

ATHLETICS PROGRAM POLICY
Destin High School, Inc.

Purpose

It is the intention of the Governing Board of Destin High School to offer a high-quality athletic program to its students in a diverse number of sports. The purpose of this policy is to establish expectations and standards for the athletic program. Destin High School's Athletic Director will oversee the implementation of the athletic program, subject to the oversight of the Principal, and shall carry out all directives set forth herein.

Appointment and Authority of Coaches and Volunteers

The Athletic Director of Destin High School will appoint coaches that are experts in their respective sports from a participation and/or management perspective. Coaches will be given broad latitude in directing and managing their teams and team activities, subject to oversight by the Athletic Director. Coaches will be responsible for the management of their team when in season, including coordinating recruitment, tryouts, practices, games/meets, as well as necessary logistics and planning for the team.

In consultation with the Athletic Director, coaches may appoint unpaid assistant coaches and volunteers to assist in coaching their sport. Assistant coaches and volunteers shall not be considered employees of Destin High School. All coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteers must have passed a Level 2 background screening prior to participating in the athletic program.

Coaches are responsible for the student-athletes assigned to them when such student-athletes are under their care and supervision. All school rules and expectations of the Student Code of Conduct continue to apply and must be enforced by coaches. Coaches may set forth additional expectations and rules for their student-athletes, so long as such expectations and rules are reasonable and consistent with Destin High School's policies and the requirements of the law. Any suspension or dismissal of a student-athlete from team activities shall first require authorization of the Athletic Director.

Parental Rights

Parental involvement and communication are essential to a healthy athletic program. At the beginning of each season, coaches will hold a meeting with parents and student-athletes to discuss Destin High School's Athletic Policies, set communication guidelines with parents, and cover other relevant information related to the particular sport. Coaches will seek to involve parents and keep them up-to-date on relevant information.

During the season, it is recommended as best practice that coaches send parents at least one communication per week, to include at minimum the schedule for the upcoming week, important updates, and other pertinent information. The Athletic Director shall designate an app that coaches must use in communicating with student-athletes and parents. Coaches are prohibited from communicating electronically with student-athletes via text message, direct message, or other similar means outside of the designated app. All communications related to the athletic program must be made through the designated app. If requested, parents should be included on all such communications. Coaches must maintain the confidentiality of all education records and must not disclose the personally identifiable information of students, except in accordance with the law.

Communication a Parent/Guardian Should Expect from a Coach

1. The coach's background and vision for all levels of the program.

2. Expectations and requirements for student-athletes on team (attendance, grades, dress, conduct, etc.).
3. Procedures to be followed in case of injury during practice or contest.
4. Team rules and disciplinary consequences for violations.
5. Weekly team schedules.

Communication a Coach Expects from a Parent/Guardian

1. Notification that the student-athlete is ill or injured.
2. Advance notice if the student-athlete will miss practice or a contest.
3. Clarifying questions about team procedures and time commitments.
4. Any concerns are first addressed directly to the head coach only, not other parties.

Conflict Resolution

In the event a parent or student-athlete has a grievance relating to any aspect of Destin High School's athletic program, the parent or student-athlete may invoke the dispute resolution process set forth in Destin High School's Conflict Resolution Policy. It is NOT appropriate to engage in a discussion about roster selection, starting lineup, playing time, captains, other student-athletes and team strategy/play calling except to privately and individually ask what aspects of performance the student-athlete may need to improve upon to increase opportunities for success. **PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COACH WITH COMPLAINTS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE, DURING, OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER A GAME.**

Social Media

Social media has become an integral aspect of everyday life. The Athletic Department, in seeking to fulfill the Mission to "prepare students academically, physically, and mentally to become responsible, productive, empowered citizens" expects that all student-athletes abide by the following guidelines and principles:

1. My online actions are a direct reflection of me, the content I post online is forever connected to my name and I want to people to see the best version of myself.
2. I will not post negative content about my team, my teammates, coaches, and fellow competitors.
3. I will avoid interactions with negative people on social media because I refuse to stoop down to someone else's level.
4. I promise not to engage in illegal activities and I promise not to share those activities online. If I see a teammate doing something illegal, I will immediately report it to a coach.
5. I will use my social media accounts to share the positive aspects of my team, school, and sports career.
6. When wearing a Destin High School athletic uniform I understand that I am representing the school and any activity, online or otherwise, in uniform shall be in accordance with Destin High School's policies and may be subject to disciplinary actions.

**Nothing herein is intended to be construed as requiring any student-athlete to utilize social media platforms.

Board Secretary Certificate

I hereby certify that the foregoing Athletics Program Policy for Destin High School, Inc., was adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the Governing Board of Directors at a duly noticed meeting held on 11/8/22.

Heidi Locicero
Board Secretary

HEIDI LOCICERO
Printed Name