
2026-2027



ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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#DREADSTRONG

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DRONE POLICY

Excerpted from DCS [Board of Education Policy 3111](#): The Board prohibits the operation of small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) at any time by any individual who is not employed by the District, as well as by any District staff member or administrator who is not expressly authorized to do so by the Superintendent.

The Board prohibits the operation of a sUAS (drone) on property owned or leased or contracted for by the Board during District-sponsored contests (including scrimmages and previews), practices, tournaments, and activities under the auspices of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). District Officials may deny admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a sUAS until the event has been completed. Any exceptions to this prohibition must be approved in advance by the Superintendent.



DREADNAUGHT SUPPORTERS

On behalf of the athletic department, we would like to welcome you to the world of athletics at Dexter Community Schools. Dexter High School offers thirty varsity sports, Mill Creek Middle School offers fourteen sports, and several more are run by Dexter Community Education. We along with thirteen other schools are members of the Southeastern Conference (SEC). This conference is divided into two divisions: the Red and the White.

This handbook contains information pertaining to the understanding, development, performance, dedication, commitment, and the educational value of athletics at Mill Creek Middle School and Dexter High School. Before your children embark on their athletic careers, please read through this handbook. Should you have any remaining questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Dexter Athletic Department at (734) 424-4170 during the typical school day, send an email to athletics@dexterschools.org, or send a message via our athletics website at dexterathletics.com.

The success of the Dexter Athletic Department depends on the shared responsibility of the students, staff, parents, and the Dexter community. Your child, and the support you provide, are what make educational athletics possible. We are excited about the future of our athletics program and are encouraged and motivated by Dreadnaught pride and tradition. We wish you the very best, both academically and athletically, for success at Dexter Community Schools.

Mike Bavineau, Director

Kelly King, Assistant Director

GOVERNING BODIES

Dexter Community Schools operates under the guidelines of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the Southeastern Conference (SEC), which utilizes National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) rules.



2025-2026 DIVISIONS

SEC RED

Bedford
Dexter
Ann Arbor Huron
Monroe
Ann Arbor Pioneer
Saline
Ann Arbor Skyline

SEC WHITE

Adrian
Chelsea
Jackson
Pinckney
Tecumseh
Ypsilanti Community
Ypsilanti Lincoln

VISION

Dexter Athletics seeks to connect athletic programs, coaches, and student-athletes with the community of Dexter with an unwavering focus on team, student-athlete experience, character development, and collective greatness.

**Some sports play in the White, based on the number of participating schools.*

OUR MISSION

The Dexter Athletic Department considers athletics to be an integral part of the Dexter learning community and thus follows and honors the Dexter Community Schools overall institutional mission.

Our commitment to excellence implies that the Dexter Athletic Department will provide exemplary leadership, appropriate facilities, and support services to allow its student-athletes to compete at the highest level of interscholastic competition and to reach their educational and athletic objectives.

DHS SPORTS

(30 TOTAL)

FALL

Cross Country (**Boys & Girls**)
 Equestrian*
 Dance (**Co-Ed**)*
 Football
 Field Hockey
 Golf (**Girls**)
 Sideline Cheer
 Soccer (**Boys**)
 Swim & Dive (**Girls**)
 Tennis (**Boys**)
 Trapshooting (**Co-Ed**)*
 Volleyball
 Water Polo (**Boys**)

WINTER

Basketball (**Boys & Girls**)
 Competitive Cheer
 Dance (**Co-Ed**)*
 Ice Hockey*
 Swim & Dive (**Boys**)
 Wrestling

SPRING

Baseball
 Golf (**Boys**)
 Lacrosse (**Boys & Girls**)
 Soccer (**Girls**)
 Softball
 Tennis (**Girls**)
 Track & Field (**Boys & Girls**)
 Trapshooting (**Co-Ed**)*
 Water Polo (**Girls**)



**self-funded*

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS MISSION

Dexter Community Schools and the Southeastern Conference believe students need to be able to explore athletics at the age where they are learning about themselves and their abilities. The 7th and 8th grade athletic experiences should serve as a time of exploration and discovery as student-athletes participate in interscholastic sports for the first time.

The SEC encourages equal playing time for Middle School student-athletes and has rules governing playing time in some sports. We attempt to give students the opportunity to develop their skills in a sport by maximizing both practice and game time.

Hard work, sacrifice, and desire are the keys to success in sports and in life. These components of success are encouraged and developed in our athletic programs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS (14 TOTAL)

FALL

Cheerleading (through Comm. Ed)
 7/8 Boys Cross Country
 7/8 Girls Cross Country
 Field Hockey
 7th grade Football*
 8th grade Football*
 7th grade Volleyball*
 8th grade Volleyball*

WINTER

7th grade Boys Basketball*
 8th grade Boys Basketball*
 7th grade Girls Basketball*
 8th grade Girls Basketball*
 Competitive Cheer
 Swim & Dive (Co-Ed)
 Wrestling

SPRING

7/8 Boys Track & Field
 7/8 Girls Track & Field
 Softball



****Two teams at each level if there is enough interest***

Many of our middle school teams have been divided into two teams each with comparable skill levels. The two teams (Maroon and Gold) will compete independently of each other within the Southeastern Conference Middle School League. The primary purpose of expanding the middle school athletic program to two teams is to provide greater opportunity for participation, to increase playing time for all participants, and to help athletes develop their skills. Although we want all of our teams to be competitive, emphasis is not placed on winning every game. Participation by all members of the team is the primary goal.

PARTICIPATION FEES

Dexter Community Schools charges a participation fee for all sports with the exceptions of the four self-funded sports: Dance, Equestrian, Ice Hockey, and Trapshooting. These fees help pay for transportation, officials, team equipment, coach salaries, team entry fees, game workers, field and facility maintenance, etc.

High School Athletic Participation Fee: \$250 per sport

Middle School Athletic Participation Fee: \$150 per sport

Family Maximum: \$1000, self-funded sports not included. After all fees are paid for the year, [there is a form](#) that must be turned in to the athletic office in order to issue a refund for the amount over \$1,000. The deadline is **May 31** each school year.

Parents register their student-athlete on [BigTeams](#) and then pay on [Eleyo](#). Payments are processed after rosters are determined, about two weeks into the season.

There are financial scholarships available. Apply on the district website with this [Scholarship Application](#) or visit dexterschools.org/departments/athletics, then scroll down to "Participation Fees." Scholarships should be applied for before the season starts. Applications submitted after that time may not be granted.

DCS is happy to work with families for whom the cost of sport participation is a hardship. Please reach out to the athletic office at any point during the school year for assistance. Athletes who have not paid their participation fees, made arrangements to pay their fees, or been approved for a scholarship may not be permitted to participate in practices or competitions until those obligations are met.

BEFORE TRYOUTS, all Mill Creek and DHS student-athletes register on Final Forms at dexter-mi.finalforms.com. Detailed instructions are available on dexterathletics.com.



PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

At DCS, we believe that interscholastic athletics will contribute significantly to the overall development of your student. As with academics, parental involvement in these programs helps ensure a quality experience for all concerned. Athletic Administration encourages parents and guardians to be active participants in the following ways:

- ☒ Encourage good sportsmanship by being a positive role model
- ☒ Do your best to make athletics a positive experience for everyone involved (athletes, staff, etc.)
- ☒ Treat other participants, coaches, officials, and fans with respect
- ☒ Reinforce the school's substance abuse policies and refrain from the use of alcohol and drugs
- ☒ Do your best to understand and appreciate the rules of the contest
- ☒ Be a "team" fan, not a "my child" fan
- ☒ Appreciate the importance of skill development, both sport-specific and in life
- ☒ Talk to the coach at the appropriate time and place
- ☒ Know that your ticket to an athletic event provides you with the privilege of observing the contest
- ☒ Understand the ultimate purpose of educational athletics as an integral part of the total educational mission
- ☒ Keep in mind that student-athlete participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT



The following list highlights essential guidelines of the Dexter High School Student Activity Code of Conduct. The rules apply on a **twelve-month basis** throughout the student's high school career.

I. ATHLETIC / ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- Dexter Athletics academic guidelines require that a student-athlete must be passing six out of eight classes in order to remain eligible for full participation.
- If a student fails to meet the Dexter Athletics academic eligibility requirements, a student will be placed on academic probation.
- After a grade check, any student-athlete who is failing two or more classes or has multiple Ds will be required to complete a Travel Card. This is a weekly progress report that is signed by a student-athlete's teachers and turned in to the athletic department on Fridays. This will allow the student-athlete to remain eligible to participate in contests and practice.
- If a student-athlete continues to remain below our academic standards, the student-athlete will be required to use the Travel Card for the remainder of their season.
- MHSAA guidelines require that a student-athlete must pass 66% of his or her classes in order to be able to play in the next sport season.

Athletic Grade Checks are conducted on the **first Friday of each month** with the exception of September and January. Approximately 10 days before the official check, student-athletes who have two Es or multiple Ds will be called down to the athletic office for an academic warning meeting with the athletic director.

II. ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The use, possession, attempting to possess, concealment, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of the following is prohibited:

- Tobacco / Tobacco products in any form
- Alcohol / Alcoholic beverages in any form
- Vaping devices in any form
- Illegal or unauthorized drugs including, but not limited to, those substances defined and "controlled substance" pursuant to federal and/or state statute
- Steroids, human growth hormones, or other performance-enhancing drugs

Penalties for Substance Abuse

These guidelines supplement and do not supersede or modify the DCS Student Code of Conduct, with which all students are expected to comply. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in suspension or expulsion from school, and would also affect a student's eligibility to participate in extra/co-curricular activities.

First Violation: Any student-athlete in violation of the substance abuse policy will be withheld from competition for two consecutive weeks (14 days) or two contests (whichever is greater) from the date of the decision.

(continued)

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT, CONTINUED

Second Violation: This will result in suspension for six consecutive weeks (42 days) of competition or six athletic contests, whichever is greater. The student-athlete will also be required to receive a full assessment by a trained professional and follow the recommendation.

Third Violation: The student-athlete will lose eligibility for participation in athletics for one full year.

THESE OFFENSES ARE CUMULATIVE THROUGHOUT THE STUDENT'S DCS CAREER.

III. GROSS MISCONDUCT

Students shall not engage in acts of gross misconduct including, but not limited to, behavior which is addressed in the DCS student handbook such as acts of theft, vandalism, assault, sexual misconduct, and gross disrespect that brings embarrassment to Dexter Athletic programs. Violations will be dealt with on an individual basis, and penalties will range from administrative intervention to exclusion from athletic activity participation.

IV. SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

Any student-athlete who is suspended from school for violations of the Dexter High School Student Code of Conduct will be ineligible to participate in practices, competitions, or any extra-curricular team activities for the duration of the suspension.

V. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

No student-athlete will be permitted to practice or play in game, contest, or event if absent for any part of that school day unless excused by the athletic director or designee.

Student-athletes are expected to be in school all hours in order to participate. Exceptions to this rule would be doctor/dentist/ orthodontist appointments, school-sponsored activities, or a college visit. Approval from the athletic department is advised if you are unsure if the absence will be excused.

Truancy: When a student-athlete has been deemed "truant" by a school administrator, the student-athlete will not be allowed to practice or compete in the next competition following the reported truancy.

Multiple unexcused absences may be subject to attendance infractions.

TRAINING RULES VIOLATIONS

The importance of the Code of Conduct should be apparent to everyone. If a student-athlete is reported in violation of these rules, the case will be investigated by one or more of the following: Coach, Athletic Director, Principal/Assistant Principal and/or HR Director.

- Practice/game suspensions may result from infractions of the school and coach's expectations and/or policies.
- The length of suspension will be determined by the severity of the infraction.
- Repeated violations may result in the student-athlete's removal from the team.

DUE PROCESS

- Student-athletes and parents will be notified of the charges and particulars of the case.
- Student-athletes have a right to a hearing with the Board of Athletics Appeal Committee.
- A request for an appeal must be made within 24 hours of notification of the decision.



COMMUNICATION

THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Communication can and should start with the student-athlete.

Our coaches are professionals. They make judgments based upon what they believe to be in the best interest of all student-athletes involved. Certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach.

Other topics should be left to the discretion of the coach:

- ☒ Team strategy/substitutions
- ☒ Play calling
- ☒ Other student-athletes

Communication you should expect from our coaches:

- ☒ The coach's and program philosophy
- ☒ Location and times of all practices and contests
- ☒ Team/Player requirements
- ☒ Discipline that may result in denial of participation

Issues that are appropriate for parents and guardians to discuss with coaches:

- ☒ Treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- ☒ Ways in which your child can improve
- ☒ Academic support and college opportunities

PROBLEM SOLVING

Some situations may require a conference between coach, player, and parent.

These are ***encouraged***. All parties involved must have a clear understanding that coming to a resolution is in the best interest of the team and individual.

Adhere to the 24-Hour Rule. This is a tool for giving space and time to allow discussions to occur in a productive environment. If an issue has arisen regarding your child, wait 24 hours before you contact the coach. Please do not confront a coach before or immediately after a contest or practice. This pause will give you a chance to search for different perspectives, which may provide a new way to look at the situation.

- After 24 hours have passed, contact the coach to set up a meeting.
- If after meeting with the coach you were unable to come to a satisfactory resolution, the next step would be to set up a meeting with the athletic director.
- The last step (if you feel the athletic director did not provide a satisfactory resolution) would be to set up a meeting with the principal.

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

- ☑ Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community.
- ☑ Seek to live up to the standards and sportsmanship established by the school administration and staff.
- ☑ Learn the rules and regulations of the game thoroughly.
- ☑ Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated. Who better understands all the hard work and team effort that is required of your team?
- ☑ Refrain from taunting or making derogatory remarks to your opponents, before, during and after the contest. Comments of an ethnic, racially-divisive, and/or sexual nature will not be tolerated by Dexter High School and the athletic department.
- ☑ Respect the judgment and integrity of game officials.
- ☑ Win with humility and lose with grace.



DEXTER ATHLETIC HONORS

The Dexter Athletic Department is proud to recognize student-athletes with athletic awards. Upon completion of the season in good standing with the team, as well as meeting the criteria set forth by the head coach at the start of the season, a student-athlete may receive one of the following awards:

Varsity Athlete: A Varsity cloth letter "D" for the first varsity letter earned (one time only).
 A Varsity certificate for each letter earned.
 A sport pin for each varsity letter earned.
The criteria to earn a varsity letter/pin is determined by each individual program/coach.

SEC Senior Scholar-Athlete: This scholar-athlete award is awarded to seniors who have a cumulative GPA 3.25 or above at the time their sport season ends.

DHS Scholar-Athlete: A certificate and pin are earned by carrying a 3.25 GPA or above for the semester during which the student's sport is played. This award can be earned twice a year: Fall and Winter sport scholar-athletes are awarded after first semester; Spring sports are awarded after second semester.

Junior Varsity Athlete: A Junior Varsity Certificate

Freshman Athlete: A Freshman Certificate

Middle School Athlete: A Middle School Certificate



DHS FIGHT SONG

Dexter High School, we raise our cheers,
faithful to you throughout the years,
We'll stand beside you, loyal we'll be
cheering you on to victory...

Dexter High School, through thick and thin
we will be there and we will win,
Dreadnaughts forever, maroon and white,
we will always be true to you,
Fight! Fight! Fight!

