

Dewitt High School Soccer Team Rules & Guidelines

Overview:

The following team rules and guidelines apply to boy's and girl's JV and Varsity soccer teams. These rules are filed with the Athletic Office. If you have any questions regarding anything outlined below, please contact one of your team's coaches. Additionally, please refer to the Athletic Handbook/Code of Conduct on the school's athletic website.

Team Expectations:

As a rule, the concept of team means sacrificing personal goals for the goals of the whole. Athletes need to remember that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. The following information pertains to rules and requirements established in the District's Athletic Handbook in conjunction with the soccer coaching staff.

Philosophy:

Work hard throughout the season to learn the game and to compete at the highest level. Athletes have a responsibility to their team and teammates; therefore, they should always support their teammates and continue to "work to improve" their game for the benefit of the entire team. Not every player will play Varsity, but ALL players are essential components to this team and the success of our program.

Academics, Attendance and Practice: ACADEMICS COME FIRST!

1. Attending school and doing well with academics is priority. Athletic success cannot come without academic success.
2. The School District has a minimum academic standard that must be maintained in order to be a participant on our athletic squads. It is expected that the student athlete strives to achieve higher than the minimum standard.
3. Tardiness to school will not be tolerated. You are representing your team. The team needs to be accountable for the importance of fulfilling academics first.
4. Per school rules, athletes must be in school each day in order to participate. If for some reason you are absent on Friday, you will not be able to participate in Saturday games.
5. All players must attend all practices. Unexcused absences will not be tolerated and will result in loss of playing time.
6. Be on time. Players should get to the practice field 10 minutes prior to the start of practice to help set up. This is a great habit for life outside of soccer. Players are expected to be completely ready and begin warm-up when practice time starts.
7. No one leaves the field until everything is put away.
8. Student athletes staying after school to get help from a teacher or taking a test will always be excused from practice. Please notify coach before and bring a note from the assigning teacher.
9. Missing or arriving late for practices may result in some type of punitive conditioning or suspension from the next athletic contest.

Playing Time:

At the JV level, the coaching staff will make every effort to play all the players in most games. All JV players will not play equal amounts of time in every game. We see our JV program as a developmental level. Learning to play and think soccer at the varsity level and develop lasting skills and habits within a

team framework are the long-term goals. Winning at this level is important but secondary to team and player development.

At the Varsity level, we are competing for regular and post-season play (Conference, Cup, Districts & States). Since this is based on your record, winning becomes far more important for the benefit of the team. Therefore, playing time will be based on ability, performance, attitude and the positional needs of the team. Players who have the technical and tactical abilities, athleticism and fitness needed for the Varsity-level competition will receive the majority of playing time. This can be a frustrating situation for Varsity parents because it can change from game to game, as the season progresses, or from season to season as players mature and grow. Playing time will not be based on grade level, age, club name, or parental involvement.

Parents are not allowed to discuss playing time individually with the coaches.

Problem Resolution (per the Athletic Handbook):

Should a problem or concern arise involving a coach and his/her athlete, the following steps should be taken to resolve the matter:

1. The athlete should always meet privately with the coach first.
2. If the athlete and coach cannot resolve the issue at hand, then the parent/guardian and athlete should meet with the coach privately.
3. If the athlete, coach and the athlete's parent/guardian cannot resolve the issue, then all parties shall meet with the athletic director. The athletic director will arrange this meeting after contact is made by the parent/guardian to request the conference. It is very difficult to accept a child's not playing as much as hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students and the team.

The following are appropriate issues to discuss with a coach:

- a. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- b. Ways to help your child improve
- c. Concerns about your child's behavior
- d. While there are certain things that can and should be discussed with your child's coach, there are other things which must be left to the discretion of the coach. These issues include:
 1. Playing time
 2. Strategy
 3. Play calling
 4. Other student athletes
- e. If a parent/guardian has a concern to discuss with a coach, follow this procedure:
 1. Call and arrange an appointment with the coach (and athlete at high school only).
 2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director, who will schedule the meeting.
- f. What can a parent/guardian do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution?
 1. Call the Athletic Director's Office to schedule an appointment with the athletic director, coach, (and athlete at high school only) to discuss the situation.
 2. Determine the appropriate next step.

Positions:

Positions will be based fully on the needs of the team as determined by the coaching staff. It will not be based on the position a player plays on their club team, or the desire of players or parents. TEAM NEEDS always trump PERSONAL WANTS!

Game Day Expectations:

- There will be no food or devices on the bench. There are a few exceptions which will be clearly defined by the coaches. This also applies to training.
- Players need to be focused on the game, their teammates, and their coaches. Outside distractions, such as crowd coaches, cell phones, ipods, or other electronics will not be tolerated.
- For away games, all players must ride the bus to and from the game. After the game, players may ride home with their parents if a travel release form has been completed. Travel release forms should be infrequent and must be signed each game by the Athletic Director.
- If an incident occurs before, during or after a match, wait 24 hours to contact the coaching staff.
* Chain of Communication and Chain of Command – See Athletic website.
- For home games, players are expected to assist with set up and clean up of the fields.
- For home games, Varsity players should be at the game for the first half of JV. JV players should be at Varsity games for the entire first half. Additionally, JV will provide at least two ball boys/girls per half of the Varsity game.

Cards:

The coaches have played and understand that cards many times come as a result of playing hard and not necessarily “dirty.” However, all cards are subject to discipline at practice. We do not tolerate players receiving a card for dissent or dirty play. Therefore, playing time can be affected. An accumulation of yellow cards or a red card may result in loss of playing time.

Additional Player Responsibilities and Expectations:

- Injuries should be addressed immediately! Notify the coaches of any injury that you have sustained. If injured, you MUST go to the trainer every day for therapy.
- Players are always required to show respect toward the coaching staff, fellow players, parents, referees, teachers and all other school administrators. Conduct on and off the field should be in such a manner as to be a positive representation of the team and the school.
- Players are required to maintain their equipment in an orderly fashion: clean uniforms, warm-ups, etc. Any items lost by the athlete will need to be replaced at the athlete’s expense.
- Comments made by the coaching staff or by team members, which pertain to the team, should not be topics of discussion outside the squad. Too often information can be misunderstood or taken out of context, which can lead to unnecessary conflicts.
- Each player is encouraged to talk to the coaches about any existing problems or questions. Issues cannot be resolved if they’re not addressed and discussed.
- MAKE SMART CHOICES: The choices you make affect your teammates! You are expected to give 100% during every practice. Going above what you feel you can give is the only way of building a successful program.
- All players must have a physical on file with the school prior to tryouts. Physicals should be turned into the school prior to tryouts and not to the coach or school on the day of tryouts.
- All players are expected to pay their sports fee prior to the first competition. Waivers are available for students with Free and Reduced lunch and Foreign Exchange students. Additional

hardship waivers may be requested through the Athletic Office. Please see the athletic website for additional details.

Postseason:

A minimum of 3 team awards will be presented at the Varsity banquet.

MHSAA Offseason Requirements:

- Offseason workouts are not required but are encouraged. The coaches or team managers will provide information related to offseason workouts.
- Coaches are limited to 4 player workouts during the offseason of the school year and during the downtime period.
- Once practicing with the team, a student-athlete may NOT participate in competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same season.
- The MHSAA prohibits coaches from interacting in athletic settings with students of their school districts in grades 7-12 during the seven consecutive summer days of each district's choosing. DeWitt has chosen to include July 4th with the dates depending on the year.
- Preseason Down Time is a period of pause in action prior to the season. Restrictions include:
 - NO open gyms which involve soccer
 - NO sport-specific camps or clinics (whether they occur at the school or sponsored by the school but conducted elsewhere)
 - NO competitions between groups that resemble school teams
 - Allowed: 4-player workouts, weight training, and non-sport specific conditioning
 - Boys dates are August 1st to start of practice. Girls dates are March 1st to start of practice.

****It is impossible to cover every scenario or situation that can occur but when they do, we will handle them in a fair and expedient manner.**