

H.B. du Pont Middle School  
**WARRIOR SPORTS**  
❧ **ATHLETICS CODE AND HANDBOOK** ❧





HB du Pont Middle School and the DE Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA)

## ATHLETICS CODE AND HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to preserve and promote the educational significance of interscholastic athletics; promote sportsmanship and ethical behavior; establish and enforce standards of conduct for athletes, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators; and to protect the physical well-being of athletes.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS for PARTICIPATION**

Students who choose to participate on any interscholastic team must comply with the following General Eligibility requirements:

**Enrollment:** Students must be full-time students of HB du Pont Middle School

**Attendance:** Students must be in regular school attendance

**Academics:** Students must be passing at least four (4) courses. Two (2) of those courses must be English and Mathematics.

**Discipline:** Students must not be the recipient of disciplinary action as per the Red Clay Consolidated School District's Code of Conduct.

**Forms:** All necessary forms have been turned in and are on file in the school office, with the team coach, with the AD, or with the school nurse

**Equipment:** Each student must have all necessary equipment.

**Parent and Student Athletics Code Contract:** This contract obligates the student and parent to comply with the rules as set forth in this Activities Code and Handbook. This contract is kept on file in the Activities Director's office and is valid for one (1) school year for HB du Pont Middle School activities.

### **No Student Shall Represent a School in an Interscholastic Scrimmage or Contest if She/he Does Not Meet the Following Requirements:**

(Complete information can be found on the Official DIAA site at  
[http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students\\_family/diaa/default.shtml](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/diaa/default.shtml))

#### **Eligibility, Enrollment and Attendance**

- A student must be legally enrolled in the middle school which he/she represents in order to participate in a practice, scrimmage, or contest.
- A student may not participate in a practice, scrimmage, or contest during the time a suspension, either in school or out of school, is in effect or during the time he/she is assigned to an alternative school for disciplinary reasons.
- A student must be legally in attendance at school in order to participate in a practice, scrimmage, or contest except when excused by proper school authorities in accordance with pre-established written school policy.
- A student who is not legally in attendance at school due to illness or injury shall not be permitted to participate in a practice, scrimmage, or contest on that day.
- A Student who fails to complete a semester or absence for one or more semesters for reasons other than personal illness or injury shall be ineligible for ninety (90) school days from his/her reentry to school.

#### **Eligibility, Passing Work**

- In order to be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics, including practices, a student must pursue a regular course of study or its equivalent as approved by the local governing body, and must be passing at least four (4) courses. Two (2) of those courses must be in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies.



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- A student, who is receiving special education services and is precluded from meeting the aforementioned academic requirements due to modifications in the grading procedure or course of study, shall be adjudged eligible by the principal or headmaster if he/she is making satisfactory progress in accordance with the requirements of his/her individualized education program (IEP).
- A student whose work in any regular marking period does not meet the above standards shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, including practices, for the next marking period.
- Local school boards may establish more stringent requirements for academic eligibility than the minimum standards herein prescribed.
- If a school sponsors a boys' team and a girls' team in a particular sport, boys shall participate on the boys' team and girls shall participate on the girls' team even if the teams compete during different seasons. Sports are considered to be the same when one set of NFHS Rules govern both genders. If a school sponsors only a boys' team in a particular sport, girls shall be permitted to participate on the boys' team but if a school sponsors only a girls' team in a particular sport, boys shall not be permitted to participate on the girls' team.
- All student-athletes will have their grades checked in three-week intervals (three-week check).
- Any student-athlete that receives two (2) or more "Failing" grades during the three-week check will become ineligible from participating in, and dressing for, athletic competitions for at least one calendar week starting the following Monday.
- An athlete who is ineligible has the responsibility of bringing up those grades. As soon as the athlete has brought up the grades he/she will contact the athletic office to have their grades rechecked. If the student is passing at the subsequent checks, their eligibility will be reinstated the following week.
- Athletes will not practice with the team or travel with the team while ineligible.

### Sportsmanship

- Member schools are required to conduct all of their athletic affairs with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship.
- Failure to provide for proper control of spectators at a contest. When the number of spectators is expected to be large in relation to the seating capacity of the facility, uniformed state, county, or local police shall be provided for crowd control. The host school is expected to take reasonable and proper steps to assure crowd control under any foreseeable conditions.
- Harassment of game officials by a coach. Going onto the playing surface to interrupt a contest in protest of a decision by an official; conduct by a coach, team member, or any individual in the official party which invokes a penalty against the team; continued and visible actions by a coach which indicate to the team and to the spectators that the coach believes the game is being improperly officiated; public demonstrations with game officials which indicate to others extreme dissatisfaction with the officiating; and such related actions when exhibited in aggravated form are evidence of poor sportsmanship.
- Failure of a school to use every means at its disposal to impress upon its faculty, student body, team members, coaching staff, and spectators the importance of good sportsmanship before, during, and after athletic contests. The host school is encouraged to read a brief statement concerning sportsmanship prior to the start of each athletic contest.
- Failure of an administrator, athletic director, coach, athlete, official, or spectator to comply with the directions stipulated in the following Code of Interscholastic Athletics:

### The School Administrator and Athletic Director shall:

- Encourage and promote friendly relations and good sportsmanship throughout the school by requiring courtesy and proper decorum at all times, by familiarizing students and others in the community with the ideals of good sportsmanship, and by publicizing these concepts and attitudes so that all members of the school community understand and appreciate their meaning.
- Insist that all participants adhere to the highest standards of good sportsmanship.



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- Develop and implement policies for their interscholastic athletic programs to discourage acts of bullying, hazing, internet posting, and taunting.

### The Coach shall:

- Demonstrate high ideals, good habits, and desirable attitudes in his/her personal and professional behavior and demand the same of his/her players.
- Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.
- Employ accepted educational methods in coaching and give his/her players an opportunity to develop and use initiative, leadership, and judgment.
- Pay close attention to the physical well-being of his/her players, refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving his/her team's chances to win.
- Teach athletes that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly.
- Discourage gambling, profanity, abusive language, and similar violations of the true sportsman's or sportswoman's code.
- Refuse to disparage an opponent, an official, or others associated with interscholastic athletics and discourage gossip and rumors about them.
- Properly supervise the athletes under his/her immediate care.
- Enforce school policies regarding bullying, internet posting, hazing, and taunting.

### The Participant (athletes and cheerleaders) shall:

- Be courteous to the visiting team. Your opponents wish to excel as much as you do. Respect their efforts.
- Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat.
- Be responsible for the perpetuation of interscholastic athletics. Strive to enhance the image of athletics not only as a member of a team but also as a member of your school and community.
- Play hard to the limit of your ability regardless of discouragement. The true athlete does not give up, quarrel, cheat, bet, or grandstand.
- Refrain from participating in or encouraging the acts of bullying, hazing, and taunting.
- Refrain from posting anything about others that could compromise their reputation or relationships with others. This includes: 1) calling people names, 2) insulting individuals based on their race, religion, national origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or any other type of group or stereotype or, 3) creating/posting comments, photos, sites, or pages to demean someone.
- Refrain from posting anything hurtful or inappropriate online, whether in my own name, anonymously, or by using another identity.
- Respect the facilities of the host school and do not violate the trust entailed in being a guest.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials and accept their decisions without complaint.
- Understand and observe the playing rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.

### The Spectator shall:

- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Going onto the playing surface and interrupting a contest.
- Profanity, vulgarity, obscene gestures, abusive language, or derogatory remarks.
- Realize that he/she represents the school just as definitely as does a member of the team, and that he/she has an obligation to be a true sportsman or sportswoman and to encourage through his/her behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
- Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team. The following are some examples of poor sportsmanship which shall not be tolerated:
- Refrain from participating in or encouraging the acts of bullying, internet posting, hazing, and taunting.



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- Refrain from the use of alcohol or other controlled substances.
- Respect the judgment and integrity of the officials, recognizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them.
- Throwing objects.
- Treat visiting teams and officials as guests extending to them every courtesy.

### Ground Rules for Athletic Practice:

- (For students not riding the bus) Parent pick up times are 15 minutes following conclusion of practice. Student-athletes must be picked up within 15 minutes on game day. Student-athletes who are repeatedly not picked up in a timely fashion are subject to disciplinary action.
- Student-athletes must attend all practice sessions unless excused by coach.
- All practices are open with the following guidelines: All practices will be open to parental viewing, however while viewing practice, parents may not assist with instruction.
- At no time are student-athletes to practice unsupervised.

### Disciplinary Consequences:

- Verbal Warning from Coach, Assistant Coach, Administrator, and/or other School Employee
- Suspension from game/practice or multiple games/practices
- Removal from team
  - The following actions will result in removal from the team:
    - Physical altercations between teammates or opponents
    - Posting of anything about others that could compromise their reputation or relationships with others. This includes: 1) calling people names, 2) insulting individuals based on their race, religion, national origin, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or any other type of group or stereotype or, 3) creating/posting comments, photos, sites, or pages to demean someone.
    - Unlawful possession of another's belongings
    - Repeated violations of the dress code
    - Inappropriate locker room behavior.
    - Involvement in bullying and/or harassment during school or team events.
    - Other as determined by Administration



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**STUDENT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_

As a student enrolled in the HB du Pont Middle School, I understand that participation in my school's Athletics Program is a privilege that is granted by the school as long as I comply with the expectations set forth by DIAA, in this Handbook, and the Code of Conduct. I understand that I will be declared ineligible if I violate the expectations for participation. By volunteering to participate in my school's Athletics Program, I pledge to uphold the high standards of our school and team/activity. Furthermore, I pledge that I will take the expectations expressed in this Handbook seriously and will report any violations that I am aware of so that the natural consequences will occur to those who have not upheld the school's standards. By signing this contract, I am indicating that I have received a copy of the Athletics Code and Handbook, that I read the document, that I understand the expectations, and that I agree to abide by all the rules and expectations contained in the Activities Code.

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent/guardian to the student listed above, I am supportive of his/her decision to voluntarily participate in the Athletics Program. I understand that participation is considered a privilege that will be revoked if a student does not comply with the rules and expectations contained in this Handbook and I will abide by the school's decision to enforce the Athletics Code, the Red Clay Consolidated School District's Code of Conduct, and this Handbook. By signing this contract, I am indicating that I have received a copy of the Athletics Code and Handbook, that I read the document, that I understand the expectations, and that I agree to abide by all the rules and expectations set forth by DIAA, in this Handbook, and the Code of Conduct.

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_