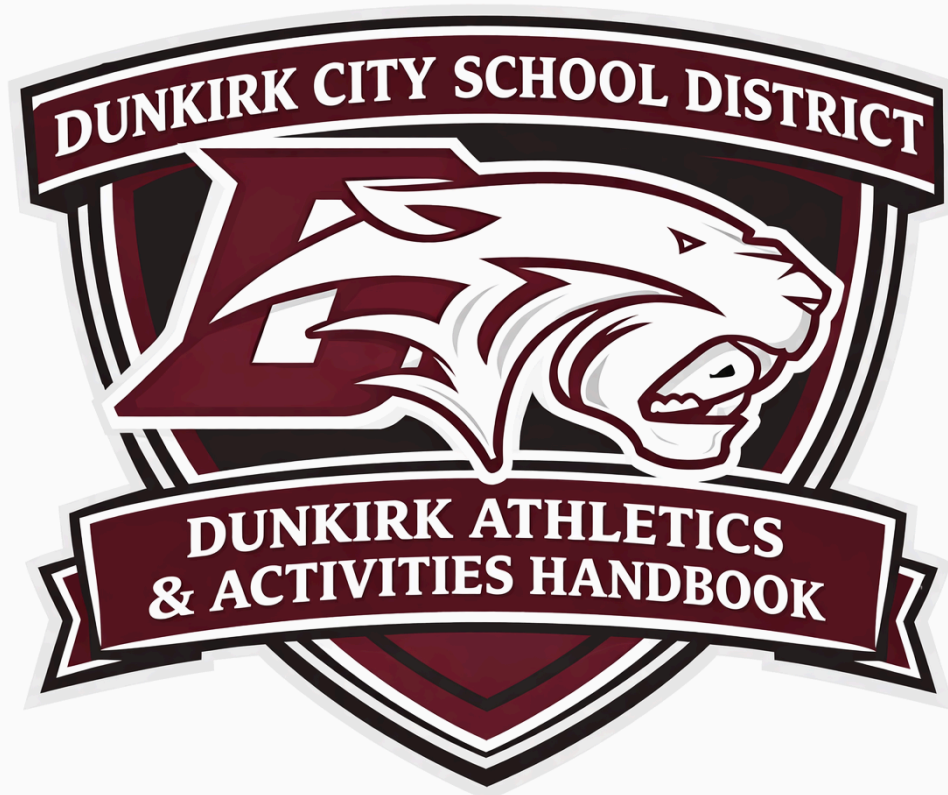




Revised by the Athletic Committee in
Spring of 2026

Submitted to BOE:

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Handbook Scope and Applicability Statement:

The **Dunkirk Athletics and Activities Policy** has been developed to establish a unified framework of expectations, responsibilities, procedures, and opportunities for all students participating in school-sponsored athletics, extracurricular activities, clubs, leadership organizations, performing arts, and other approved co-curricular programs within the Dunkirk City School District.

This handbook is intended to promote a consistent student experience rooted in the **Characteristics of a Marauder**, emphasizing leadership, responsibility, integrity, teamwork, discipline, and community across all school-sponsored programs.

Unless otherwise noted, the behavioral, academic, attendance, citizenship, eligibility, and conduct expectations outlined in this handbook apply to **all students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities**.

Because this handbook now serves both athletics and activities, certain sections are **specific to interscholastic athletics and may not apply to all extracurricular programs**. Examples of athletics-specific sections may include, but are not limited to:

- concussion management and Sway baseline testing
- return-to-play protocols
- athletic transportation procedures
- sport-specific eligibility requirements
- NYSPHSAA, Section VI, and CCAA regulations
- athletic equipment and uniform expectations

Likewise, some clubs, student leadership groups, performing arts, and other extracurricular activities may include additional expectations, participation procedures, or advisor guidelines unique to those programs.

Students and families should understand that while this handbook establishes a district-wide standard for all co-curricular participation, **program-specific rules and procedures may supplement this policy when necessary**.

In all cases, the Dunkirk City School District reserves the right to apply the portions of this handbook that are most relevant to the specific activity in which the student participates.

Goals of the Dunkirk City School District Extracurricular Programming and Athletics:

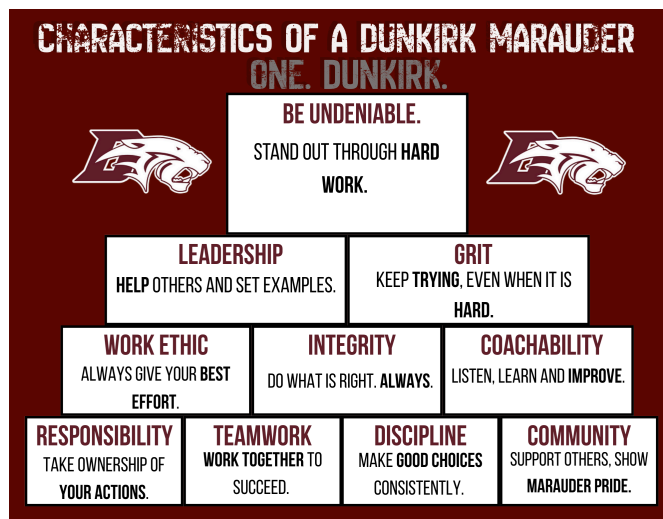
Being a Dunkirk student-athlete means more than just competing. It means representing your school, your team, and your community with purpose and pride. Every student-athlete is expected to grow not only in performance, but in character, leadership, and responsibility—both in the classroom and in competition.

As a Dunkirk student-athlete, you are expected to:

- Demonstrate strong sportsmanship in all situations
- Serve as a positive role model and mentor for others
- Work as a team and contribute to a positive team culture
- Show loyalty, dedication, and commitment to your program
- Practice self-control and discipline on and off the field and in the classroom
- Take responsibility and be accountable for your actions
- Compete with honesty, trustworthiness, and fair play
- Handle both success and adversity with the right mindset
- Show respect for yourself, your teammates, coach/advisors, teachers, officials, and opponents
- Strive for personal excellence in academics and athletics
- Set goals and work consistently to achieve them
- Make smart decisions and communicate effectively
- Continue to develop your academic and athletic skills

- Understand and apply rules, strategies, and expectations
- Maintain physical fitness and healthy habits
- Take pride in representing Dunkirk in all settings
- Balance academics, athletics, and personal responsibilities

Being a Dunkirk Marauder means choosing to be undeniable in your effort, your attitude, and your actions every single day.



Reserve Clauses:

Any situation not covered by this handbook will be governed by the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. handbook and/or the Section VI handbook, constitution, and/or by-laws.

Dunkirk City School District Building Administrators reserve the right to rule on any other infraction not covered by the Dunkirk Marauder Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook that is related to athletic participation and/or that affects the educational process.

With the privilege of being an athlete in the Dunkirk City School District there are added expectations, responsibilities and accountability. Therefore, the Dunkirk City School District Student Code of Conduct along with any additional provisions of the Dunkirk City School District Interscholastic Athletic Policy will be in effect for the Fall, Winter and Spring seasonal dates (first day of practice through until season end dates) established by Section VI for anyone participating in district sponsored athletic competition.

Section VI website hyperlink: <http://www.section6.e1b.org/11391049112849960/site/default.asp>

Under the heading C □ referencing Calendar of Section VI Approved Season Dates

When deemed applicable/appropriate by the Dunkirk City School District Board of Education and/or the Superintendent of Schools a violation of the Dunkirk City School District Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook will be processed through the respective Board of Education adopted building student code of conduct policies and/or procedures.

Thank you to the following members of the Athletic Committee who have devoted hours of their time to developing this handbook and policy:

Connor Aitcheson	High School Faculty/coach/advisor Representative
Taylor Bankoski	Elementary School Faculty/coach/advisor Representative
Charlene Biscaro	Parent Representative/Sport Booster Representative
Erica Boner	High School Faculty/Medical Representative
Lucas Catalano	Dunkirk Board of Education Representative
Jillian Domenico	High School Faculty
Michelle Gilmour	Physical Education Representative/High School Faculty
Michael Green	Physical Education Representative/High School Faculty/coach/advisor Representative
Kyle Jarrell	Athletic Director/Chair Person
Rebecca Leone	District Administrator
Leah Leuthauser	District Administrator
Kelly Mancuso	High School Faculty/Medical Representative
Corey Markham	District Administrator
Zachary Meadows	High School Faculty/coach/advisor Representative
Charmaine Moreland	High School Faculty
Elizabeth McQuiggan	Parent Representative
Edward Paulch	School Resource Officer
Betsy Ramos	Board of Education Representative
Heidi Richter	Parent Representative/Sport Booster Representative
Claudia Szczerbacki	Board of Education Representative
Chester Sobotka	High School Faculty
Karly Sutton	Parent Representative
Kizzy Tell	Parent Representative
Treasure Thomas	Parent Representative
Stephanie Wisniewski	High School Faculty Representative/coach/advising Representative/Parent Representative

Letter to the Community

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students/athletes:

Welcome to the Dunkirk Athletics & Activities Program. This handbook has been prepared to serve as a reference for our students and their parents/guardians in an effort to clearly define expectations, responsibilities, and guidelines for participation in all extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics.

As students enter secondary school, they are presented with many new opportunities and challenges. An important part of the educational experience at this level is involvement beyond the classroom. Dunkirk City School District is proud to offer a wide range of extracurricular programs, including athletics, clubs, and student activities. Research consistently shows that students who are involved in these opportunities perform better academically, develop stronger time management skills, demonstrate improved behavior, and feel more connected to their school community.

We are excited that you have chosen to be part of this important aspect of our school community. Participation in athletics and activities is both a privilege and an opportunity. These experiences provide students with the chance to build character, develop leadership skills, form meaningful relationships, and grow both individually and as part of a team or group. Our goal at Dunkirk is to provide a first-class experience that promotes personal growth, teamwork, and excellence in a safe and supportive environment.

Participation in any extracurricular activity requires a strong commitment to academics, behavior, and citizenship both in school and in the community. Students are expected to represent Dunkirk with pride and integrity at all times. This handbook is designed to help students and families understand the expectations, policies, and responsibilities that support a well-organized and successful program.

While this handbook applies to all extracurricular activities, our interscholastic athletic programs operate under the regulations set forth by the New York State Commissioner of Education. Dunkirk Senior High School is a member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), Section VI, and competes in Division I of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Athletic Association (CCAA).

Once again, welcome to the Dunkirk Marauder community. We encourage all students to get involved, stay committed, and take full advantage of the opportunities available. Strive to represent Dunkirk with pride and to be undeniable in your effort, attitude, and actions.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. We look forward to supporting you throughout your journey.

GO MARAUDERS!

Kyle Jarrell
Director of Athletics
716-366-9300 x 2035
kjarrell@g.dunkirkcsd.org

Sports Currently Offered

Fall	Winter	Spring
Mod/Vars Football	Mod/JV/Vars Girls Basketball	Mod/JV/Vars Baseball
Mod/Vars Girls Soccer	Mod/JV/Vars Boys Basketball	Mod/JV/Vars Softball
Mod/Vars Boys Soccer	Mod/Vars Wrestling	Mod/Vars Girls Track & Field
Mod/JV/Vars Girls Volleyball	Varsity Girls Wrestling	Mod/Vars Boys Track & Field
Mod/Vars Boys Cross Country	Girls/Boys Varsity Indoor Track	Mod/Vars Girls Flag Football
Girls Varsity Tennis	Girls/Boys Varsity Bowling	Boys Varsity Tennis
Varsity Girls Swimming	Varsity Boys Swimming	Boys Varsity Golf
Unified Bocce	Unified Bowling	Unified Basketball
Competitive Cheerleading	Competitive Cheerleading	
Unified Flag Football	Basketball Cheerleading	

Athletic Department Contacts & Affiliation

Name	Position	Phone Number	Email
Kyle Jarrell	Athletic Director	366-9300 ext 2035 (585)485-1624	kjarrell@g.dunkirkcsd.org
Corinne Edwards	Athletic Trainer		coedwards@e2ccb.org
Nurse	Erica Boner	366-9300 ext. 2065	eboner@g.dunkirkcsd.org
Nurse	Kelly Mancuso	366-9300 ext. 2065	kmancuso@g.dunkirkcsd.org
Director of Health	Nichole Dispense		ndispense@g.dunrkickcsd.org

Representative of Dunkirk City School District

Participating in extracurricular activities and athletics is a privilege extended by the Dunkirk City School District to all, provided that students are willing to assume certain responsibilities. The expectation is that all athletes will meet better than minimum standards in conduct.

It is expected that all students who participate in any co-curricular activity, sports teams or sport activity that is organized by the Dunkirk City School District will conduct themselves in an exemplary manner, which will bring credit to the individual, the school and the district.

The Dunkirk City School District provides a unique opportunity to educate and influence young people by promoting their mental, emotional and physical development in an environment that rejects the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. The Dunkirk Athletics and Activities Handbook was developed to guide, encourage and support students who participate in this dynamic educational experience.

In terms of athletics, Students/athletes represent this district (or Section VI when involved in post-season play), the school and their team during home contests as well as when a guest at another school and are expected to abide by all behavioral rules/expectations as if in school. When on a trip, students are responsible for their behavior (including meetings, play assignments and curfews) as if in school from the time the team departs school until the group returns (24 hours a day).

Appeal Procedure/Process

This procedure shall apply to all sections of the Dunkirk Athletics and Activities Handbook. Any appeal regarding an enforcement of the policy must be made by the close of the following school day. All suspensions and dismissals will be enforced as previously indicated unless changed by the action of the appeal committee.

A. **Step #1** - A student may request a hearing by a committee made up of a coach/advisor/advisor (other than the coach/advisor/advisor of the activity involved), the Director of Athletics and the High School Principal (or their designated representative). Parents of the suspended student shall be invited to attend this hearing. The involved coach/advisor/advisor will submit a written statement concerning the matter.

B. **Step #2** - In cases where the committee's decision in Step #1 is not acceptable to the athlete, the decision may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools. Implementation of this step must be presented to the Superintendent of Schools in writing within three (3) days of the decision at Step #1. The Superintendent shall review the case on its merit and his/her decision shall be final.

Student/Athlete Participation – Items Needed to Qualify for Athletics or Extracurricular Registration

Being an exceptional student and student-athlete is the expectation for all Dunkirk Students. We want to make sure our students are following the standards all year, not just for one season. These are the following standards that will qualify a student to sign up for athletics or extracurricular activities:

Academics, Attendance and Behavior will all be calculated into whether a student can qualify for extracurriculars. These attributes will be pulled at the following time:

Fall: This information will be pulled from the previous year.

Winter: Pulled from the first 15-Week Mark, including information, such as credits, from previous years.

Spring: Pulled from 25-Week Mark, including information, such as credits, from previous years.

Academics Eligibility:

Students must be on pace with the following credit schedule to qualify. Any credits that have been missed due to a failure of class, may be obtained via Edgenuity, Summer School, or taking the class over.

Grade	Credits Obtained (22 in grades 9-12 needed to graduate)
7th Grade	0 Credits
8th Grade	5 Middle School Credits
9th Grade (credits from 7th and 8th grade)	10 Middle School Credits
10th Grade	Entering with 4.5 Credits
11th Grade	Entering with 10 Credits
12th Grade	Entering with 16 Credits

For any student who is deemed “chronically” behind (example: 2 credits as an 11th grader) it is at the discretion of the Athletic Director AND a building administrator to determine if a student is making reasonable progress to be considered for athletics (ie, making up Edgenuity classes a a quick pass). If an athlete is deemed eligible, a meeting will be made between the athletic director, building administrator, coach/advisor, athlete and parent.

Attendance Eligibility:

Students must have an 85% attendance rate to be eligible.

Behavior Eligibility:

Students cannot have anymore than 12 discipline referrals in a calendar year (3-per quarter).

For winter and spring, PFA will be analyzed (projected final averages) for items such as attendance and behavior.

Student/Athlete Participation – Attendance Expectations

Students and Athletes who represent Dunkirk CSD are expected to maintain strong attendance during not just the duration of their activity, but all year. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and requires students to be present and engaged in the school day. To be eligible for participation in ANY afterschool activity, Students/athletes must meet the following attendance expectations.

Day of Participation Requirement:

Students/athletes must be present in school on the day of any event in order to participate that day. Students who are absent for any portion of the school day may not participate in afterschool activities that day unless the absence is considered a legally excused absence with appropriate documentation. Students may not leave school during the school day and return to participate in an athletic activity unless the absence qualifies as a legally excused absence.

Acceptable Excused Absences:

The following absences may be considered excused with proper documentation:

- Medical appointments with documentation from a licensed medical provider
- Illness with a medical note
- Family emergency
- Death in the immediate family
- Approved college visits
- Court appearances or legal obligations
- Other administratively approved circumstances

Documentation must be submitted to the school in order for the absence to be considered excused.

Tardiness:

Students/athletes are expected to arrive at school on time. If a student-athlete arrives late to school without prior administrative approval or legal documentation, they will not be eligible to participate in athletic activities that day. If a student has an ongoing situation that requires them to be periodically late, it must be approved in advance by both the Building Administrator and the Director of Athletics.

Attendance Monitoring:

Daily attendance reports will be shared with coach/advisor/advisors for eligibility determination. They are responsible for reviewing attendance prior to practices/activities and competitions.

Athletic Specific Attendance Accountability Matrix

Attendance expectations apply throughout the entire athletic season. Violations are cumulative during the season.

Attendance violations may include:

- Unexcused absence on a practice or game day
- Leaving school early without an approved excuse
- Arriving late to school without approval
- Skipping classes or unexcused periods
- Any attendance issue that violates school policy

Level 0-First Violation

- Students receive a written/verbal warning on the consequences of repeated attendance violations from the Athletic Director or Administrator.
- May not participate in athletics/extracurriculars for that day

Level 1-Second Attendance Violation

Examples	Consequence
Unexcused tardy to school	No participation for the remainder of that day
Unexcused absence during the school day	Athlete/Student may attend but not participate in

	practice or competition In-person conversation with Athletic Director or Administrator
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Level 2-Third Attendance Violation

Examples	Consequence
Unexcused tardy to school	No participation for the remainder of that day
Unexcused absence during the school day	Athlete/Student may attend but not participate in practice or competition Meeting with coach/advisor/advisor and athletic director/administrator

Level 3- Fourth Attendance Violation

Examples	Consequence
Unexcused tardy to school	Loss of athletic eligibility
Unexcused absence during the school day	Removal from the team for the remainder of the season

Yearly Expectation for all students: Any student who falls below the 85% mark when it comes to attendance, will be ineligible for athletics the following year.

Extracurricular Participation – Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility of the student/athlete will be determined on a *weekly* basis. Student grades will be electronically pulled on Saturday from faculty eSchool** gradebooks. Expectation is that faculty members will have their gradebooks updated every two weeks. The process will begin the first Saturday after the first day of official practice (determined by the NYSPHSAA/Section VI sports season calendar). Beginning with the Fall sports season this process will continue throughout each season and playoffs. (**-eSchool is the current student information system used by the Dunkirk City School District)

Students/athletes taking higher level courses will have their eligibility evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility – beginning with the 2026-27 School Year

- o Failing 3 or more classes – results in mandatory daily study hall from 3:00-4:00pm and will be placed on the academic ineligible list and will be ineligible to practice/play.
- o Failing 2-classes - results in mandatory daily study hall from 3:00-4:00pm and will be placed on the academic ineligible list and will be able to practice/NO play.
- o Failing 1-class - results in mandatory daily study hall from 3:00-4:00pm and will be allowed to practice/play.
- o Please note Physical Education exception – if student-athlete is failing Physical Education s/he is ineligible to participate in Interscholastic Athletics.

Notification

- o Deadline for submission of faculty member biweekly grades will be 12:00pm (noon) on Saturday. After 12:00pm the Athletic Director (or designated administrative representative) will pull grades and create the academic eligibility lists for all in-season athletic teams/activities. Distribution to athletic coach/advisor/advisors will be by 3:00pm the next day (Sunday) to allow coach/advisor planning time for the week. The ineligibility period will begin Tuesday at 3:00pm and end on the following Monday at 7:59am.
- o Students will use Monday as a day to possibly increase their grades to be removed from the list.
- o It will be the responsibility of the individual coach/advisor to notify the player and parents when a student-athlete is placed on the weekly academic ineligible list. The player and parents should be notified no later than Sunday at 6:00pm so an appeals process can take place if needed. The Director of Athletics will send an email to all students who are on the list by Sunday at 6:00pm. All appeals will be handled by the Director of Athletics.
- o It is also the individual coach/advisor(es) responsibility to make sure their Students/athletes are attending the academic study hall.

Appeal Process

- o An appeal can be presented to the Director of Athletics by the student, parent and/or guardian. The appeal must be presented prior to 3:00pm on the Monday after the academic ineligibility notification. The Appeal Board will consist of the Director of Athletics and two (2) faculty members. A decision will be made as soon as possible after the appeal to avoid missed practices/contests.

Ineligibility Period

- o Students who are on the academic ineligible list, may be removed from the list with a validation of a passing grade, confirmed by the Director of Athletics.

Eligibility Cards:

- There are cases where students who are failing a class are working up to their full potential. In this case, students can have teachers sign an "Eligibility Card".
- Students will be required to pick up an "Eligibility Card" in the main office on Monday Morning by the start of homeroom.
- The Student then will be required to turn that card in with proper signatures to either the proper administrator, athletic director, or the supervisor of Athletic Study Hall, by Tuesday at 3:00pm.
- It will then be determined if the student can be released from Athletic Study Hall for the week.
- If no "Eligibility Card" is turned in, the student should continue with the procedure at hand in regards to the classes they are failing.

Vacation Periods

- o If the situation arises, that the ineligibility period runs into a vacation period, the ineligibility will be temporarily lifted and the student-athlete will be allowed to participate in all activities. When school resumes, the ineligibility period will resume beginning with the first day back in class.

Athletic Participation - Changing Sports

A student-athlete may change from one sport to participate in another once the teams have been selected with permission of the parent, coach/advisor and athletic director. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is legitimate to try-out for another. In the event an athlete leaves a team, he/she must meet with the coach/advisor or they will not be permitted to try out for another sport.

Once selected for a team, an athlete is expected to complete the season. As a general rule, an individual who drops out once selections have been made may not try out for another team mid-season. At the start of the season, if the

coach/advisor of two teams involved make an appeal on behalf of a student-athlete, to the Athletic Director, and are both in agreement that a change would be beneficial, the appeal may be considered.

A student dismissed from a team for disciplinary reasons may not try out for another team that season.

Athletic Participation – Discipline Referrals/Consequences

- ***Athletic Policy/Team Violations***

Students/athletes who violate the Dunkirk City School Athletic Policy and/or individual team rules – these situations must be documented by the respective coach/advisor using the Athletic Discipline Form:

Athletic Discipline Form

- o This form must be filled out by the respective coach/advisor anytime there is a violation – all information must be present along with consequence given.
- o Information reported will go into the athletic discipline database
- o Student-athlete, per due process rights, may appeal consequences per the appeal section of this Athletic Policy.

- ***School Day***

Students/athletes receiving discipline referrals for unacceptable behaviors during the school day, as defined by, the Dunkirk City School District Student Code of Conduct will receive additional consequences listed below:

Detentions

- o If a student-athlete receives a detention for any part of the school day (no matter the length of time) from an administrator – they will be ineligible to practice and/or play on that date.
- o A student-athlete may only resume athletic participation after they have successfully completed their assigned consequence.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

- o If a student-athlete is referred to ISS during any part of the school day (no matter the length of time) – they will be ineligible to practice that day and ineligible to participate in the next scheduled competition regardless of date.
- o If the In-School suspension overlaps a weekend the athletic participation suspension will remain in effect for all weekend activities.
- o A student-athlete may only resume athletic participation on the first legal day after they have successfully completed their assigned consequence
- o For ISS consequences that overlap extended breaks (i.e. – Holiday weekends or breaks) the Director of Athletics will make a determination on a case-by-case basis.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

- o During an out-of-school suspension the student-athlete loses the ability to attend all school related functions and is prohibited from being on school property.
- o The student-athlete is ineligible to practice and or play during the OSS timeframe and ineligible to participate in the next scheduled competition regardless of date.
- o If the Out-of-School suspension start date is on a Friday the consequences remain in effect throughout the weekend until the next legal school day the student is scheduled to attend.
- o With an out-of-school suspension, the student-athlete may not attend any school sponsored function as the student is prohibited from being on school property.
- o A student-athlete may only resume athletic participation on the first legal day after they have successfully completed their assigned consequence.

- o For OSS consequences that overlap extended breaks (i.e.- Holiday weekends or breaks) there will be NO options.

Violation #1:

Examples	Consequence
Any Write-Up: • Late to Class • Phone • Disrespect etc.	Whatever the detail of the write-up Verbal conversation with Athletic Director about possible consequences if behavior is continued (dismissal from team, unable to play etc.)

Violation #2:

Examples	Consequence
Any Write-Up: • Late to Class • Phone • Disrespect etc.	Whatever the detail of the write-up Meeting between administrator, athletic director, coach and parent detailing the consequences of the next write-up (dismissal from team)

Violation #3:

Examples	Consequence
Any Write-Up: • Late to Class • Phone • Disrespect etc.	Whatever the detail of the write-up Dismissal from team.

Athletic Participation – Drug/Alcohol Policy

Participating in interscholastic athletics for the Dunkirk City School district is considered a privilege. Student athletes are expected to commit to the physical, mental, and social demands that are placed upon them that will help foster a healthy lifestyle and positive experience during their high school athletic career. The use and /or possession of tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances, and performance enhancing drugs are detrimental to the objectives to interscholastic athletics. (includes vaping)

Athletes who consume, possess, or sell tobacco, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances or performance enhancing drugs, illegal drugs (which may include prescription drugs used in a manner in which it was not intended), who possess synthetic cannabinoids on school property (or at school functions), distribute synthetic cannabinoids to students or paraphernalia for the use of such drugs or synthetic cannabinoids will be considered in violation of the athletic code.

Furthermore, it is a violation of the athletic code for a student to remain at a location or event once it becomes apparent that others present not of legal age are engaging in conduct provided in the information above.

Violations of the drug policy will be enforced during the student athlete's athletic career. An athletic career will be considered from the first practice on an interscholastic athletic team to the end of their high school eligibility as stated by the N.Y.S.P.H.A.A.

If a student is found in violation of the chemical abuse policy the following procedures will be used to assist and help the student athlete.

All students will be required to partake in a Drug, Alcohol, Substance Abuse and Vaping Course with a written reflection
AND

First Violation: School dealt suspension plus 10-calendar day suspension from activities.

Second Violation: School dealt suspension plus 40-calendar day suspension from activities.

Third Violation: School dealt suspension plus 1-calendar year suspension from all activities.

Dunkirk City School District Dual Participation in Interscholastic Athletics

District Philosophy:

The Dunkirk City School District believes athletics are an important extension of the educational experience. Participation in athletics helps students develop discipline, leadership, teamwork, accountability, and healthy lifestyle habits. Student-athletes represent Dunkirk CSD and the Marauder community both on and off the field and are expected to uphold high academic, behavioral, and attendance standards.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right.

Same Season Dual Sport Participation:

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) permits student-athletes to participate in more than one sport during the same season when approved by the school district and in accordance with sectional and league policies.

Dunkirk City School District is a member of Section VI of the NYSPHSAA and the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Athletic Association (CCAA). Dual participation must comply with all NYSPHSAA, Section VI, and CCAA regulations, including sport-specific eligibility and participation requirements.

Dual sport participation will be considered on a case-by-case basis and is only available to student-athletes in grades 9–12 participating at the varsity level. Participation in two sports during the same season must not interfere with the student's academic responsibilities, health, or commitment to either program.

Approval for dual participation may be revoked at any time if it is determined to no longer be in the best interest of the student-athlete, the teams involved, or the district.

This process must be completed each season in which a student-athlete wishes to be considered for dual participation.

Dual Participation Application Process: *This will begin with students entering 9th-Grade in 2026-2027*

1. Initial Request

The student-athlete must submit a formal request to the Athletic Director expressing interest in dual sport participation. A parent or guardian must sign a permission form allowing the student-athlete to begin the dual participation application process.

2. Initial Meeting

The student-athlete will meet with the Athletic Director to review the expectations, responsibilities, and application requirements for dual participation.

3. Academic Requirements

Academic performance is the top priority for all Dunkirk student-athletes. To be considered for dual participation, the student must:

- Maintain a current academic average of 90% or higher
- Be passing all classes
- Obtain two letters of recommendation from teachers the student has had either currently or within the past academic year

4. Attendance Requirements

To be considered for dual participation, the student-athlete must maintain an attendance rate of at least 95%.

5. Behavioral Expectations

Student-athletes must demonstrate strong character and leadership within the school community. To be eligible for consideration, the student must:

- Have no more than four disciplinary write-ups within the past year

Any significant disciplinary violation may result in the denial or revocation of dual participation.

6. Sport Designation

The student-athlete must designate:

- Primary Sport
- Secondary Sport

The Primary Sport will take precedence in all scheduling conflicts. If a conflict occurs between a contest and a practice, the contest will take priority. If a conflict occurs between two contests, the Primary Sport contest will take precedence.

7. Coach Communication and Approval

The student-athlete must communicate with the head coaches of both programs.

Both coaches must provide:

- Written approval supporting the student's participation
- A brief statement explaining how the student-athlete's participation would benefit each program

8. Committee Review

Once the application materials are submitted, the request will be reviewed by a Dual Participation Committee consisting of:

- Athletic Director
- Physical Education Teacher
- Building Administrator
- Coach representative

This committee will determine whether dual participation is feasible and appropriate based on the student's academics, health, schedule demands, and team needs.

Final approval will be granted at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

9. Final Meeting and Agreement

If approved, a final meeting will be scheduled involving:

- Athletic Director
- Student-athlete
- Parent/guardian
- Primary sport coach
- Secondary sport coach

During this meeting:

- A tentative practice and contest schedule will be developed
Expectations for communication, attendance, and participation will be reviewed
- A Dual Participation Agreement will be signed by all parties

Participation Expectations

Student-athletes approved for dual participation must:

- Meet all practice and contest eligibility requirements for both sports
- Follow all NYSPHSAA, Section VI, and CCAA regulations
- Maintain required academic, attendance, and behavior standards
Communicate schedule conflicts with both coaches in advance

The district reserves the right to revoke dual participation at any time due to academic, behavioral, health, or team-related concerns.

If dual participation is revoked, the student-athlete will continue participation in the Primary Sport only.

Athletic Participation - Eligibility to Practice

No one is to practice with your team except bona fide Dunkirk City School District students who have passed a physical exam (on file with the nurse's office), have been approved by the school nurse and submitted all required information through our on-line registration format.

Athletic Participation - Emergency Medical Card/Information

All provided medical information of each student-athlete is communicated electronically to each Varsity/JV/Modified coach/advisor replacing what was previously referred to as the "blue card".

Athletic Participation - Extra Academic Help Policy

coach/advisors will receive a bi-weekly eligibility list of their Students/athletes. While on the academic ineligible list the student-athlete will be required to attend a mandatory study hall from 3:00-4:00pm daily. As explained previously in the Athletic Participation-Academic Requirements section there is a progressive return to practice/play protocol. It is the responsibility of the respective coach/advisor to access daily discipline reports generated by office personnel relating to discipline and will be held accountable to enforce any subsequent school/athletic consequence.

Athletic Participation - Family Vacation/Holiday Vacation/Recess Policy

Being chosen to represent the Dunkirk City School District as a member of an interscholastic team is an honor and privilege and requires great commitment and responsibility. Varsity, junior varsity and modified athletes are expected to participate in all practices, scrimmages and interscholastic contests during vacation/recess periods

This includes practices, which occur prior to the beginning of school in September; over Thanksgiving break; winter holiday recess; President's week and spring recess. When a student-athlete is injured he/she is still expected to attend practices until ready to participate.

Students/athletes may petition the athletic director for relief in these matters if extenuating circumstances exist such as medical situations, religious observance, court appearances or other legal reasons. A scheduled vacation IS NOT an extenuating circumstance.

- o Family Vacations: Parents (with their children who are Students/athletes) may choose to take their family vacation during a sport season. We understand that circumstances sometimes dictate when family members can plan vacations. With this in mind, it must also be understood that the time missed by the student-athlete can affect team chemistry, personal conditioning, performance level of the individual, overall success of the team and individual playing time. Attendance should be considered mandatory during vacation periods unless arrangements are made with the respective coach/advisor. Contact the coach/advisor prior to the season in order to fulfill team commitments and expectations.
- o Athletic Vacation Policy: Students/athletes must be prepared to participate in athletic practices or games that are scheduled during the following recesses: Thanksgiving Break (end of November), Winter Break (end of December), Mid-winter (mid-February) and Spring (April). As a school district and members of the CCAA (Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Athletic Association), Section VI and the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A., we are committed to preparing for and honoring the contest schedule during these non-school and vacation periods. In addition to these periods, the fall sports season will commence mid to late August. Consequently, all varsity athletes and their families are reminded to try and plan vacations accordingly.

Athletic Participation - Health History Form/Sports Physicals

WARNING: Participation in interscholastic athletics does involve some risks. Physical injury can occur in any type of interscholastic sports activity. By volunteering to participate in a school sponsored interscholastic athletic activity, a student and his/her parents/guardians acknowledge the potential risk for physical injury to occur.

Dunkirk City School District will offer school sponsored athletic physicals once per year. These physicals will occur prior to the start of the Fall sports season (currently on the Thursday prior to the Fall season) and will be valid throughout the entire school year.

Attention is called to "a student may not practice or participate prior to the approval of medical personnel." Should a student compete prior to the exam he/she would be declared an ineligible player and appropriate consequences would be imposed. Furthermore, any practices a student participates in prior to medical approval would not count towards the required number of practices (per NYSPHSAA).

Students/athletes must be medically cleared BEFORE beginning practice each season. The following information summarizes requirements for medical certification.

- Each student-athlete is required to have an up-dated health history form which must be completed during our online registration process.
- The student must pass a physical exam approved by the school district physician prior to participation in practice sessions or participation in any interscholastic sport. Sports physicals may be offered by the

district either at the end of the school year (June) or prior to the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. published starting date for the Fall Sports season. The student is responsible for reporting for the physical examination at the scheduled time. All paperwork is required to be filled out prior to the exam, if not the school physician will not perform a physical exam.

- Attention is called to "a student may not practice or participate prior to the approval of medical personnel." Should a student compete prior to the exam he/she would be declared an ineligible player and appropriate consequences would be imposed. Furthermore, any practices a student participates in prior to medical approval would not count towards the required number of practices (per NYSPHSAA).
- Students having their personal doctor perform the physical examination should submit the approved N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. physician examination form (see Appendix for form) completed and signed by their family physician. *The physical must be approved by our school physician after the personal physician's approval and prior to participation.*
- Physical exams, whether completed by your family physician or school physician, may be scheduled at any time during the school year. The results of the examination shall be valid for qualifying a student's participation for a period of 12 months. The examination is valid through the last day of the month in which the examination was conducted rather than 365 days from the last examination. If the 12-month period for the physical examination expires at the start or during a sport season, participants may conclude the season, as long as a health history update was completed prior to the sport season.
- The athlete is to report all injuries, no matter how minor, to their respective coach/advisor and/or the athletic trainer. coach/advisor are required to report all injuries within 24 hours of the incident and complete an incident report to be filed with the athletic director and school nurse.
- Students/athletes who are injured during a sport season will be asked to be recertified, if the injury causes them to miss one or more day(s) of practice or competition due to the injury.
- If a student-athlete is absent from attendance in school or at practice sessions due to illness for five or more consecutive days, he/she must have the approval of the school physician and a medical release from the attending physician, before participating in a practice, scrimmage or a game. This release must be filed with our school nurse and approved by the school physician.
- If a student-athlete goes to an emergency room for care, he/she must obtain a written release statement from the attending physician before leaving the hospital.

PLEASE NOTE: In ALL cases referenced above, the BOE approved District Physician has final determination of return to practice/competition determinations.

Health exam form is located here: <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/health-exan-form.docx> or at https://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/health_exam_form_2022_fillable.pdf for the fillable online form.

Athletic Participation - Jewelry – added item

The N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. has guidelines concerning wearing of jewelry during athletic competition and practices, the Dunkirk City School District being a member of the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. follows in accordance of this rule.

Athletic Participation – On-line Registration Format

Dunkirk City School District Athletics now uses an online registration/signup process for all of our interscholastic athletic teams. Prospective Students/athletes beginning 30-days prior to the NYSPHSAA established practice starting date for each season need to complete the required registration information.

Students need to complete the entire registration process (which includes medical information) to be eligible for participation. The final step in the process is for the respective school nurse to verify that ALL medical information has been submitted.

Athletic Participation - Mixed Competition

The Dunkirk City School District Athletic Department follows the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. regulations and procedures for instances of mixed competition within the interscholastic athletic program.

Athletic Participation - Placement Process – (Selection Classification Program)

Physical education teachers, coach/advisor, students, or parents/guardians may ask the physical education director and/or athletic director to evaluate a student, using the APP. Students will not be processed through the evaluation procedures without a request from the physical education director and/or athletic director and parent/guardian written permission. It is not the intent to evaluate all modified students, and evaluation should be considered only for those students with the appropriate physical and emotional readiness, and whose athletic abilities are outside of those of their age-related peers.

The Selection/Classification Program is a process for screening students to determine their readiness to compete in interscholastic athletic competition by evaluating their physical maturity, fitness and sport specific skill. The intent of this program is to provide for younger students to safely participate at an appropriate level of competition based upon readiness rather than age and grade.

Normally a student is eligible for Senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons commencing with the student's entry into ninth grade. However, by satisfying the requirements of the Athletic Placement Process/Selection Classification Program, a student may receive extended eligibility to permit:

- Participation during five consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into eighth grade
- Participation during six consecutive seasons in the approved sport after entry into seventh grade

The Selection/Classification Program is designed for mature, exceptionally skilled students to advance to an upper level. It is aimed at the few select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness. Students do not mature at the same rate and there can be a tremendous range of developmental differences between students of the same age. This program has been designed to assess a student's physical maturation, physical fitness and skill, so the student may be placed at a level of competition which should result in increased opportunity, a fairer competitive environment, reduced injury and greater personal satisfaction.

The Selection/Classification Program is not to be used to fill positions on teams, provide additional experience, provide a place for junior high students when no modified program is offered, or to reward a student. It is aimed at the few select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness. It will also be fairer to students on modified teams, if such a team exists.

The Dunkirk City School District Board of Education has approved a resolution allowing seventh and eighth grade students to be eligible to participate in the selection classification process.

Students interested in attempting to selectively classify, after being identified as being a mature and an exceptionally skilled student who could advance to an upper level that is suited to their development and ability, must submit an application to the Director of Athletics by the timeframe indicated elsewhere in this booklet. Information on this program are available from the Director of Athletics.

Selection/Classification Procedures:

- The Athletic Director receives a recommendation for a particular student-athlete to be considered for the selection classification program. The recommendation must come from a coach/advisor or

physical education teacher within the district. An athlete who is recommended to participate in the selection/classification process is typically discovered during physical education, modified sports, open gyms, or off-season play.

- The coach/advisor will then contact the parents/guardians of the student-athlete to explain the program in detail.
- The student-athlete then receives a parent permission form to be signed and returned to the Athletic Director.
- Once the Athletic Director receives the parent permission form, a physical education teacher will administer the battery of physical tests that are required by the program.
- If the athlete successfully completes the fitness tests, the school nurse will be contacted to set a date for the student-athlete to meet with the school doctor. The examination by the doctor will help determine the maturity level of the student-athlete.

The APP evaluation will be scheduled approximately 2-weeks prior to the published NYSPHSAA Fall, Winter and Spring season start dates over a 2-day period for any student making the request.

Please follow the hyperlink below for up-to-date information from NYSED on the Athletic Placement Process (Selection Classification).

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/AthleticPlacementProcess12-11-17FINALRevised.pdf>

Athletic Participation - Physical Education Participation Requirement

Athletics is an outgrowth of the Physical Education Program. Those students demonstrating outstanding skills, attitude and effort are those encouraged to participate in athletics. The wide range of activities in physical education gives the students an excellent background in physical fitness, lifetime sports and team sports.

Because of the importance of physical education per NYSED, all Dunkirk City School District students are required to attain 2-credits in Physical Education to graduate.

The NYSPHSAA regulations state that a student must be enrolled in physical education to participate in athletics.

If the student-athlete does not come prepared for (defined below) and/or does not participate in Physical Education (gym and/or pool classroom), he/she will not be able to participate in either practice or a game on that same day.

Prepared means the following: Is being dressed in the appropriate attire for class which is a shirt, shorts or sweatpants, socks and sneakers. These clothes CAN NOT be the same clothes the student wore to school. In the pool setting the appropriate attire is a swim suit or attire that has been approved by the Physical Education teacher.

Athletes who are illegally absent from or do not participate in physical education classes will not be permitted to attend practices or games/meets/matches on the day of the absence.

Any student-athlete failing physical education will automatically be placed on the academic ineligible list and suspended from participation until the failing grade is corrected to a passing grade.

Athletic Participation - Practice & Game Attendance Requirements

It is important that athletes report for the first day of practice during any season of the year. Some Dunkirk Marauder teams make cuts. From year to year the teams having to make cuts will differ, therefore assume that every team will be going through this process. The try-out process lasts for approximately two-three days. Therefore, missing any of these days will create a situation where an otherwise qualified athlete may not make the team.

Individual coach/advisor establish attendance requirements for team membership and communicate this to athletes and parents within the first three days of practice.

Generally, athletes are expected to attend all practices and contests unless there are circumstances beyond the athlete's control (i.e. illness, injury, death in the immediate family). Absences for other reasons such as conflicts with a job; another sport or musical; or other events chosen by an athlete must be preapproved by the coach/advisor. coach/advisor will review these reasons with the athlete and his/her parents.

All excused absences require a note from the parent to the coach/advisor. It must be understood that any time missed may affect the team chemistry and/or personal conditioning, which may result in adjusted playing time. coach/advisor understand that excused absences do arise, but it is to be noted that the coach/advisor can't control what happens or doesn't happen in a player's absence. Excused absences are not limited to the following and all excused absences are at the discretion of the administration. (reference page #10 – Absence from School)

The N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. and Section VI on a yearly basis determine the starting practice date and required minimum number of practice prior to participation for each respective sport. **No exceptions can be given.**

Each athlete is required to attend all practices and/or contests unless excused by the coach/advisor. An athlete who is injured or ill but still able to attend school is also required to attend practice even though they will not be actively participating. Any student-athlete failing to abide by this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary action could range from a warning, to suspension, to dismissal from the team. Remember, once you have been placed on a team roster, you are making a commitment to that team for the full season. Any student-athlete who considers quitting a team is encouraged to first talk with the respective coach/advisor and communicates his/her concerns and/or reasons for wanting to leave the team.

Athletic Participation - Risk Factor Related to Participating

By the very nature of athletic activity, participants are at risk of physical injury. No matter how careful the athlete and the coach/advisor are, no matter how many precautions are taken, the risk cannot be eliminated. It can be reduced but never eliminated. The risk of injury includes minor injuries such as broken bones, dislocations and muscle strains. The risk also includes catastrophic injuries such as permanent paralysis or even death. It is important everyone understand these risks. Athletes should follow all safety directions from their coach/advisor because rules and regulations have been established to reduce the risk of injury during participation. Athletes must communicate immediately with coach/advisor regarding INJURIES and health issues.

Athletic Participation - Training Rules and Regulations

Each coach/advisor may establish training rules and team guidelines that cannot be above and beyond this document. Training rules and team guidelines must be submitted to the Director of Athletics prior to the beginning of the respective sport season. These rules and guidelines will be clearly explained by the respective coach/advisor prior to the beginning of each sports season during their pre-season team meeting with players and parents/guardians in attendance.

The student-athlete by signing the Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook Agreement agrees to these conditions and realizes that failure to comply with team rules and guidelines may result in limited participation or suspension from the team.

Athletic Participation - Tryouts - Conducted for Teams

A student-athlete MAY NOT be chosen for a team without a tryout when "cuts" or player positioning on teams has taken place.

This includes try-outs which occur prior to the beginning of school in September; over Thanksgiving break; winter holiday recess; President's week and spring recess.

When a student-athlete is injured he/she is still expected to attend practices until ready to participate (When ready, a try-out of the same time period and with a similar assessment will be conducted).

Athletic Program Philosophy – Varsity

Varsity competition is the culmination of each sport's program. Usually, seniors and juniors make up the majority of the roster. At the varsity coach/advisor's discretion, sophomores and freshmen may be included on the team providing that evidence of advanced levels of physical development; athletic skill and appropriate socio-emotional development are demonstrated.

It is possible but very rare for a middle school level student to be included on a varsity roster. The New York State Department of Education process for moving a 7th or 8th grade student up to a high school team is called Selection/Classification. This process has been developed to identify "exceptional athletes" and provide qualified athletes with an opportunity to play at a level commensurate with their ability. (The standard has been established to consider only those athletes who will become a starter on the Junior Varsity level or above). The individual must clearly be an impact player on the team while supporting other team members to play at a higher level reaching their full potential.

Squad size at the varsity level is limited. The number of participants on any given team is a function of those needed to conduct an effective and meaningful practice and to play the contest. It is vital that each team member has a role and is informed of, as well as understands its importance as a specified amount of playing time at the varsity level is never guaranteed.

A sound attitude and advance level of skill are prerequisites for a position on a varsity team, as is the realization that a varsity sport requires a six-day-a-week commitment. This commitment is often extended into vacation periods for all sport seasons. Depending on the sport, contests and practice are scheduled during vacation, on Sunday, and in some cases on holidays. The dedication and commitment needed to conduct a successful varsity program must be taken seriously by all Students/athletes and coach/advisor' efforts need to be supported by parents.

The varsity coach/advisor is the leader of that sports' program and determines the system of instruction and strategy for that program. The communication among the middle school teams, freshman, junior varsity and varsity programs is the responsibility of the varsity coach/advisor.

Athletic Program Philosophy – Junior Varsity

The junior varsity level is intended for those who display the potential of continued development into productive varsity level performers. Although team membership varies according to the structure of each program, 9th and 10th grade students occupy the majority of roster positions. In certain situations, 11th graders are included on a junior varsity roster. Middle school students may participate at this level following district guidelines. The New York State Department of Education process for moving a 7th or 8th grade student up to a high school team is called Selection/Classification. This process has been developed to identify "exceptional athletes" and provide qualified athletes with an opportunity to play at a level commensurate with their ability.

At this level, athletes are expected to have visibly committed themselves to the program, team and continued self-development. To this end, increased emphasis is placed on physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills, elements and strategies of team play, in addition to socio-emotional development. Junior varsity programs work towards achieving a balance between continued team and player development and striving for victory.

The realization that practice sessions are important is a premise that is vital to a successful junior varsity team and player. For all team members, meaningful contest participation will exist over the course of a season; however, a specified amount of playing time is never guaranteed. Participants at this level are preparing themselves for the six-day-a-week commitment that is expected at the varsity level. While contests and practices are rarely held on holidays and Sundays, practice sessions are scheduled during school vacation and commitment is expected at the junior varsity level.

Athletic Program Philosophy – Modified – 7th and 8th Grades

This program is available to all students in the 7th and 8th grades. Sport activities offered are determined by the existence of leagues, student interest and the relationship to the high school program. *At this level, the focus is on learning athletic skills and game rules, fundamentals of team play, socio-emotional growth, physiologically appropriate demands on the adolescent body and healthy competition.* At the middle school level, it is our goal to provide a well-planned and well-balanced program of interscholastic athletics for as many students as possible.

Ultimately, the number of teams and size of the squad in any sport will be determined by student interest and the availability of 1) Financial resources 2) qualified coach/advisor 3) suitable indoor or outdoor facilities 4) a safe environment

In order for the desired development of the adolescent athlete and team to occur, practice sessions are vital. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association publishes regulations by which practice sessions are governed. In order for the desired development of the adolescent athlete and team to occur, practice sessions are vital. Students will be asked to give a six-day-a-week commitment, with practices and contests occasionally scheduled for Saturday and during school vacations.

Vacation/recess practices are not regularly scheduled at the middle school. However, on rare occasions practices are scheduled to insure that students are adequately prepared to participate. These practices are optional and scheduling of vacation/recess practices will be an administrative decision that will be reviewed on an annual basis. Opportunities for meaningful contest participation within the game format (for most sports: 5 period contest format), will exist over the course of a season for Students/athletes who meet their school and team responsibilities. coach/advisor will determine playing time based on a variety of circumstances (abilities, opponents, game situations, practice performances, etc.).

It is possible, but very rare for a middle school level student to be included on a high school (Freshman, JV or Varsity) roster. Criteria that must be met in order to play at an advanced level include parental approval, medical approval, appropriate developmental rating, passing athletic performance test scores, the coach/advisor's skill evaluation and advanced degree of socio-emotional maturity as outlined by the State Education Department Selection/Classification Policy and the Dunkirk City School District's Selection/Classification Policy.

College Bound Students/athletes - NCAA Info. and Clearinghouse

The primary focus of the Dunkirk City School District Interscholastic Athletic program is to teach life-long values, skills, and lessons, not to produce scholarship athletes. A small minority of athletes go on to play at the collegiate level, and even a smaller amount of athletes receive athletic scholarships.

The Athletic Director and coach/advisor will be able to give the athlete an honest evaluation of the appropriate level of play that may be suitable for the athlete. The Athletic Director, Guidance Counselor and/or coach/advisor can also guide the parents and athlete through the recruiting process (NCAA Clearinghouse, college visitations, etc.). However, it is the responsibility of the student/athlete and parents/guardians to register for the NCAA Clearinghouse.

Information Sources:

- Honest Game – Navigating NCAA Eligibility - <https://honestgame.com/>
- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (N.A.I.A.) - <https://www.naia.org/landing/index>
- National Collegiate Athletic Association (N.C.A.A.) - <https://www.ncaa.org/>
- National Junior College Athletic Association (N.J.C.A.A.) - <https://www.njcaa.org/landing/index>

Contact the Athletic Director for additional information/resources.

(Included in the Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook Agreement Statements)

Collegiate Athletic Signings

Athletic signings will take place at 3-designated times during the school year if your child has committed to a school and will be continuing their athletic career at the Collegiate level:

- Fall – November - 2nd Tuesday of the Month
- Winter – February – 2nd Tuesday of the Month
- Spring – April – 2nd Tuesday of the Month

A Collegiate Athletic Signing information sheet (included in the informational section) should be completed and emailed to the Director of Athletics –kjarrell@g.dunkirkcsd.org

You must complete and submit the form to be included in the process.

Concussion Management Policy/Protocol

The Dunkirk City School District will assemble a concussion management team (CMT) for Interscholastic Athletics and for each respective building for non- interscholastic athletic situations (predominately for Physical Education classes). This is in response to the Concussion Management and Awareness Law which goes into effect on July 1st, 2012 and coincides with the release of NYSED – Guidelines for Concussion Management in the School Setting.

Additional information can be found at the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. website <http://nysphsaa.org/safety/>

- The Interscholastic Athletic CMT will consist of the Director of Athletics, either MS or HS nurse, respective sport coach/advisor(s) and the B.O.E. appointed school physician.
- The Building Level CMT will consist of the respective Building Administrator(s), Director of Physical Education, respective school nurse, respective building physical education teachers, athletic trainer and the B.O.E. appointed school physician.

The District's CMT should coordinate training for all administrators, teachers, coach/advisor and parents. Training should be mandatory for all coach/advisor, assistant coach/advisor and unpaid assistant coach/advisor that work with these student athletes regularly. In addition, information related to concussions should also be included at parent meetings or in information provided to parents at the beginning of sports seasons. Parents need to be aware of the school district's policy and how these injuries will ultimately be managed by school officials. Training should include: signs and symptoms of concussions, post-concussion and second impact syndromes, return to play and school protocols, and available area resources for concussion management and treatment. Particular emphasis should be placed on the fact that no athlete/student will be allowed to return to play/participate the day of injury and also that all athletes/students should obtain appropriate medical clearance prior to returning to play or school.

The respective CMT will act as a liaison for any student returning to school and/or play following a concussion. The CMT will review and/or design an appropriate plan for the student while the student is recovering.

*School district CMT's can utilize the NYSPHSAA website as well as www.keepyourheadinthegame.org for information related to the signs and symptoms of concussions and the appropriate return to play protocols. A handout describing the Concussion Management teams is also available on the NYSPHSAA website. A Concussion Management Check List that has been approved and recommended by NYSPHSAA is available on this site.

Concussion Management Protocol

Return to play/participate following a concussion involves a stepwise progression once the individual is symptom free. There are many risks to premature return to play including: a greater risk for a second concussion because of a lower concussion threshold, second impact syndrome (abnormal brain blood flow that can result in death), exacerbation of any current symptoms, and possibly increased risk for additional injury due to alteration in balance. These NYSPHAA current returns to play recommendations are based on the most recent international expert opinion.

Please reference attached materials and/or separate materials at the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. website - <http://nysphsaa.org/safety/>

Sway Concussion Testing

As part of the Dunkirk City School District's commitment to student-athlete safety and compliance with New York State concussion management guidelines, all students participating in interscholastic athletics are required to complete Sway baseline concussion testing once per school year prior to participation.

Sway testing is a mobile, evidence-based balance and cognitive screening tool used to establish an individual student-athlete's baseline functioning. This baseline provides the Concussion Management Team (CMT), athletic trainer, school nurse, and medical providers with valuable comparative data in the event a concussion is suspected during the athletic season.

The following procedures shall apply:

- Annual Requirement: Every student-athlete in grades 7–12 must complete a Sway baseline assessment one time each school year, regardless of sport season or number of sports played.
- Pre-Participation Requirement: Completion of Sway testing is considered part of the district's athletic clearance process and must be completed before the student is eligible for practice, tryouts, or competition.
- Multiple Sport Seasons: Student-athletes who participate in multiple sports during the same school year will not be required to repeat the baseline assessment, unless directed by the athletic trainer, school physician, or Concussion Management Team.
- Post-Injury Use: In the event of a suspected concussion, post-injury Sway assessments may be administered and compared to the student's annual baseline to support medical decision-making and return-to-play progression.
- Administration: Sway testing will be coordinated by the athletic trainer, school nurse, Director of Athletics, or other trained school personnel designated by the district.
- Failure to Complete: Student-athletes who do not complete the required annual Sway baseline testing will be considered ineligible for athletic participation until the requirement is met.

The district reserves the right to require updated baseline testing at any time when deemed necessary by the athletic trainer, school physician, or Concussion Management Team.

Duty to Warn

(Included in the Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook Agreement Statements)

Equipment/Uniforms

At the beginning of each season the coach/advisor will provide athletes with school issued uniforms and equipment. The student-athlete will be responsible for maintaining proper care of equipment. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to return to the coach/advisor all clothing and equipment issued to them during the season. Failure to do so will result in the student-athlete paying for the missing articles.

Students/athletes not paying for the missing or damaged articles will forfeit their right to participate in the next sport season or be eligible for any certificate or letter. If this student is a Senior they will be unable to participate in ANY end-of-the-year graduation activities (including Graduation) and their diploma will be held until the situation is rectified.

It is the athlete's responsibility to return his/her uniform to the coach/advisor. Any athlete leaving a team during the season must turn in his/her uniform at that time. Non-compliance with repeated requests (by coach/advisor) to return uniform parts will be treated as insubordination with the appropriate consequences. Any student not returning district supplied uniform/equipment will not be allowed to tryout for the next sports' season.

The cost to replace single uniforms (which must be purchased new, even if the lost one is used) may be as much as double the cost of uniforms when the District purchases them in a bulk order.

Fees paid for lost/stolen uniforms are used to replace the missing uniform. Checks should be made out to the Dunkirk City School District and submitted to the Dunkirk City School district business office.

To be in compliance with National/State rules and regulations pertaining to equipment/uniforms, any non-school piece of uniform or equipment that is purchased for use by the student-athlete the District *Waiver of Liability* form must be filled out and be on file with the Director of Athletics prior to the item being used by the student-athlete. Any reconditioning, recertifying, etc. of said equipment would be the responsibility of the student-athlete. Proof of such must be on file with the Director of Athletics.

Any student wishing to purchase their uniform (as a keepsake) will be given the name, telephone number, etc. of the vendor to purchase it from. It is then the student's responsibility to complete this transaction.

The District cannot sell school inventory purchased with taxpayer funds.

Characteristics of a Marauder

Beyond the development of athletic skill, team strategy, and competitive spirit, one of the primary goals of interscholastic athletics in the Dunkirk City School District is the development of student-athletes who embody the Characteristics of a Marauder. While competition and performance are important, the greater purpose of athletics is to help students grow into leaders within our school, teams, and community.

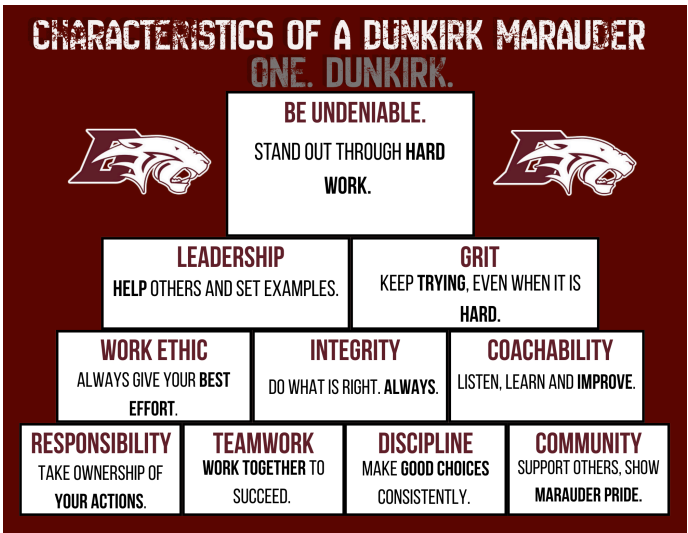
Participation in athletics provides student-athletes with a unique opportunity to develop habits, values, and behaviors that prepare them for success well beyond the playing field. As only a small percentage of high school athletes continue into collegiate athletics, the life lessons gained through participation become the most lasting and meaningful outcomes of the athletic experience.

At Dunkirk, we challenge every student-athlete to live out the following Characteristics of a Marauder in competition, in the classroom, and in the community:

- **Be Undeniable** – Stand out through hard work.
- **Leadership** – Help others and set examples.
- **Grit** – Keep trying, even when it is hard.
- **Work Ethic** – Always give your best effort.
- **Integrity** – Do what is right, always.
- **Coachability** – Listen, learn, and improve.
- **Responsibility** – Take ownership of your actions.
- **Teamwork** – Work together to succeed.
- **Discipline** – Make good choices consistently.
- **Community** – Support others and show Marauder pride.

These characteristics serve as the foundation of the Dunkirk interscholastic athletic experience and define what it means to represent our school with pride. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate these qualities in all areas of participation,

including practices, competitions, academics, leadership opportunities, and interactions with teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and community members.



Community Service Opportunities

Dunkirk Athletics believes that being a student-athlete extends beyond competition. Student-athletes are expected to give back to their community, help grow their sport, and serve as positive role models for younger athletes.

As Dunkirk City School District prepares to align its programs with the New York State Portrait of a Graduate, community engagement will help student-athletes develop the skills and qualities needed for success after graduation. Through service, students practice leadership, responsibility, communication, teamwork, reflection, and civic engagement. These experiences particularly support the development of Global Citizens who act responsibly, serve others, and contribute positively to their school and community.

Community service is intended to help student-athletes understand that representing Dunkirk means being accountable not only to their team, but also to the larger community they represent

Dunkirk student-athletes are expected to give back to the community that supports them and to help strengthen the future of their athletic programs. Each school year, student-athletes must complete the following community service requirement: 10 hours for Varsity athletes, 5 hours for Junior Varsity athletes, and 2 hours for Modified athletes.

Service may include volunteering at youth clinics, camps, leagues, community events, school activities, or other opportunities approved by the Athletic Department. Whenever possible, athletes are encouraged to help grow their sport by teaching, mentoring, and serving as positive role models for younger athletes.

All service hours must be documented and completed within the established annual timeframe. Accommodations or alternative service opportunities may be provided for students with documented hardships or individual needs. Meeting this requirement is part of the responsibility and privilege of representing Dunkirk Athletics.

Harassment/Hazing/Bullying

In the Dunkirk City School District, harassment, hazing or bullying (behavior designed to intimidate another individual) in any form during school, or outside the school day is unacceptable and prohibited. It shall be considered a violation of the student-athlete “Code of Conduct” as well as dangerous, compromising an athlete’s well-being and counter-productive to a team’s positive growth.

Hazing shall be defined as any intentional action; situation created; group conduct or method of intimidation to/by a group (or individual) that is designed to deny (or results in denying) a person her/his rights within the school society or as a member of the team.

This shall also include any action that seriously impacts or compromises an athlete's physical or psychological safety (demeaning by nature), by inflicting mental anguish, physical discomfort/pain severe embarrassment, harassment, hurtful pranks, psychological pressure, intimidation, ridicules or endangering another person, whether in public or private.

This definition shall also include any action or coercion that typically pressures an individual to agree to be involved in a humiliating action/task(s) that suggests the athlete will be more fully accepted into a group/team irrespective of team status or playing time.

It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed in our school or in athletics. It is further understood that Students/athletes have a duty to report any acts of hazing he/she sees or knows of to a coach/advisor or administrator, and participation in or failure to report any hazing will result in a disciplinary review and possible suspension and dismissal from the athletic program.

The Dunkirk City School District Interscholastic Athletic Program teaches respect for all athletes at all times and is overseen by the New York State Dignity For All Students Act which encompasses student discrimination, harassment, and Bullying Prevention and Intervention. The Dignity Act was signed into law on September 13th, 2010 and takes effect on July 1st, 2012.

Insurance Coverage – Athletic Injuries

Medical expenses resulting from any athletic injury must first be submitted to the parents/guardians insurance carrier. Any remaining unpaid balance may then be submitted to the school district's insurance carrier for processing. Claim forms can be obtained from the school insurance office. The school district's insurance provides only supplemental coverage according to a schedule of benefits.

Internet/Social Media Accountability

Students/athletes will be held accountable for their actions displayed through any electronic communication, including but not limited to the following (i.e.: Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, texting, email, voicemail, etc.)

Any verified negative communication will be dealt on a case-by-case basis with consequences ranging from reprimand to potential immediate dismissal from team. These consequences will be made with coordination of the Athletic Director and a school administrator.

Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook Agreement Statements

This agreement statement must be signed by both the student/athlete and parent/guardian prior to the beginning of the sport season. This is attached at the back of this Handbook and references the following:

- Athletic Participation – Attendance Expectations
- Concussion Management Protocol
- Duty to Warn
- Jewelry
- NCAA Clearinghouse
- Release of Data
- School Suspensions
 - In-School Suspension and Out-of-School Suspension
- Transportation Provided by District
- Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook– Parent/Guardian
- Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook – Student/Athlete

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

It is the duty of all concerned with interscholastic 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 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 and death for player, coach/advisor, school, official, fan, community, state or nation.

N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Eligibility Rules (Summary)

A student is eligible to participate:

- If they are a high school student in regular attendance (85% of the school time) in grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 and taking (3) three subjects plus physical education.
- If the age of 19 years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports.
- If their parents and doctor approve.
- If they have not played more than four consecutive sports seasons after first entering grade 9.
- A student in grades 9-12, who transfers, with a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents, shall become eligible after starting regular attendance in the second school.
- A student who participates in any unapproved all-star contest shall be ineligible to compete in interschool athletics in all sports for a period of one year from the date of such participation.
- If they have not played or practiced with a college team.
- If they are an amateur and have never used their athletic skill for gain, (received a payment of any form) and if they have never competed under an assumed name.
- If they are familiar with the rules of the game and the standards of sportsmanship.
- If the student-athlete has the appropriate amount of practices prior to a scrimmage/game.
- Students/athletes must compete in a minimum amount of contests to be eligible for postseason play.
- Students/athletes that represent Dunkirk City Senior High School can only compete in N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. sanctioned interscholastic contests and they are allowed to participate in a maximum amount of contests.
- A student in grade 7th and 8th grade is eligible for Modified competition.
- One is ineligible when the sixteenth birthday is attained; however, if a student attains the sixteenth birthday during a sport season he/she may complete that season.
- Must meet all eligibility requirements that are described earlier on within the handbook. (Attendance, Behavior, Academics etc.)

Outside (non-district sponsored) Participation

The NYSPHSAA allows outside participation (AAU, Travel, Club, etc.). DHS athletes must understand that commitment to the school team comes first, and outside participation should not be detrimental to an individual or to a Dunkirk High School team. There will be many circumstances where a student should not participate in an outside activity due to the possible effect on the team.

The final determination of respective playing time will be made by the respective coach/advisor – information pertaining to this should be included in pre-season information given out/presented by the head coach/advisor of the respective sport.

Pre-Season Meeting Attendance (Athletes and Parents/Guardians)

One of the most important ingredients for a successful sport season is effective, open, and appropriate communication between the coach/advisor, parents and players. In order to ensure this communication takes place, the Director of Athletics will schedule a Fall, Winter and Spring preseason meeting. Topics at the meeting will include athletic department policies, individual team expectations, rules, and many other topics. This meeting should be attended by the athlete, and at least one parent/guardian.

Release of Student Data – FinalForms.com (Electronic Registration Platform)

(Included in the Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook Agreement Statements)

Releasing a Student/Athlete from an Athletic Squad – Tryouts

All students in grades 7-12 who are registered and attend school in one of the district schools may try-out for a team. The potential team member may “try-out” for a team at or above their grade level by stating their intentions to the varsity coach/advisor, as well as “other” appropriate coach/advisor prior to the beginning of the team selection process. Team selection will be based on criteria specific to each sport. At the conclusion of the evaluation period, participants will be informed of their status. The evaluation period will be between a 2-3 day period at the beginning of the season.. Athletes are positioned based on their skills displayed during the try-out sessions, and team needs as well as with a concern for the individual success of the athlete. Movement from level to level, prior to the start or during the season is always possible based on performance.

Students in grade 7-12 who register at one of the schools in the district during a season (depending on when during the season) become eligible for a “try-out” when a clearance has been obtained from the school nurse along with meeting all of the necessary requirements to be eligible to participate in Dunkirk Athletics (Academics, Attendance, Behavior). The try-out opportunity is not guaranteed and shall (with permission of the Director of Athletics in consultation with the coach/advisor) be of the same length, intensity and similar conditions as the original try-out. Only athletes who are of equal talent shall earn a position on the team. The selection process and placement are the responsibility of the coach/advisor(es).

Concerns over the process should be brought directly to the attention of the Director of Athletics (366-9300 x-2083). Assignment decisions are not subject to review unless based on questions related to the process.

At the all levels it may be necessary to make cuts due to the need for workable numbers as well as requiring higher skill and ability levels needed to compete.

1. Prior to a tryout, a coach will provide the Athletic Director with the following:
 - a. The expected number of players that will be rostered on the team.
 - b. A rubric that will be used to assess players during the tryout.
2. At the initial tryout session the Head coach/advisor should do the following:
 - a. Make athletes aware that cuts will be made.
 - b. Explain all areas that will be focused upon during tryouts and what criteria will be used to judge talents. (i.e. – agility, speed, hustle, general attitude, academic performance, etc.) These were examples and are not an all inclusive list – each individual coach/advisor will have their own criteria for making the team.
 - c. Make it perfectly clear to the athlete that they are trying out for this years’ team and this does not guarantee them a spot on next years’ team.

3. Make sure athletes are given ample time and trials for the actual tryout period. Do not make quick decisions during the cut procedure.
4. At the last practice before the cuts are made make sure to thank all of the athletes for trying out.
5. Make sure you use sport specific rationale for cutting an athlete.
6. Any team that will be making cuts, will have individual player meetings with each player trying out.
7. Leave the student/athlete who was cut with something positive and a future goal to work towards.
8. Cutting Senior student/athletes:
 - a. Special care should be taken when dealing with Senior athletes. Especially Senior athletes who have been in our programs for several years. Please adhere to the following guidelines:
 - i. Review the list of all Senior athletes with the Athletic director.
 - ii. If the Senior athlete obviously shows no improvement nor have they fulfilled their off season goals, it is up to the coach/advisor to use his/her discretion in cutting the athlete.
 - iii. Sometimes it's a tough decision as to whether it is beneficial to keep a Senior who may not receive a great deal of playing time. In these situations, the coach/advisor and Athletic director will set up a private meeting for the Senior athlete and the parents to discuss all the athletes' options. At this time the coach/advisor should be prepared to fully discuss the athletes projected role on the team.
9. ANY TEAM NEEDING TO CONDUCT TRYOUTS – coach/advisor are required to evaluate by numerically grading and ranking the student-athlete to form their respective team roster. ALL GRADING/RANKING materials will then be forwarded to the Athletic Director to be used for reference data if/when needed.

In some situations, the choice as to whether or not stay on the team could be left to the athlete. Sometimes it's a tough decision as to whether it is beneficial to keep a student/athlete on the roster who is beginning to become a disruption to team chemistry due to not receiving a great deal of playing time. In these situations, the coach/advisor and Athletic Director will set up a private meeting for the student/athlete and the parents to discuss all the athletes' options. At this time, the coach/advisor should be prepared to fully discuss the athlete's behaviors and projected role on the team in the future.

Reserve Clauses

Any situation not covered by this handbook will be governed by the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. handbook and/or the Section VI handbook, constitution, and/or by-laws.

Building administrators reserve the right to rule on any other infraction not covered by the Dunkirk Marauder Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook that is related to athletic participation or that affects the educational process.

Additional reserve clauses are in the front of the document listed under Reserve Clauses.

Sportsmanship with Parent/Guardian Spectator Code of Behavior/Ethics

The Dunkirk City School District Interscholastic Athletic program is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play at all sports activities. Good sportsmanship is defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The concept of "sportsmanship" must be taught, modeled, expected and reinforced in the classroom and in all competitive activities. Sportsmanship is good citizenship in action.

In the area of athletic competition, a "class" student-athlete does not use profanity or illegal tactics and learns fast that losing is part of the game and that you should be gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always

courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well played game after the contest whether in defeat or victory. Game officials will always be treated with respect and a sense of understanding the critical role they play.

In the belief that good sportsmanship is essential for all Dunkirk City School District Students/athletes, students and spectators, the following guides for conduct are suggested as a means of continuing and strengthening the ties that exist between competing schools. **Cheering for our players is appropriate while yelling at opponents is not appropriate.**

Please remember that this is not a college level contest where the crowd is considered a part of the contest. Do not act as a distraction at a contest as this causes a negative impact on our players, and our school.

Sportsmanship is an integral and vital ingredient of any interscholastic athletic program. The National Federation of High School Athletics, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Section VI, Cattaraugus/Chautauqua County Athletic Association and have targeted the area of sportsmanship for a major emphasis.

We are further committed to the belief that schools participating in interscholastic athletic activities should be held responsible for the conduct of their players, coach/advisor, staff members and spectators. Conduct, which is detrimental to the educational value of athletic activities, could result in appropriate disciplinary action by the school. The Dunkirk City School District has instituted the following policy to ensure the development of and the understanding of the importance of proper sportsmanship and fair play

PARENT-GUARDIAN-SPECTATOR CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian/spectator to:

1. Keep cheering positive. No profanity or degrading language/gestures
2. Avoid actions which offend visiting teams or individual players.
3. Show appreciation of good play by both teams.
4. Learn the rules of the game in order to be a better-informed spectator.
5. Treat all visiting teams and spectators as guests and show respect.
6. Accept the judgment of contest officials and coach/advisor.
7. Encourage all spectators to participate in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
8. Avoid the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to:

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

COACH/ADVISOR CODE OF BEHAVIOR/ETHICS

It is the responsibility of the coach/advisor to:

1. Promote good sportsmanship by setting a positive example while coach/advising.
2. Respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
3. Approach competition as a healthy and constructive exercise, not as a life or death struggle that requires victory at any price.
4. Recognize that the participants in individual or team sports are young men and women with human frailties and limitations, who are capable of making mistakes.
5. Refrain from the use of crude or abusive language with players, opponents, officials or spectators.
6. Instruct the players in the elements of good sportsmanship, and remove players from competition who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior.
7. Avoid behavior that will incite players, opponents or spectators.
8. Avoid and eliminate negative comments to radio, TV and newspaper reporters.
9. Remember that the use, abuse and resulting negative influence of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and performance enhancing supplements is detrimental to the game and its participants.

Any Dunkirk student-athlete and/or coach/advisor who is ejected/disqualified from a contest will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game (depending on circumstance(s) the consequences could be more). The game(s) is to be the next regularly scheduled contest(s) and may be carried over to the next season. Ejection/disqualification incident reports must be submitted to the Athletic Director, the Section VI office and the League Sportsmanship Chairperson. If necessary, a conference between the player, coach/advisor, parent or spectator and the athletic director will take place before the individual(s) is eligible to return.

Any parent/guardian or spectator who is asked to leave by game supervision, administration and/or law enforcement personnel from a contest will be automatically suspended for a minimum of one game (depending on circumstance(s) the consequences could be more). The game(s) is to be the next regularly scheduled contest(s) and may be carried over to the next season. Ejection/disqualification incident reports must be submitted to the Athletic Director, the Section VI office and the League Sportsmanship Chairperson. If necessary, a conference between the player, coach/advisor, parent or spectator and the athletic director will take place before the individual(s) is eligible to return.

Stealing or Vandalism

Stealing or vandalism is a violation of the law, Dunkirk City School District Policy, and the Dunkirk City School District Athletic Policy. Inappropriate actions will be referred to the Athletic Director and Building Principal for disciplinary consequences that could include suspension of athletic privileges, complete restitution of goods stolen or vandalized, a meeting with the student-athlete's respective school counselor and parents, and other consequences. If stealing or vandalism occurs at a school or place where the student is representing the Dunkirk City School District as part of an interscholastic team, the parent and student will visit the school or place and make full restitution. All of the above must be completed before the student-athlete is reinstated.

Student/Athlete Participation Eligibility Requirements

A student shall be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport **commencing with the student's entry into the 9th (ninth) grade** and prior to graduation

(or 5 years for an 8th grader, or 6 years for a 7th grader – per selection/classification procedure). A pupil reaching the age of 19 on or before July 1 shall be able to participate throughout their senior year.

A bona fide student is one who is taking at least four subjects including Physical Education. Further definitions/guidelines are contained in the most current editions of the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. handbook and Section VI policies.

All athletic teams require a minimum number of practices as established by the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A.

Transportation Provided by District

Members of interscholastic teams are expected to be part of the team, traveling to and from scheduled events with the team and under the supervision of the coach/advisor - only team members may ride the bus. coach/advisor will supervise and assume responsibility for these students while traveling with the team.

If district transportation is provided, team members WILL NOT drive to an athletic event individual vehicles and/or have parents transport the student-athlete to an athletic event unless there are special circumstances documented and approved by the Director of Athletics. This must take place a minimum of 24 hrs. prior to scheduled event start time. (the “Release and Waiver of Liability for Provision of Transportation” form must also be submitted)

After the event, athletes may ride home with their parents/guardians by following these procedures:

1. The “Release and Waiver of Liability for Provision of Transportation” form has been submitted to the office of the Director of Athletics for the specific sports season (Fall, Winter or Spring).
2. This form covers the following situations:
 - a. Special circumstances traveling to-and-from an athletic event
 - b. Returning of an athletic contest
3. The Director of Athletics will verify and approve request by affixing his/her signature and date on request then returning a copy to the student-athlete.
4. The Director of Athletics will forward information with seasonal transportation sign-out sheet that parent/guardian must sign prior to the coach/advisor releasing student.
5. The coach/advisor must personally meet the parents/guardians at the time of the request
6. The individual named on the seasonal transportation sheet must be the same individual signing the parental consent form to transport a student in private vehicle.
7. Any concerns, the respective coach/advisor is to call the Director of Athletics immediately for resolution.

For any event, buses will pick-up/drop-off students only at the Senior High School building Athletic entrance (unless otherwise directed by the Athletic Director).

(Included in the Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook Agreement Statements)

Varsity ‘D’ Letters

The Dunkirk Athletic Booster Club oversees the awarding of Varsity letters and pins upon the recommendation of the specific sport coach/advisor.

Any athlete upon earning their first Varsity letter, the athlete will receive their Varsity ‘D’ and sport specific pin. For each additional Varsity letter earned the athlete will receive the appropriate sport specific pin. By earning a varsity letter this also qualifies the student-athlete to apply for membership in the Varsity “D” Club (which is an extracurricular club that all Varsity athletes are eligible to join which promotes the many attributes of being a Varsity athlete @ Dunkirk Senior High School). Athletes participating in subsequent years will earn the appropriate sport pin for each Varsity letter they earn.

The awarding of a Varsity letter is determined upon the recommendation of the specific sport coach/advisor. The Director of Athletics reserves the right to disallow an athlete from earning a Varsity letter if athletic handbook policies have been violated.