



Dallas Parochial League

# Handbook

(revised December, 2012)

**Dallas Parochial League  
Handbook**

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# Dallas Parochial League

## Sports Offered

During each school year, the following sports will be offered. For more specific details of each sport, please refer to the appropriate section found later in the handbook. Please note that these descriptions are guidelines only and are subject to change based on participation. Each sport requires member schools to register teams and participants for purposes of league scheduling and tracking. All specific deadline dates will be communicated to athletic directors as they are determined.

**8th grade All Star games will be offered for volleyball, football and basketball.**

### **Baseball:**

Team Sport  
4 divisions based on grade and skill

### **Basketball**

Team Sport  
16 divisions based on grade, gender, and skill

### **Cross Country:**

Individual/Team Sport  
4 divisions based on grade and gender

### **Football:**

Team Sport  
Tackle (11 vs. 11)  
3 leagues based on grade, if numbers warrant

### **Golf:**

Individual/Team Sport  
Four person scramble  
1 tournament per year typically in early June

### **Soccer (tournament):**

Varsity Coed (7th and 8th grade only) Team Sport  
1 tournament per year typically in May

### **Soccer (league):**

JV and Varsity Coed Team Sport

### **Softball:**

Team Sport  
4 divisions based on grade and skill

### **Swimming:**

Individual/Team Sport  
4 divisions based on grade and gender

### **Tennis:**

Individual/Team Sport  
4 divisions based on grade and gender  
Singles and Doubles

### **Track & Field:**

Individual/Team Sport  
4 divisions based on grade and gender

### **Volleyball:**

Team Sport  
9 leagues based on grade, skill, and gender

**THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF DALLAS  
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION  
SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

**Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas Elementary Principals Association to offer during the course of the school year to qualified diocesan students opportunities to participate in interscholastic athletic programs.

**Statement of Policies**

**1. General**

- a) The interscholastic athletic programs offered by the Catholic Diocese of Dallas Elementary Principals Association (hereafter ‘EPA’) shall be known as the Dallas Parochial League (hereafter ‘DPL’).
- b) Schools eligible to participate in the DPL (hereafter ‘member school’) shall be limited to the elementary schools of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas **and the Parish Episcopal School.**
- c) The DPL’s primary objective shall be to facilitate interscholastic participation in the athletic programs that it offers and to define the rules of participation for each program.
- d) The EPA encourages each member school to offer athletic programs which increase personal enthusiasm and confidence, teach the concepts of sportsmanship and group interaction and provide a setting in which each student may seek to achieve his or her current athletic potential. However, it shall be the exclusive responsibility of each member school to define the mission statement and policies of the member school’s athletic program.
- e) The persons assigned by the DPL Athletic Director to officiate and or judge interscholastic competition shall be responsible for the implementation of the DPL rules of participation and the decisions made by such persons shall be final and shall not be a permissible subject for School Grievance.
- f) Only the Principal of a member school may submit a grievance with respect to the appropriate implementation/interpretation of this Mission Statement and Statement of Policies.

**2. Qualified Diocesan Students**

- a) A student shall be deemed eligible to participate in the DPL if the student:
  - i) Is under the age of 15 on September 1 of the current school year
  - ii) Is under the age of 13 on September 1 of the current school year in order to be eligible to play at the Junior Varsity (5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> grade ) level.
  - iii) Is a student of a member school
  - iv) Meets the eligibility requirements of the member school attended
  - v) Meets the eligibility requirements of the specific athletic program as defined by the DPL Executive Committee

**3. Athletic Program Leadership**

- a) The leadership responsibility and the roles to be assumed for the athletic programs of the DPL shall be vested as follows:
  - i) **EPA** - The roles to be assumed by the EPA:
    - a) Adopting, reviewing and revising this Mission Statement and Statement of Policies as circumstances warrant.
    - b) Electing, removing and replacing the members of the DPL Executive Committee.
    - c) Hiring, offering annual renewal, training, monitoring and reviewing the performance of, and providing counsel to the DPL Athletic Director to insure that the duties of the position are performed in a manner that is consistent with this Statement of Policies and taking appropriate action, including termination, to

address the performance of the DPL Athletic Director that is inconsistent with this Statement of Policies.

**ii) DPL Executive Committee**

- a) The DPL Executive Committee shall be composed of the following **nine** ten (10) positions:
  - (1) Director of Catholic Schools or designee
  - (2) DPL Athletic Director
  - (3) **Two** **Three** Principals from member schools, preferably representing one large, **one medium** and one small school.
  - (4) One athletic director from a member school.
  - (5) Two coaches from member schools.
  - (6) Two parents from member schools
- b) With regard to the positions described in Paragraphs 3(a)(ii)(a)(3,4,5&6):
  - (1) Each position shall be filled pursuant to election by the EPA
  - (2) The term of each position shall be for two years
  - (3) No member school may have more than one person serving among the positions at the same time.
  - (4) No person may serve in a position for more than two (2) consecutive terms
  - (5) The election of new members shall be based on recommendations made by the DPL Executive Committee to the EPA for final approval.
- c) The DPL Executive Committee shall meet at least four times each school year
- d) The DPL Executive Committee, at its first meeting of the school year, shall elect a Chairperson to serve a one-year term. Any of the Committee's **nine** (8) members shall be eligible to be elected Chairperson.
- e) The roles to be assumed by the DPL Executive Committee:
  - (1) Approving and monitoring the implementation of an annual budget
  - (2) Approving written procedures concerning rules of play
  - (3) Approving fees for each program
  - (4) School Grievance disposition including:
    - (a) Evaluation of School Grievances and identification for consideration those presenting issues having a significant impact on the programs of the DPL
    - (b) Interpretation and application of this Statement of Policies to School Grievances found to present issues having a significant impact on the programs of the DPL
    - (c) Issuance of final determinations with respect to the issues raised by the School Grievance.
  - (5) Statement of Policies review including:
    - (a) Receipt and evaluation of recommendations for the expansion or modification of this Statement of Policies as presented by the DPL Athletic Director or a majority of the members of the DPL Advisory Council
    - (b) Recommendation to the Director of Catholic Schools/EPA for review and revision those recommendations for the expansion or modification of this Statement of Policies found to merit consideration.

**iii) DPL Athletic Director** -The roles to be assumed by the DPL Athletic Director:

- a) Developing, implementing and publicizing the annual DPL Athletic Calendar
- b) Developing and implementing procedures for the processing of team entries and entry fees

- c) Developing schedules for all programs and coordinating the availability of suitable facilities.
  - d) Developing and recommending an annual budget for DPL Executive Committee review and final determination.
  - e) Developing and recommending entry fees for each program
  - f) Developing and recommending written procedures concerning rules of play for DPL Executive Committee review and final adoption.
  - g) Overseeing the day-to-day implementation of this Statement of Policies, including but not limited to:
    - (1) Serving as DPL liaison for all league affairs
    - (2) Publicizing each program
    - (3) Conducting the Athletic Directors and coaches meetings
    - (4) Coordinating the recruitment of qualified persons to serve as officials, scorekeepers, judges and other event personnel through the defining of performance expectations and addressing conduct appearing to be inconsistent with this Statement of Policies.
    - (5) Developing, maintaining, and implementing adequate systems to properly account for all expenditures made, revenues received, and equipment purchased.
    - (6) Directing issues concerning the athletic programs of DPL to the DPL Executive Committee for investigation, Statement of Policies interpretation and application, and resolution recommendation.
    - (7) Processing School Grievances including:
      - (a) Receiving, investigating, and (where appropriate) informally resolving a School Grievance consistent with this Statement of Policies
      - (b) Reporting the substance of each informal resolution to the DPL Executive Committee
      - (c) Forwarding each School Grievance not informally resolved to the DPL Executive Committee for further disposition
      - (d) Removing part-time or volunteer coaches from their duties when necessary
- iv) **DPL Advisory Council**
- a) The DPL Advisory Council shall consist of the individual Athletic Director or designee from each school.
  - b) The DPL Advisory Council shall meet at least three times per year. The DPL Athletic Director shall schedule and publicize the meetings throughout the year.
  - c) One of the roles to be assumed by the DPL Advisory Council shall be to reach a majority consensus as to positive, constructive recommendations concerning program enhancement, formats or rules. This includes reviewing the Statement of Policies for possible expansion/modification and report such in writing to the DPL Athletic Director for review and consideration
- v) **Principal** -The roles to be assumed by the Principal of each member school:
- a) Developing and implementing an Athletics Mission Statement and Statement of Policies that are not inconsistent with the Mission Statement and Statement of Policies of the DPL.
  - b) Appointing and overseeing those persons responsible for the implementation of the school's Athletics Mission Statement and Statement of Policies including but not limited to, members of the school's School Board, Athletic Committee, Athletic Director, DPL Advisory Council representative and Coaches.

- c) Establishing procedures for the review of issues arising from the school's participation in the DPL.
- d) Approving and submitting School Grievances to the DPL Athletic Director for investigation and resolution.

### **CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION**

This is to certify that the foregoing *Catholic Diocese of Dallas Elementary Principals Association Elementary School Athletics Mission Statement and Statement of Policies* was adopted and approved by the Elementary Principals Association. This Mission Statement and Statement of Policies shall amend and completely supercede any and all prior versions of The Dallas Parochial League Constitution and any policies or procedures adopted there under.

Signed this 16th day of October, 2006.

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President  
Catholic Diocese Of Dallas Elementary Principals Association

Most recent Revision: February 8, 2006  
Verbiage to include Parish Episcopal as member school (1b)



# Dallas Parochial League

## Member Eligibility

### School Eligibility

#### **Catholic School-Member of Diocese of Dallas and the EPA**

Any Catholic school which is a member of the Diocese of Dallas as well as their principal a member of the EPA may participate annually in the DPL provided that it pays its' assessment (dues).

#### **Cistercian**

Cistercian is not a member of the Dallas Parochial League but does have the ability to join if desired as determined by the EPA.

#### **Catholic School-Non-member of Diocese of Dallas and the EPA**

Schools falling under this designation are not permitted to play in the Dallas Parochial League.

#### **Non-Catholic Schools**

Christian faith-based schools may make formal applications for membership to the DPL for consideration. Membership is only granted upon completion of a successful application process as determined ultimately by the EPA. Currently, Parish Episcopal School is the only non-Catholic school in the Dallas Parochial League.

### Student Eligibility

\*Students must be in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade at a member school in good standing to be eligible for participation.

\*In any given school year, students who turn 13 prior to September 1 may not play on a Junior Varsity level team.

\*In any given school year, students who turn 15 prior to September 1 may not play in the DPL.

\*Students must be in good standing in both academics and conduct as judged by the administration of their school of attendance.

\*Students must be in good standing with regard to past sportsmanship as judged by the DPL.

\*Students must play on a team at the school they attend provided one is offered at their age and gender level. Students may play on a team at another member school if none is offered in their age/gender level at their school of attendance.

\*Students are permitted to "play up" in regard to grade level, but they may not "play down".

\*Students that transfer from one member school to another during a given sport's season will be required to sit out the remainder of that sport season.

\*Students that transfer to a member school from a non-member school during a sport's season will fall under that particular sport's roster rules. Please see Roster Section of DPL Handbook.

## **Team Eligibility**

\*Teams will be deemed eligible provided that all players are meeting the eligibility criteria as stated in the Student-Player eligibility section above.

\*Teams are required to have accurate, completed team rosters on file with the league office prior to any contest. Failure to meet this standard could place the team in danger of forfeiting based on the discretion of the DPL Athletic Director.

## **Coach Eligibility**

\*Schools select coaches to represent their teams. It is the school's responsibility to insure that the coach has completed all necessary Safe Environment training required by the school. By listing the coach on any required DPL forms and allowing the coach to act as its agent, the school is acknowledging and representing that the coach is considered eligible at the school level.

\*Coaches must also meet the certification standard as set forth by the DPL. The standard currently required is successful completion of Notre Dame's Play like a Champion: Coaching as Ministry Coaches' certification. For more information on this certification, please see the appropriate Coaches' Training section of the DPL Handbook.

\*Should a coach violate school rules, it will be considered a school matter and the school will determine the consequences for the coach. Should a coach violate league rules, it will be considered a league matter and the DPL athletic director will determine the consequences using the DPL Disciplinary Guidelines (found in this Handbook) as its' primary guide. A given sport's disciplinary rules (if applicable) will also be used in helping determine appropriate consequences.

\*Violations may render coaches as subject to losing their privilege to coach, and may also require re-certification in the PLC program, or other applicable training program based on the discretion of the DPL.

## **Spectator Eligibility (Fans)**

\*Please see the Spectators' Code of Conduct found in this Handbook. This will be used as a primary basis, along with the DPL Disciplinary Guidelines (also found in the Handbook) when determining consequences for spectators that fail to meet minimum acceptable standards for behavior at school and league event.

\*Attendance at youth sporting events is a privilege, not a right. This privilege can be revoked if a spectators' past or present behavior gives the facility supervisor, the school, officials, or the DPL sufficient cause for concern in regard to safety or ability to continue a given contest without unnecessary interference or interruption from the spectator in question. Failure to adhere to consequences imposed by any of the aforementioned parties may result in the spectators' future attendance being jeopardized and the team forfeiting the contest(s) involved.

## **Officials' Eligibility:**

\*The Dallas Parochial League will assign and oversee the officials that moderate league games. The DPL will rely on both positive and negative feedback from athletic directors and coaches to help it make the best decisions possible when assigning officials. Special attention should be given to punctuality, appearance, attitude, professionalism, and hustle (positioning).

# Dallas Parochial League Structural Philosophy

The following will help understand the procedures and philosophies employed by the DPL and its member schools in the assignment of players with regard to teams and playing time. It should also help in understanding the procedures and philosophies employed by the DPL and its' member schools in the assignment of teams with regard to scheduling, divisional placement (skill), and facility site selection.

## Student-Athletes:

### Team Placement:

\*All students that desire to participate in any sport will be given the opportunity provided they are deemed eligible and physically capable.

\*Member school personnel will determine team assignment for its players within guidelines for each sport as set forth by the DPL. Member schools are free to exercise fair evaluation tools that are best suited for their situation and community.

\*Students that indicate a desire to play a given sport are fully expected to honor that commitment regardless of their eventual team assignment. Each member school has discretion of possible consequences for those that do not fulfill their initial commitment.

### Playing Time:

\*Each sport's guidelines will have rules and recommendations for playing time. These rules and guidelines may vary from sport to sport depending on the nature of the activity.

\*The general philosophy employed for playing time standards will be consistent with that found in Notre Dame's PLC training workbooks. Essentially, it is as follows:

### Recommendation:

A minimum of 50% playing time for 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> graders

A minimum of 25% playing time for 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

This principle should be applied over the course of a season given that situations vary from game to game. Some sports/age groups have mandatory minimums while others have strongly suggested minimums. The general philosophy follows two tenets:

- (1) As a Catholic, Christian league, every effort should be made to see that playing time is given adequately and fairly.
- (2) From a high school preparatory standpoint, it is important to employ a stair-step approach as follows:
  - \*5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> Grades: Guaranteed to be on a team with DPL required playtime
  - \*7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grades: Guaranteed to be on a team with DPL suggested playtime
  - \*High School: No guarantees

# Teams & Leagues

## Grade Based Leagues:

Our leagues (both participation based and skill based) are all grade based. They are not age based. There are, however; age limits which can be found in the Eligibility section of the Handbook.

Players may play with older grades, but are not permitted to play with younger grades, except under special exceptions as found in specific sports' guidelines, such as baseball and softball.

## League Formation:

Each sport may have a variety of leagues based on gender, grade, skill, etc. The DPL athletic director and school athletic directors determine which leagues are to be offered each year. These are reviewed annually at the final athletic directors' meeting of each school year.

Due to the nature of the league (schools do not register teams until a few weeks prior to each sport's season), participation levels may warrant adjustments to the league offerings so as to allow for more fair competition throughout the season. In these cases, the DPL athletic director will make adjustments as deemed appropriate.

## Participation Based Leagues:

In 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade general leagues (i.e. not split into skill based divisions), schools must split their teams as evenly as possible in regard to skill. Should a school's division of teams not reflect a reasonable equality; the DPL will investigate the circumstances and possibly require adjustments.

Coaches are to be assigned after teams are formed at schools with multiple teams within a given participation based general league. The quality of a coach can greatly impact the perceived equality of splits. Athletic directors need to take this into account when dividing teams and assigning coaches.

Athletic directors may or may not allow coaches to take part in the team assignment process. It is strictly the athletic director's decision given that it is their responsibility to uphold league policies in this and all other areas.

## Skill Based Leagues:

In sports with larger numbers of teams participating, skill based divisions will be employed to help produce the best atmosphere for kids to play and compete with others of comparable skill level. In all skill based leagues, each school's athletic director has the preliminary responsibility of selecting the division that they feel best suits their team's ability level.

Every school is allowed and entitled to field the best team possible for a given grade in a skill based league, however; all other teams must be properly placed as well. This could result in more than one team in a given division from a given school. However, once past the best team, all subsequent teams that will be placed in the same division must be split evenly.

Please note the following examples for placing teams initially into divisions. Please note that correct initial placement procedure is not meant to be confused with a team being correctly placed based on skill. Only time and games will help to determine that.

## Examples:

### **Correct Initial Placement Procedure:**

St. Elsewhere School has 4 Varsity Volleyball teams  
Best team is placed Varsity D1  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams are deemed D2 level.....these must be split evenly  
4<sup>th</sup> team is placed in D3

### **Correct Initial Placement 2 Procedure:**

St. Elsewhere School has 3 Varsity Volleyball teams  
Best team is placed in D1  
2<sup>nd</sup> team is deemed D1 caliber and is also placed in D1  
3<sup>rd</sup> team is placed in D3.

### **Incorrect Initial Placement Procedure:**

St Elsewhere School has 3 Varsity Volleyball teams  
Best team placed in D1  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams placed in D2 but not split evenly.

Once teams have been placed by their schools, schedules will be created for all teams. At this point, all schools are obligated to pay the full team entry fee regardless of whether they finish the season or not.

Skill-based leagues are designed to allow the best opportunity for students to play at a comparable level with their peers, however; the system is a subjective one which can be subject to errors through misplacement. Given that, the DPL employs a mechanism for balancing and correcting errors should they occur. Annually, the athletic directors from the DPL member schools have voted this system to be more kid-friendly than an enrollment based system which would automatically assign divisions irregardless of ability of a given class. The result would be a much greater degree of mismatches, which is very unfavorable for all.

Please read the DPL Re-Alignment Procedures for a better understanding of the team adjustment process.

# Games:

## Scheduling:

Scheduling will be designed to offer as many games as possible for each team with older teams sometimes getting more games than younger teams. Entry fees will be commensurate with volume of scheduling.

The scheduling of games is also affected by a school's geography and facilities. For example, a school that does not have a gym will play its home games at nearby member school gyms. Additionally, when enough teams are entered into any given league, divisions may be split by geography in an effort to reduce travel.

## Beginning:

All games, regardless of sport, are expected to start at the scheduled start time. In other words, start time is forfeit time. However, if a team is not able to field the legal minimum number of players at start time, but knows that it will be able to do so shortly thereafter, it is to inform the facility director, scorekeepers, officials, and opponents of this fact immediately.

In this situation, the Christian obligation and DPL expectation for each party is as follows:

**Opponent** - Other team has players arrive a few minutes late..... Play a legal game based on facility director's decision (see below). Other team has remaining players arrive considerably late, or not at all.....accept a forfeit and play a practice game.

**Facility Director / Scorekeepers** - Allow the court to be used for a real or practice game depending on the results as per the situations outlined above. In the event of a real game, the facility director (or scorekeepers in their absence) may reduce the game time so as to accommodate the gym's schedule. It is not fair to place all other games behind schedule due to no fault of their own.

**Officials** - Officials are required to officiate any game that is to be considered a legal game. Officials may stay to officiate scrimmage games at their own discretion.

## Re-Scheduling Games:

Only athletic directors and principals may request re-scheduling. **All school and church conflicts should be researched and handed in before the scheduling process begins to ensure that these conflicts are avoided during the season. League games may be requested for re-scheduling for the following reasons: church and school functions, poor weather, facility problems, scheduling and/or registration errors.**

Each re-schedule request will be considered individually. Common requests for re-schedule which are typically denied involve conflicts with outside leagues and social events. In the event that a game is requested for re-scheduling due to human error in the registration process, the convenience and wishes of the opponent will be heavily weighed. The requestor may also be obligated to incur financial responsibility for the game (officials and possibly facility fees) should its' opponent agree to re-schedule.

# Dallas Parochial League Re-Alignment Procedures

The Dallas Parochial League reviews policies and procedures annually with its' school athletic directors. One of the annual topics is team placement and league structure. To date, the athletic directors have overwhelmingly voted to have a subjective system which allows discretion in divisional placement vs. an enrollment based system. This sentiment has prevailed due to the desire to allow less talented teams at big schools an opportunity to play similar competition, and more talented teams at small schools the same opportunity. An enrollment based system would negate this flexibility.

Subjectivity is more user friendly, but also potentially subject to more dispute. The athletic directors have provided for a system that allows the school to make the choice on the front end, and then the league office to make corrections as deemed necessary. This system ultimately gives more kids the ability to play similar competition, however; it places a large burden on the school athletic director to make proper placements. The school athletic directors recognize that they are naturally biased toward their own schools, and consequently; rely on the league office to make unbiased corrections based on professional judgment. These corrections, if necessary, are handled as follows:

## **League Structure:**

The DPL Office will determine league structure in each sport after all registration data has been received for that sport. Leagues & Divisions will be divided in the best interest of the entire league, not an individual school or team. These decisions will be based primarily on participation levels.

## **Pre-Season:**

The league office may strongly recommend, but not mandate, a move to a team(s) for reasons of possible misplacement. This applies to perceived talent level and ability of the team(s) in question to compete at a different level than placed. The school athletic director has the final decision at this time. The burden is on the school athletic director at this time. When in doubt, play up.

## **In-Season:**

The league office will conduct an in-season evaluation to determine possible misplacements and subsequent moves. All mid-season moves must be such that teams from different divisions may switch places with each other, and thus; each inherit the other's remaining schedule. Single team moves will not be made in-season as the resulting schedule adjustments are too numerous.

## **Post –Season:**

Should a team be moved up or down after the season to another divisional tournament, the procedure will be as follows. A team moving up will become the lowest seed in that tournament. This will add one team to the bracket as no teams will be displaced in the process. Teams moving down for the playoffs will be assigned a seed at the DPL office's best discretion. Again, no teams will be displaced in the process.

# **DPL Sportsmanship Code For Coaches**

**\*This code is to be considered supplemental to each school's expectation for conduct of its volunteers and agents.**

- **Interscholastic competition exists for students to foster sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork; coaches should set the example of good sportsmanship.**
- **Coaches must complete all requirements for coaching as set forth by its' school and the DPL.**
- **Coaches are to comply with all school and league rules and directives.**
- **Every child is equally important. Coaches must make every effort to insure that players receive a fair amount of playing time.**
- **Coaches should always conduct themselves as an example of Christian behavior, both at the field/court and away from it.**
- **Coaches should be supportive and encouraging in everything they do and say; they should never assault others verbally or in writing.**
- **Coaches should address concerns to officials in a calm manner during dead ball situations.**
- **Coaches should address their players in a manner consistent with how a reasonable person would expect their own children to be addressed. A coach is never to address a player from another team unless in a sincere congratulatory or helpful tone.**
- **Remember to do all for the glory of God.**
- **Conduct which falls outside that listed at practice is subject to disciplinary measures from the school.**
- **Conduct which falls outside that listed at a game is subject to disciplinary measures from the DPL.**



# **DPL Sportsmanship Code**

## **For Parents, Students and Spectators**

**\*This code is to be considered supplemental to each school's expectation for conduct of its community.**

- **Interscholastic competition exists for students to foster sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork; fans should set the example of good sportsmanship.**
- **Every child is equally important.**
- **Fans should always conduct themselves as an example of Christian behavior.**
- **Fans should support and encourage in everything they do and say; they should never verbally assault others.**
- **The only people who talk to officials during a competition are the coaches or administrators, not fans or parents.**
- **The only people who talk to coaches during a competition are the other coaches, officials or student participants, never parents or fans.**
- **The only people who talk to players during a competition are the coaches, officials or student participants, never parents or fans.**
- **Understand and follow the distinctions: the coach's role is to coach, the officials' role is to officiate, the player's role is to respectfully participate; the fan's role is to support.**
- **Remember that coaches and officials are human.**
- **Remember to do all for the glory of God.**
- **Conduct which falls outside that listed at practice is subject to disciplinary measures from the school.**
- **Conduct which falls outside that listed at a game is subject to disciplinary measures from the DPL.**

# **DPL Sportsmanship Code For Players**

**\*This code is to be considered supplemental to each school's expectation for conduct of its students.**

- **Interscholastic competition exists for students to foster sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork; students should set the example of good sportsmanship as set forth by their parents, guardians, and coaches.**
- **Students should stay physically fit so as to do be able to do their best in all situations.**
- **Student should make every effort to attend all practices and give 100%.**
- **Students should maintain their eligibility by successfully completing all of their required coursework. Students must remember their priorities: (1) God, (2) family, (3) academics and (4) extra-curricular activities.**
- **Students are to comply with all school and league rules and directives as given by their coaches and teachers.**
- **Every player is equally important to a team. Players should positively encourage all teammates to do their best.**
- **Players should always conduct themselves as an example of Christian behavior, both at the field/court and away from it.**
- **Players should address concerns to their coaches in a calm manner during games.**
- **Players should respect officials and opponents at all times, for without them, there would be no game.**
- **Remember to do all for the glory of God.**
- **Conduct which falls outside that listed at practice is subject to disciplinary measures from the school.**
- **Conduct which falls outside that listed at a game is subject to disciplinary measures from the DPL.**

# Official Statement Regarding Use of Recording Technology at DPL Events

The Dallas Parochial League authorizes the use of all video recording devices at its events in following circumstances:

*The person that is video recording the game / event must be:*

- A parent or relative of one of the participants in that game / event
- A coach for one of the schools participating in that game / event
- An authorized representative of one of the schools participating in that game / event

*The purpose of video recording the game / event must be either:*

- For use as an instructional tool **for the team that filmed** the game / event
- For entertainment purposes **for the family or school which filmed** the game / event

The Dallas Parochial League prohibits video recording in the following circumstances:

- In regard to games, the person that is video recording is strictly a third party with the intent to use the tape for scouting purposes.

The Dallas Parochial League prohibits the use of video recording in the following circumstance:

- Recordings that were legally produced & then shared with another team for scouting purposes.

Schools are not to call another school and request permission to record an upcoming contest. Schools do not have the authority to grant that request.

The DPL does not prohibit scouting. Schools may send representatives to watch other games and take notes if they wish. However, the use of recording devices must be confined to instructional or entertainment purposes **within** an institution. These rules are for the protection of our children as well as to insure that our league's mission is kept at the forefront.

# Dallas Parochial League

## Disciplinary Guidelines Policies:

All behavior related technical fouls, ejections, and unsportsmanlike penalties are to be reported to the league office immediately by the host school and the officials. The official DPL incident report form is the preferred method of reporting.

Situations differ in type and circumstance, therefore; the following will be used as guidelines, but may be adjusted (in either direction) if deemed appropriate by the DPL Athletic Director after thorough review. The consequences listed below are minimums, but may be increased at the discretion of the DPL Athletic Director.

### Level One (Temper/Sportsmanship):

#### Head Coaches:

First Technical or Unsportsmanlike penalty (UP)	Suspended from next game
Ejection	Suspended from next two games
2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical (different game) or UP	Suspended from the next two games
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ejection	Suspended for the season, possibly longer
3 <sup>rd</sup> Technical (if gathered one at a time)	Suspended indefinitely pending review

#### Assistant Coaches:

First Technical or Unsportsmanlike penalty (UP)	Suspended for next two games
2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical (different game) or UP	Suspended indefinitely pending review
Ejection	Suspended for minimum of two games
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ejection	Suspended for season
3 <sup>rd</sup> Technical (if gathered one at a time)	Suspended for season

#### Players:

First Technical or Unsportsmanlike penalty (UP)	Suspended for one quarter
2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical (different game) or UP	Suspended at least one game
Ejection	Suspended for the next game, possibly longer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ejection	Suspended for season
3 <sup>rd</sup> Technical (if gathered one at a time)	Suspended for the next two games

#### Spectators:

First Technical or Unsportsmanlike penalty (UP)	Suspended for next two games
2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical (different game) or UP	Suspended indefinitely pending review
Ejection	Suspended for minimum of two games
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ejection	Suspended for season
3 <sup>rd</sup> Technical (if gathered one at a time)	Suspended for season

### Level Two (Ethics):

Violating League Rules first offense	Suspended for next full semester
Violating Suspension	Suspended for next full school year
Violating League Rules second offense	Suspended for life
Violating 2 <sup>nd</sup> Suspension	Suspended for life

### Level Three (Physical Harm):

Physically harming or threatening another person	Suspended Indefinitely pending review
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\*Factors which affect the consideration of the DPL athletic director in applying a more lenient or strict penalty than the stated guidelines include, but are not limited to:

\*The history of the offender at school and league levels

\*The testimony of the officials, opponents, and non-biased third parties

\*The subsequent attitude and sincerity of contrition displayed by the offender

\*The perceived knowledge & intent of the action and its affect on the fairness of all involved

\*In a Catholic, Christian league such as the DPL, the spirit of the law will be the guide, not the letter of the law.

# Dallas Parochial League Grievance Process

Please use the following protocol when addressing issues that you feel need attention or resolution at either the school or league level.

## **Spectators / Parents:**

Spectators are primarily made up of parents, siblings, other family members, and friends. Should a spectator witness a problem or have issue with something that takes place at a practice or game, he/she should take the concern directly to the head coach in an attempt to calmly discuss the issue. Should there be no satisfactory resolution to the problem; the spectator should address the issue directly to the school athletic director. Should there be no satisfactory resolution to the problem, the spectator should address the principal (if a school issue) or the DPL athletic director (if a league issue).

## **Coaches:**

Coaches should use the same chain as listed above. (1) If the concern is a spectator, the coach should calmly address the concern with the spectator or spectator's parents if applicable. The coaches are the designated agents of the school and have every right to insist on the proper conduct and support of their spectatorship. (2) If the concern is a player or game-related matter, the coach should address the concern to the school athletic director. The coach should then go back to coaching and allow the athletic director to proceed as deemed appropriate. The athletic director will either handle internally or forward to the principal or league athletic director as seen fit.

## **School Athletic Directors:**

Athletic directors at member schools are encouraged to handle matters internally when possible. When assistance is requested, the school athletic director should seek guidance or rulings from the principal (if a school matter) or DPL athletic director (if a league matter).

## **School Principals / DPL Athletic Director:**

A school principal has the final say on any school matter and the DPL athletic director has the final say on any league matter. As set forth by the EPA Athletics Policy Statement, only a school principal may file a grievance on behalf of the school or agent of the school. This grievance is filed to the DPL Executive Committee. The DPL Athletic Director may also implore the assistance of the Executive Committee for purposes of filing a grievance against a school.

## **DPL Executive Committee:**

Factors which affect the consideration of the DPL athletic director in applying a more lenient or strict penalty than the stated guidelines include, but are not limited to:

The history of the offender at school and league levels

The testimony of the officials, opponents, and non-biased third parties, and/or other pertinent parties as deemed necessary by the DPL Executive Committee.

\*The subsequent attitude and sincerity of contrition displayed by the offender

\*The perceived knowledge & intent of the action and its affect on the fairness of all involved

\*In a Catholic, Christian league such as the DPL, the spirit of the law will be the guide, not the letter of the law.

The DPL Executive Committee is the end of the line. Its rulings are final.

# Dallas Parochial League Scholarship Program

The Dallas Parochial League wants to recognize the Student in the term “Student-Athlete.” It will do this by offering 4-6 separate \$500 scholarships to worthy students for each school year. Funding for these scholarships will be provided through various sources such as the DPL Golf Classic, Championship Football T-shirt Sales, etc.

The Dallas Parochial League will present the winners with a \$500.00 checks made payable to the appropriate Catholic school in the spring of each school year.

## Who’s Eligible?

- Any student who will be in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grade during the school year AND
- Participated in at least one DPL sanctioned sport during the prior year (school teams playing in outside leagues do not fulfill this requirement) AND
- Displayed excellent conduct and sportsmanship in their athletic endeavors AND
- Concluded the prior year with no more than one (1) “C” average in any course AND
- Will be attending a local DPL member school or Catholic High School the following year.

## What’s needed for Application?

- Complete the accompanying application form signed by school principal
- Provide three (3) brief letters of recommendation, with at least one being from a former coach
- Provide a copy of final report card for grade verification
- Submit a brief essay, not to exceed 250 words, that summarizes what the term “Student-Athlete” means to you.

## Priority will be given to:

*	Essay written by child	40%
*	Quality of Grades	30%
*	Quantity of Sports Played	20%
*	Letters of Recommendation	10%

Deadline for application will be in the fall of each school year. **All scholarship application forms can be found on the DPL website and once completed sent to:**

DPL  
5440 Harvest Hill Rd  
Suite 160  
Dallas, TX 75230

Copies of candidates’ materials will be sent to independent judges for review. Winners will be notified in the spring of the following year.

# Dallas Parochial League Max Wernick Awards For Excellence in Positive Coaching

The Dallas Parochial League relies heavily on hundreds of volunteer coaches each year. These coaches give countless hours of their time for the betterment of our 30 schools' athletic programs. Beginning in the 2004-2005 school year, and each year thereafter, the DPL will be awarding selected coaches with the Max Wernick Award for Excellence in Positive Coaching. These award winners will be recognized each year before a capacity crowd at the Annual Basketball All-Star games in February.

## ***Who is Max Wernick?***

Max Wernick served for over a quarter century as a volunteer coach at St Patrick School. Max's basketball teams were always well prepared due largely to his attention to detail and positive attitude toward all the players on his teams. His primary interest was skill development and teaching life lessons for the student-athletes under his direction. Coach Wernick rarely got distracted into the business of questioning officials as he was too busy coaching his team to get sidetracked. Due to this type of positive coaching, Max Wernick's teams won many more games than they lost, and he earned the respect of his peers throughout the league in the process.

Max also served many years on the Dallas Parochial League's Executive Committee, helping to insure that fairness and structure were maintained across the breadth of the league. These awards are named for Max Wernick because...if all volunteer coaches took Max's approach, kids would learn the games better, love the games more, and stay playing longer. There would not be any negative articles about youth sports in newspapers, only positive ones.

Thank you Max for setting an example for which we should all strive.

## ***Who's Eligible?***

- *Any person that has coached in the Dallas Parochial League in the last school year which meets the following requirements:*
- Must have served as a head coach in at least one sport.
- Must have completed the safe environment program for that school.
- Received ZERO technical fouls, unsportsmanlike penalties, etc. during the year.
- Created a positive athletic environment for all concerned.
- \* *Please note that each school may nominate one, and only one candidate per school year.*

## ***What's needed for Nomination?***

- Complete the attached short nomination form and provide two (2) letters of recommendation. Letters from individuals at other schools will carry considerably more weight in the selection process.

## ***Selection Process:***

- The DPL Office will check to insure that eligibility requirements have been met.
- Athletic Directors will be sent a list of all eligible nominees after the deadline has passed.
- The list will be narrowed down to the top 5 candidates, and re-sent to athletic directors.
- Priority should be given to seniority and length of service.
- Any of the top 4 which receive 75% or more affirmation will receive the Award.
- Should at least 3 candidates not receive 75% affirmation; the top 3 will receive awards.

***Deadline for nominations will be each January of the school year. All application materials may be found on the DPL website.***