**Dunbar Magnet School**

**Athletic Handbook**

**2021-2022**

**PURPOSE**

**The purpose of Dunbar Athletics is to effectively execute a school program that supports school spirit, the athletic teams and promotes the school itself. Athletes will serve as positive role models and leaders for DMS and should promote sportsmanship within our school and among other schools. All athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which exemplifies a model Dunbar student both on and off campus.**

**ATHLETIC REQUIREMENTS**

1. All athletes should remember at all times that they are representing their school and should always act accordingly on or off campus.
2. All athletes must have a **“C”** average, 2.0 on a 4.0 grade point scale, with no grades less than a **“D”**. (Example- “E” or “NC”) **(refer to infraction point system)**
3. All athletes must maintain 75 percent or higher of their AR (Accelerated Reader) goal during the athletic season.**(refer to infraction point system)**
4. School records must be free of any serious discipline referrals (suspensions, assignments to retract, in school suspension, etc.). Each candidate’s discipline record will be reviewed by the coach(s). A student who has a discipline record that is not acceptable as a role model will be ineligible to try out or remain on any athletic team. All athletes should remain in good standing to maintain his/her position.
5. Athletes are expected to attend and participate in all practices. This is important in the conditioning and training of an individual for specific events.
6. Athletes are to promote a positive image for the school community-your peers, parents, teachers, and community members.
7. **Athletes must not display any negative reflection of DMS and the athletic program on ay social media or photos**. **(Refer to infraction point system)**
8. Athletes are expected to be at all games, pep rallies, and fund raising activities. Any athlete not able to participate in any of these activities must be excused by the coach.
9. All athletes should display good sportsmanship at all times. This includes showing respect for other teams, coaches, official, and spectators.
10. Any athlete can be suspended, placed on probation, or expelled from the squad/team for disciplinary reasons, it will be determined by the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal. If the athlete is removed or quits, there will be **NO REFUNDS** given.
11. Cheerleaders must furnish their own uniforms and other necessities. Members of Dunbar’s sports teams must maintain the appearance of their uniform and returned to the coach at the end of the sports season.
12. All students must be enrolled in their local school at least one week prior to the date of tryouts. Incoming 7th- 8th graders must be enrolled in the feeder school for at least one week.
13. Only incoming 7th and 8th grade students will be considered for any Athletic team.
14. Cheerleaders will be required to cheer at all soccer and basketball games, at home and away. This includes all regular season games that are not included in a tournament and all playoff games. Attendance at any games that are contested on a Saturday or during a school holiday is at the coach’s discretion.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The following process is used to select a member of the athletic program:

1. Candidates must meet all school and statewide guidelines to qualify for tryouts.
2. Forms must be completed, signed, and submitted prior to tryouts.
   1. Athletic rules/guidelines (System and local school)
   2. Requirements/list of skills to be scored for middle school**(Cheerleading Only)**
   3. Financial obligations and fundraising requirements
   4. Copy of Birth Certificate
   5. Physical/Insurance/Concussion/ and Student Release forms
   6. Calendar of events with dates and times of activities **(Given prior to season)**
3. Camps and Clinics will be provided for students who have met the requirements for tryouts a fee may be charged. Coaches must be present at all times.
4. Each candidate will be given a number (omitting names) for tryouts. Tryouts will be held in a closed environment where only participants, coaches, judges, and administrators are present.
5. Teacher recommendations will not be used to determine student eligibility for tryouts nor to be used in scoring of the candidates.
6. Scores will be tallied in the presence all judges, coaches, and principal or designee**(Cheerleading Only)**
7. Athletes will be notified prior to announcement being made to the student body.
8. A mandatory meeting will be held with all team members and parents to go over rules, dates, and expectations.
9. Athletes must try out each new school year.

**PRACTICE**

1. **ALL practices are mandatory,** and please remember to schedule other activities, events, and appointments around practices.
2. The coach will schedule all practices. Attendance at all practices is **REQUIRED** unless excused by the coach due to illness, death in the family, or administrative excuse.
3. The athletic coach or a faculty member will be present at all practices and games.
4. Athletes shall not be late for practice unless excused by the coach.
5. After school or weekend practices may be held at the discretion of the coach.
6. Practice schedules is at the discretion of the coach.

* **IF a practice must be missed, prior approval from practice must be arranged with the coach.(Refer to infraction point system)**

**INJURIES/MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

1. If any athlete has an ongoing illness or develops a medical condition during the year, the coach must be informed immediately, and a written state from a physician is required. Failure to do so could result in dismissal from the program.
2. The physician’s statement must include a complete description of the medical condition. Physical limitations and restrictions, if any, must be noted on this statement inkling specific dates on any restrictions. A note releasing the athlete from doctor’s care will be required before athletes can participate in any athletic activities.
3. All athletes are expected to jump, run, tumble, and condition at all practices and games unless they have a physician’s note.

**PROBATION/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES**

1. Probation means that an athlete may not participate in any scheduled squad activities (pep rallies, games, etc.), but he/she is required to attend all practices and is responsible for all duties (fundraisers, signs, games, etc.). The athlete will not be permitted to wear his/her uniform while on probation.
2. Probation/dismissal may occur for the following:
   1. Grades
   2. Demerits accumulated
   3. Unexcused absences (practices/games)
   4. Quitting the athletic program
   5. Financial obligations (unpaid balances)
   6. Suspensions/other school discipline problems
   7. Illegal actions on or off of campus
   8. Coach’s discretion
   9. Lack of leadership/service/character/citizenship
   10. Use of profanity
   11. Show unsportsmanlike conduct
3. In the case of probation, the coach should immediately inform the athlete and parents in writing. The letter should include the nature and time of the violation(s).
4. If the student does not correct his/her behavior after being placed on probation, he/she is responsible for further disciplinary action such as lengthened probation or dismissal.
5. If an athlete is dismissed, a written notice from the coach or principal should be sent to both the student and the parent. At no time should the coach dismiss an athlete without approval from the principal.

**FUND RAISING**

1. Fund raising is implemented at the coach’s discretion. And will be implemented according to local school policy, subject to approval by the principal.
2. Parental permission is required for fundraising activities.
3. Fund raising projects can be used to assist in the overall athletic budget and/or to help with individual expenses.
4. Every athlete will be expected to support **ALL** fundraising events which support the team.

**TRANSPORTATION**

1. Each athlete’s parent/guardian is responsible for providing transportation to and from Dunbar.
2. Coaches are not personally responsible for transporting athletes away from school.
3. All athletes must be picked up from all activities in a timely manner.**(refer to infraction point system)**

**INSURANCE/PHYSICALS**

All prospective athletes must have proof of insurance and a current physical completed before tryouts. These forms should be kept on file each year.

**UNIFORMS**

1. Ordering of uniforms is to be done by the local school. Payment for uniforms is the responsibility of the individual athlete.
2. It is the athlete’s responsibility to keep all uniforms clean and in first class condition.
3. Uniforms are to be worn only in conjunction with school activities.
4. No part of an athlete’s uniform shall be worn by anyone except a member of the squad. This includes outerwear such as pants and jackets. Exceptions for pep rallies or school events must be cleared through the coach.
5. **ISSUED ATHLETIC UNIFORM SHOULD NOT BE ALTERED IN ANY MANNER.**
6. **NO JEWELRY** is to be worn while in uniform (or during practices).
7. Hair is always expected to be kept clean, pulled up in a ponytail, out of face and eyes at all practices and games.
8. **NO PART of an athletic uniform shall be worn by ANYONE else. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**EXPECTED BEHAVIOR**

1. Attitude and ability to work with other different personalities must be exceptional.
2. Lying or fabricating the truth will not be tolerated and can result in immediate termination from the program.
3. Part of a coach’s job is to know where you are at all times during practices, games, and special events**.**
4. **All official decisions will be made by the coaching staff. All coaches are to be given respect and cooperation by athletes and parents at all times. Lack of respect will not be tolerated and can be grounds for dismissal from the program.**

**SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR CHEERLEADERS**

1. A cheerleader will be permitted to perform stunts restricted to as high as he/she can jump from the ground under his/her own power.
2. Building of pyramids is prohibited.
3. Knee drops, split drops, and tension drops are not allowed.
4. Tumbling should not be performed on wet or concrete surfaces.
5. An adequate warm up must precede all activities.
6. Cheerleaders must wear appropriate athletic type shoes.
7. Sweatpants are never to be worn under a cheerleading uniform.
8. No jewelry may be worn by a cheerleader at practices or games. (Stud earrings may be an exception. Should be specified in local school guidelines.)
9. Jewelry worn due to religious or medical reason must be taped to the body under the uniform.

**LOCAL SCHOOL POLICY**

Local schools may adopt policy/guidelines that are more stringent than Mobile County Public School System standards. The central office will support these guidelines as long as:

1. Parents/guardians and athletes were properly notified of the policies/guidelines.
2. These policies/guidelines are strictly enforced.

**Coaches reserve the right to make changes/additions to the rules as needed. In addition, if you have any questions or concerns, please respect the following chain of command:**

**Coach, Athletic Director, Principal**

**Dunbar Infraction Point System**

**NO ATHLETE IS PERMITTED MORE THAN 20 POINTS PER SCHOOL YEAR**

**ANY OF THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIORS WILL RESULT IN**

**“20 POINTS, AND IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM:**

**(ANY ATHLETE WHO IS DIMISSED FROM THE PROGRAM, WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO TRYOUT THE FOLLOWING YEAR)**

* **Any unexcused absence from a game or scheduled event (only an absence with a doctor’s note the following day is excused with NO points given.**
* **Any infraction resulting in out of school suspension**
* **Negative reflections on any social media (Facebook, Instagram, twitter, etc)**
* **In possession of and/or use of drugs and tobacco**
* **Academic dishonesty**
* **Use of profanity and/or show of unsportsmanlike conduct**

**“10” POINTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

1. **Unexcused absence from practice (only an absence with a doctor’s note the following day is excused with NO points given)**
2. **Leaving early from a game or event without permission**
3. **In-School infraction causing ISS retract, this includes being caught in tardy sweep, poor attendance, or discipline issues.**
4. **Failure to meet the require Accelerated Reader (AR) goal**
5. **Receive an “E” on a progress report or report card**
6. **Showing disrespect to a coach**

**“5” POINTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

1. **Insufficient knowledge of cheers and game plays**
2. **Lack of pep/smile (practice, game, or event)**
3. **Late to a game (home or away), practice, or event-being more than 15min late is considered an unexcused absence**
4. **Failure to assist with clean-up after a game or event**
5. **Improper uniform on game day, game, or event (include all accessories)**
6. **Wearing any jewelry to practice, games, events**
7. **Uniform not clean**
8. **Wearing uniform outside of any athletic events**
9. **Using cell phones at games, practices, or events**
10. **Chewing gum or eating at undesignated times**
11. **Use of inappropriate language or poor sportsmanship during games or events**
12. **Receiving an “E” on a progress report or report card**
13. **Failure to meet the require Accelerated Reader (AR) goal**

**“3” POINTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

1. **Excused absence from practice, game, or event with a parent note (must be provided the following day of absence)**
2. **Unnecessary conversation with the crowd, team, or squad during games.**
3. **Failure to meet the required Accelerated Reader (AR) goal**
4. **Late pick-up from practice**

**“1” POINTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR:**

1. **Nonpayment of Athletic fees-FOR EVERY 5 BUSINESS DAYS PAYMENT IS LATE**

**“1-20” POINTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR:**

**Undesirable conduct/poor attitude subject to coach’s discretion**

**INABILITY TO COOPERATE WITH COACH, TEAMMATES, CAPTAIN, OR SQUAD**

**1ST offense-2 points**

**2nd offense-5 points**

**3rd offense-dismissal from program**

**CONSEQUENCES OF POINTS:**

* **Accumulation of 5 points will result in suspension for one game. Dress in school uniform on game day, warm-ups or practice uniform at game. Must sit with coach during the game.**
* **Accumulation of 10 points will result in suspension for the next 2 games. Dress in school uniform during the suspension period, as well as to games. Must sit with coach during the game.**
* **Accumulation of 20 points will result in automatic removal from the program. The athlete will not be allowed to try out for athletics next school year.**

**ALL POINTS WILL BE ERASED AT THE END OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR**

