



B.M.C. DURFEE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

STUDENT-ATHLETE & PARENT HANDBOOK



DURFEE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Student-Athlete & Parent Handbook

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1. WELCOME TO DURFEE ATHLETICS

Welcome to Durfee High School Athletics. Participation in athletics is an important part of the educational experience and provides students with opportunities to grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

The Durfee Athletic Program is committed to creating a positive and competitive environment where student-athletes are encouraged to pursue excellence while developing leadership, responsibility, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Athletics are viewed as an extension of the classroom and play an important role in supporting the overall mission of the school community.

This handbook is intended to provide student-athletes and families with a clear understanding of the expectations, policies, procedures, and responsibilities associated with athletic participation at Durfee High School. We hope the information included will help answer many of the questions families may have regarding interscholastic athletics and serve as a helpful resource throughout the school year.

Families are encouraged to review this handbook carefully and refer to it whenever questions or concerns arise regarding a student-athlete's experience. Open and consistent communication between families, coaches, and the Athletic Department is essential to maintaining a positive athletic experience for all student-athletes. If additional assistance is needed, families are encouraged to contact their child's coach or the Athletic Office. This handbook is available through the Athletic Department website and on Arbiter Registration for convenient access throughout the year.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. Student-athletes are expected to represent Durfee High School with integrity, respect, and "Poise and Class" at all times:

- In the classroom
- During practices and competitions
- On school transportation
- On social media
- In the community

By choosing to participate in athletics, student-athletes accept the commitment and responsibilities that come with being a member of a team and representative of Durfee High School.

2. DURFEE ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

Athletics are an extension of the academic day where our coaching staff is charged with the responsibility to teach the values of Accepting Success Graciously, Accountability, Citizenship, Sportsmanship, Confidence, Tolerance, Handling Disappointment, Leadership, Organizational Skills, Participation Within the Rules, Performing Under Pressure, Persistence, Work Ethic, Physical Well Being, Responsibility, Sacrifice, Self-Discipline, Social Skills, Striving Toward Excellence, Taking Instruction and Teamwork.

3. ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY & CORE VALUES

The athletic program at Durfee High School is designed to complement and enhance the educational experience of all student-athletes. Our programs are built on the belief that athletics provide valuable opportunities for students to develop skills and character traits that will benefit them throughout their lives.

The Athletic Department strives to foster an environment centered on accountability, commitment, respect, leadership, sportsmanship, self-discipline, teamwork, perseverance, and school pride. Coaches are expected to teach and model these values while creating a safe, supportive, and competitive environment for all student-athletes.

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate respect for teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, and spectators while competing with integrity and sportsmanship at all times. Athletes are also expected to accept success and adversity with maturity, take pride in representing their school and community, and strive for continuous improvement both academically and athletically.

Success within the Durfee Athletic Program is measured not only by victories and championships, but also by the effort, growth, character, and commitment displayed by our student-athletes and teams. The Athletic Department encourages all student-athletes to pursue excellence while understanding the importance of balance, responsibility, and teamwork.

4. ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

Participation in athletics at Durfee High School is a privilege that carries important responsibilities and expectations. Student-athletes are expected to represent Durfee High School positively at all times while maintaining academic eligibility, demonstrating good attendance and citizenship, committing fully to their team during the athletic season, following all school, district, team, and MIAA rules, and displaying sportsmanship and respect toward others.

Participation in athletics requires a significant commitment of time, effort, communication, and responsibility. Practices, contests, team meetings, and other team-related responsibilities may take place after school, during evenings and weekends, and throughout school vacations and holidays. Families should carefully review all expectations before committing to participation.

The Athletic Department reserves the right to take disciplinary or corrective action when student-athletes fail to meet program expectations or conduct standards.

5. ATHLETIC REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY

Athletic Registration

All student-athletes must complete the school’s athletic registration process through Arbiter Registration prior to participating in:

- Tryouts
- Practices
- Scrimmages
- Games or contests

Registration must be completed for each athletic season.

Arbiter Registration Requirements

Parents/guardians and student-athletes are responsible for:

- Creating or updating their Arbiter Registration account
- Completing all required forms and electronic signatures
- Uploading or submitting a valid physical examination
- Reviewing and updating medical information
- Providing accurate emergency contact information
- Completing NFHS Concussion Course and uploading certificate
- Completing all school and MIAA required acknowledgements
- Reviewing team and athletic department expectations

Incomplete registrations will delay athletic clearance and may prevent participation.

Student-athletes are not permitted to participate until officially cleared by the Athletic Department.

The Athletic Department strongly recommends families complete registration prior to the first day of tryouts in order to avoid delays in participation.

Physical Examination Requirements

In accordance with MIAA regulations, all student-athletes must provide written proof of a current physical examination completed within 13 months of athletic participation.

- **Eligibility:** Physicals must remain valid throughout the entire athletic season. If a physical expires mid-season, the athlete becomes immediately ineligible until updated documentation is submitted and approved.
- **Documentation:** Athletes/Families are responsible for uploading their physical documentation to Arbiter Registration
- **Annual Planning:** Families are strongly encouraged to schedule annual physicals during the summer months (June–August) to ensure uninterrupted eligibility for the entire school year.

Access to Physicals & Wellness:

- **Primary Care:** We strongly encourage all athletes to see their primary care physician annually. This consistent relationship is the best way to maintain long-term health and monitor the physical demands of high school sports.
- **Free Sports Physicals:** In partnership with Hawthorne Medical Associates, Durfee Athletics offers free sports physicals at various times throughout the year.
- **Community Resources:** Sports physicals are also available through SSTAR Community Health.

Insurance Information

Student-athletes are required to have medical insurance coverage in order to participate in athletics.

Durfee High School provides supplemental athletic accident insurance coverage for student-athletes. This coverage is secondary/excess coverage and applies only after a family's primary insurance has been utilized.

All athletic injuries should be reported immediately to:

- The Athletic Trainer
- The Head Coach
- The Athletic Department

Failure to report injuries in a timely manner may impact insurance claim eligibility.

Insurance claim forms and additional information may be obtained through the Athletic Training Office.

Academic Eligibility

Student-athletes must meet all academic eligibility requirements established by:

- The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)
 - 58.1 A student cannot at any time represent a school unless that student is taking courses equivalent to four traditional year-long 'major' English courses.
- Fall River Public Schools/Durfee High School Athletics

To be eligible to participate in athletics, a student must pass a minimum of 2 "Core" classes which includes English, Math, Social Science, Science, and Foreign Language. If a student is taking 5 "Core" Classes in a semester, they must pass at least 3 of them. If a Senior Student is only taking 1 "Core" class for the semester, that class must be passed. Students must also pass at least 50% of the electives that they are taking. Eligibility is reviewed throughout the school year.

Student-athletes experiencing academic difficulty may:

- Be placed on academic monitoring
- Be required to complete weekly progress reports
- Attend academic support sessions
- Become temporarily ineligible for participation

Athletics are intended to support the educational experience, and academic success must remain the priority for all student-athletes.

Age & Participation Limits

Students are eligible for athletic participation for four consecutive years beginning with entry into Grade 9.

Students must be under 19 years old on September 1 of the current school year to participate.

Bona Fide Team Member Rule

In accordance with MIAA rules, student-athletes are expected to demonstrate commitment to their school team by participating in all scheduled practices, contests, meetings, and team activities.

A student-athlete who is a member of a Durfee athletic team may not participate in an outside team, club, or organization in the same sport during the school season if it causes them to miss a school practice, contest, or team commitment, unless prior administrative approval has been granted in accordance with MIAA guidelines.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Prioritize their school team commitment during the season.
- Attend all scheduled practices and contests.
- Communicate potential conflicts with their coach as soon as possible.
- Follow all MIAA rules regarding outside participation and team commitments.

Violations of the Bona Fide Team Member Rule may result in disciplinary action, including loss of playing time, suspension, or other consequences as determined by the Athletic Department and MIAA guidelines.

5. ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Student-Athlete Expectations

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Attend all classes.
- Complete assignments on time.
- Demonstrate positive classroom behavior.
- Seek academic support when needed.
- Communicate appropriately with teachers and counselors.

The Athletic Department works collaboratively with teachers, counselors, and administrators to support student-athlete success. Students who are experiencing academic difficulties are encouraged to seek help early, before eligibility becomes a concern. The Athletic Department may conduct periodic academic eligibility checks throughout each athletic season.

Students who do not meet academic expectations may be subject to:

- Academic probation
- Restricted participation
- Mandatory academic monitoring
- Loss of athletic eligibility

Credit Recovery & Athletic Eligibility

Credit Recovery cannot be used to establish or restore athletic eligibility. Athletic eligibility is determined only by official report card grades at the end of each grading term.

Eligibility is based on:

- **Term 1 Grades:** Thanksgiving Day Football and Winter Sports
- **Term 2 Grades:** End of Winter Sports and Beginning of Spring Sports
- **Term 3 Grades:** Remainder of the Spring Sports Season
- **Final (End-of-Year) Grades:** Following Fall Sports Season

Students who become academically ineligible cannot regain eligibility during that sports season by completing Credit Recovery.

To be eligible to participate in athletics, a student must pass a minimum of 2 “Core” classes which include English, Math, Social Science, Science, and Foreign Language. If a student is taking 5 or more “Core” Classes in

a semester, they must pass at least 3 of them. If a Senior Student is only taking 1 “Core” class for the semester, that class must be passed. Students must also pass at least 50% of the electives that they are taking. Eligibility for fall sports will be determined by the final grade for the previous school year. Students entering Durfee as freshmen will be eligible to participate in all sports during the fall season. In order to maintain eligibility, students will be evaluated at the end of each term.

6. ATTENDANCE & TEAM COMMITMENT

Participation in interscholastic athletics requires a strong commitment to teammates, coaches, and the athletic program. Team success depends upon accountability, preparation, communication, and consistent participation from all student-athletes.

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices, contests, team meetings, and scheduled team activities unless excused by the coaching staff. Athletes are also expected to arrive on time, prepared to participate, and ready to contribute positively to the team environment.

Repeated absences, tardiness, lack of communication, or failure to meet team expectations may result in disciplinary action, including reduced playing time, suspension from team activities, or removal from the team.

Participation in athletics often requires a substantial time commitment beyond the regular school day. Practices and contests may occur during evenings, weekends, vacations, and holidays. Families should carefully consider these expectations before making a commitment to a team.

School Attendance Requirements

Student-athletes must be present in school in order to participate in practices or contests that day. To be eligible for participation, students must attend at least three school hours, attend all scheduled classes, and avoid unexcused absences or excessive tardiness.

Students assigned in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or other disciplinary consequences may lose athletic participation privileges during the assigned disciplinary period in accordance with school and district policies.

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate responsibility and accountability throughout the school day. Failure to meet school attendance expectations may affect athletic eligibility, playing time, leadership opportunities, or continued participation.

Vacations & Extended Absences

Athletic schedules frequently include practices and contests during weekends, school vacations, and holiday breaks. Families should carefully consider these scheduling expectations prior to committing to a team.

Student-athletes are expected to communicate planned absences with coaches as early as possible. Extended absences may affect playing time, team standing, leadership opportunities, conditioning, and overall participation status.

Leaving a Team During the Season

Once a student-athlete has committed to and been selected for a team, they may not leave one team to join another during the same season without approval from:

- Both coaches involved
- The Athletic Director

Any athlete leaving a team must immediately return all school-issued equipment and uniforms.

7. TEAM SELECTION & PLAYING TIME

Participation on an athletic team does not guarantee playing time.

Coaches evaluate student-athletes based on:

- Skill development
- Effort and attitude
- Attendance and punctuality
- Team commitment
- Sportsmanship
- Understanding of team concepts
- Overall team needs

Tryouts

Some sports require tryouts due to roster limitations.

Coaches will communicate:

- Tryout procedures
- Evaluation criteria
- Team expectations
- Selection timelines

Students not selected for a team are encouraged to explore other athletic opportunities when available.

Sub-Varsity Programs

Freshman and junior varsity programs emphasize:

- Skill development
- Learning team systems
- Growth and improvement
- Increased participation opportunities

At the sub-varsity level, coaches will make every reasonable effort to provide meaningful participation opportunities for student-athletes.

Varsity Programs

Varsity athletics focus on competitive performance and team success at the highest level of interscholastic competition.

Playing time decisions are made by the coaching staff and are based on what is believed to best support the success of the team.

Coaching decisions regarding lineups, positions, and playing time are final.

Team Captains

Team captains are expected to serve as positive leaders and role models within the athletic program.

Captains may be selected by:

- Coaches
- Teammates
- A combination of both

Captains are expected to:

- Demonstrate leadership and sportsmanship
- Communicate effectively with coaches and teammates
- Model appropriate behavior and commitment
- Support team culture and expectations

Captains may be removed from their leadership role for violations of team, school, or athletic department expectations.

8. CONDUCT, CITIZENSHIP & SPORTSMANSHIP

Student-athletes are representatives of their team, school, and community. Participation in athletics carries the expectation that students will conduct themselves responsibly and respectfully at all times.

Athletes are expected to demonstrate positive behavior during the school day, at athletic events, while traveling with teams, on social media, and within the community. Student-athletes must show respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, spectators, teachers, administrators, and school staff.

Behavior that may result in disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to, bullying, harassment, hazing, theft, vandalism, fighting, insubordination, inappropriate language, unsportsmanlike conduct, or violations of school or team rules. Depending on the severity of the incident, consequences may include suspension or removal from athletic participation.

Student-athletes are expected to understand that their actions and decisions reflect not only upon themselves, but also upon their teammates, coaches, and the broader Durfee community.

Sportsmanship Expectations

Durfee High School expects the highest standards of sportsmanship from all athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Compete with integrity
- Respect game officials and opponents
- Accept victories and defeats appropriately
- Represent the school with pride and maturity

Poor sportsmanship or behavior that reflects negatively on the school or athletic program may result in disciplinary action.

Hazing Policy

Durfee Athletics maintains a zero-tolerance policy for hazing.

Hazing is prohibited by [Massachusetts General Law \(M.G.L. c. 269, §§ 17–19\)](#) and by Fall River Public Schools policy. Any activity or behavior that humiliates, intimidates, degrades, abuses, coerces, or endangers another student—whether physical, emotional, or psychological—is considered hazing, regardless of a person's willingness to participate.

Students who engage in hazing may be subject to school disciplinary action, suspension or removal from athletic participation, and criminal penalties as provided by Massachusetts law.

Coach Requirement: In accordance with Massachusetts law, all coaches are required to review the Massachusetts Hazing Law with their student-athletes before the start of each athletic season. Student-athletes are expected to understand and comply with these requirements throughout the season.

Substance Use Policy

Durfee High School follows all MIAA chemical health policies regarding:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco and nicotine products
- Marijuana
- Controlled substances
- Performance-enhancing drugs

Violations may result in suspension from athletic participation in accordance with MIAA guidelines.

Gambling & Sports Betting

Student-athletes are prohibited from participating in any form of gambling or sports betting.

In accordance with MIAA policy, student-athletes may not place, accept, promote, or facilitate wagers on any athletic contest or event. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Sports betting
- Lottery games
- Betting connected to video games, online games, or mobile devices
- Fantasy sports contests involving money or prizes
- Pools, prop bets, or any other form of wagering

Student-athletes may not provide betting-related information or engage in activities that compromise the integrity of interscholastic athletics.

Violations may result in disciplinary action, suspension or loss of athletic eligibility, and additional consequences under MIAA and Fall River Public Schools policies.

9. HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLNESS

The health, safety, and well-being of student-athletes are priorities of the Durfee Athletic Program. The Athletic Department is committed to maintaining a safe environment that supports the physical and emotional wellness of all participants.

Student-athletes and families share responsibility for reporting injuries, following medical recommendations, communicating health concerns, and complying with all safety protocols established by the school, Athletic Department, and healthcare providers.

Participation in athletics requires honesty and communication regarding injuries, illnesses, and overall wellness. Student-athletes should never hide injuries or symptoms in order to continue participating.

Athletic Trainer Services

The Durfee Athletic Department provides access to athletic training services through our full-time Athletic Trainer, Kelley Mahoney to support the health, safety, and well-being of all student-athletes.

Athletic training services include:

- Injury evaluation and assessment
- Injury treatment and care
- Rehabilitation support
- Injury prevention strategies
- Guidance on safe return-to-play procedures
- Communication and coordination with healthcare providers, families, coaches, and school personnel when needed

All injuries should be reported to Athletic Trainer Kelley Mahoney or a coach as soon as possible.

Student-athletes are encouraged to communicate any symptoms, concerns, or limitations related to their health and participation.

Student-athletes returning from injury must provide appropriate medical documentation and receive clearance when required before returning to athletic participation.

Concussion Awareness & Management

Any student-athlete suspected of having a concussion will be:

- Removed from participation immediately
- Evaluated by appropriate medical personnel
- Prohibited from returning the same day

Student-athletes may not return to participation until medically cleared according to Massachusetts Department of Public Health and MIAA regulations.

Common concussion symptoms include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Confusion
- Difficulty concentrating
- Balance problems

Families are encouraged to report all head injuries and concussion history to the Athletic Department.

“When in doubt, sit them out.”

Return-to-Play Procedures

Student-athletes recovering from a concussion or significant injury must complete all required return-to-play protocols prior to resuming athletic participation.

This process may include:

- Medical evaluations
- Symptom monitoring
- Graduated return-to-play progression
- Clearance from an approved healthcare provider

The Athletic Department reserves the right to withhold participation until all medical requirements have been satisfied.

Opioid & Substance Misuse Education

In accordance with Massachusetts law, student-athletes and families will receive annual education regarding:

- [Opioid misuse prevention](#)
- [Substance abuse awareness](#)

Additional resources are available through the school website and Athletic Department.

10. TRANSPORTATION, EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate responsibility and respect regarding school transportation, athletic equipment, locker rooms, athletic facilities, and all school property.

Maintaining safe and respectful facilities is a shared responsibility of all student-athletes, coaches, and teams.

Locker Rooms

Locker rooms are shared spaces used by all Durfee student-athletes. Students are expected to help maintain a safe, respectful, and clean environment.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Follow all locker room rules and staff directions.

- Treat teammates, staff, and personal property with respect.
- Keep locker areas clean and organized.
- Secure personal belongings at all times.
- NO personal locks / Durfee issued locks only

Student-athletes must not leave valuables or personal items unattended in the locker room. Students should use a Durfee-issued lock to secure their belongings. Durfee Athletics is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal items.

Students may request a Durfee-issued lock for their assigned locker. Only Durfee-issued locks are permitted—outside locks are not allowed and may be removed.

Team Transportation

School transportation is provided for most away contests.

Student-athletes are expected to travel to and from contests with the team unless prior approval is granted by the coach or Athletic Director.

Students may only be released to a parent/guardian or approved adult in accordance with school procedures.

Equipment & Uniform Responsibility

Student-athletes are responsible for all school-issued:

- Uniforms
- Equipment
- Locks
- Athletic gear

Lost, stolen, or damaged items may result in replacement fees.

All equipment must be returned before:

- Participating in another sport
- Receiving awards
- Graduation

Failure to return equipment or pay replacement costs may result in school obligations.

Locker Rooms & Facilities

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Respect all facilities
- Clean up after themselves
- Secure personal belongings
- Follow locker room expectations

Durfee High School is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items.

Students are encouraged to lock all valuables and avoid bringing unnecessary personal items to practices or contests.

Weight Room Expectations

Students using the weight room must:

- Be supervised by staff
- Wear appropriate attire (Sneakers & Shirts mandatory)
- Follow safety guidelines
- Return equipment after use

Respect for facilities and equipment is expected at all times.

Any misuse of facilities or equipment may result in loss of privileges.

11. COMMUNICATION EXPECTATIONS

Effective communication between coaches, student-athletes, and families is essential to a positive athletic experience.

The Athletic Department encourages respectful and productive communication at all times.

Communication Process

Effective communication between coaches, student-athletes, and families is essential to a positive athletic experience. The Athletic Department encourages respectful and productive communication at all times.

Student-athletes are encouraged to communicate directly with their coaches regarding questions, concerns, or team-related matters. If concerns remain unresolved, parents or guardians should contact the coach to schedule an appropriate meeting time. If additional assistance is needed after communication with the coach has occurred, the Athletic Director may become involved.

Appropriate topics for discussion may include athlete development, academic concerns, health or safety issues, scheduling conflicts, team expectations, and ways to support improvement. Matters involving playing time, team strategy, play calling, or other student-athletes are generally considered the responsibility of the coaching staff.

Parents and guardians are asked not to approach coaches immediately before or after practices or contests regarding concerns, as these are often emotional and time-sensitive moments for both coaches and student-athletes.

12. COLLEGE RECRUITING & STUDENT SUPPORT

The Athletic Department and school counseling staff are available to support student-athletes interested in pursuing athletics at the collegiate level.

Students interested in college athletics are encouraged to:

- Communicate with coaches early
- Maintain strong academic standing

- Research NCAA and NAIA eligibility requirements
- Participate in appropriate recruiting opportunities

Coaches may assist student-athletes by:

- Providing recommendations
- Communicating with college coaches
- Sharing athletic information and film when available
- Guiding families through the recruiting process

Student-athletes and families are encouraged to communicate openly with coaches regarding future athletic goals.

13. ATHLETICS OFFERED AT DURFEE

Fall Sports

- Boys Cross Country
- Girls Cross Country
- Field Hockey
- Football
- Golf
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Volleyball
- Fall Cheerleading
- Unified Basketball

Winter Sports

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Ice Hockey
- Boys Swimming & Diving
- Girls Swimming & Diving
- Boys Indoor Track
- Girls Indoor Track
- Wrestling
- Winter Cheerleading

Spring Sports

- Baseball
- Softball
- Boys Tennis
- Girls Tennis
- Boys Outdoor Track
- Girls Outdoor Track

- Boys Volleyball
- Unified Track & Field

Sports offerings are subject to change based on participation levels and school district approval.

14. IMPORTANT CONTACTS & RESOURCES

Athletic Department Staff

Bradford Bustin - Athletic Director

- bbustin@fallriverschools.org
- (508)675-8100 XT. 40225
- (774)712-4865

Kelley Mahoney ATC - Athletic Trainer

- kmahoney@fallriverschools.org
- (508)675-8100 XT. 40132
- (508)944-7351

Vanessa Pilar - Athletic Department Clerk

- vpilar@fallriverschools.org

Elijah Brooks - Strength & Conditioning Coach

- ebrooks@fallriverschools.org

Helpful Resources

- [Durfee Athletics Website](#)
- [MIAA Website](#)
- [CDC Heads Up Concussion Resources](#)
- [Concussion Information](#)
- [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

Additional information regarding schedules, registration, athletic forms, and announcements may be found on the Athletic Department website.

15. LEGAL & POLICY NOTICES

Governing Bodies

Durfee High School athletics are governed by three primary levels of authority to ensure fair play, safety, and academic integrity:

- Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA): As a member in good standing, Durfee High School adheres to all statewide rules, regulations, and tournament decisions set by the MIAA.
- The Big 3 Conference: Durfee is a proud member of The Big 3 Conference. This body is governed by the MIAA and its own specific Constitution. The Principal of each member school agrees to abide by all conference-specific rules.
- Fall River School Committee: Additional policies and regulations are set at the local level by the Fall River Public Schools and the Principal. Under MIAA guidelines, these local policies may be more restrictive than state standards to meet the specific needs of our community.

Student Handbook & School Policies

All student-athletes remain subject to the policies and expectations outlined in the Durfee High School Student Handbook and Fall River Public Schools policies.

Athletic participation does not exempt students from school disciplinary procedures or consequences.

Violations of school policies may result in additional athletic consequences, including temporary or permanent suspension from participation.

Medical Clearance & Participation Risk

Participation in athletics involves inherent risks, including the possibility of serious injury.

By participating in athletics, student-athletes and families acknowledge and accept these risks.

The Athletic Department reserves the right to require medical documentation or medical clearance whenever there are concerns regarding a student-athlete's health, safety, or ability to participate safely.

The school physician, athletic trainer, administration, or approved healthcare providers may restrict or prohibit participation when medically appropriate.

Emergency Medical Care

In the event of an injury or medical emergency, reasonable efforts will be made to contact parents/guardians using the emergency information provided through athletic registration.

When necessary, emergency medical services may be contacted, and appropriate medical care may be provided.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to maintain accurate and updated emergency contact and medical information through Arbiter Registration.

Athletic Department Authority

The Athletic Director and school administration reserve the right to make decisions regarding athletic participation, eligibility, discipline, scheduling, safety, and program operation consistent with school district and MIAA policies.

The Athletic Department also reserves the right to amend, revise, or update handbook policies and procedures as needed.

Equal Opportunity & Non-Discrimination

Fall River Public Schools and Durfee High School Athletics are committed to providing equal educational and athletic opportunities for all students. The district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, disability, religion, sexual orientation, homelessness, English learner status, or any other protected classification under state or federal law.

Questions regarding Title IX, accommodations, or non-discrimination policies should be directed to school administration.

Social Media & Electronic Communication

Student-athletes are expected to use social media and electronic communication in a responsible, respectful, and appropriate manner at all times.

Online behavior, including posts, messages, photographs, videos, or other digital content that:

- Violates school policies or expectations
- Threatens safety or well-being
- Involves bullying, harassment, or discrimination
- Negatively impacts the reputation of Durfee High School or the athletic program
- Demonstrates inappropriate, disrespectful, or unsportsmanlike behavior

may result in **school and/or athletic disciplinary action**, including suspension or removal from a team.

Student-athletes are expected to represent themselves, their teammates, and Durfee Athletics with integrity both online and in person.

This keeps it concise but adds stronger accountability language, especially the idea that athletes represent the program beyond the field.

Parent & Student Responsibility

Participation in athletics indicates that student-athletes and parents/guardians:

- Have reviewed the Athletic Handbook
- Understand the expectations and policies outlined within it
- Agree to comply with Athletic Department, school, district, and MIAA rules and procedures

Additional acknowledgment forms and required documentation may be collected through Arbiter Registration.

FINAL STATEMENT

Participation in athletics at Durfee High School is an opportunity to grow as a student, athlete, teammate, and leader.

The Athletic Department appreciates the commitment and support of our student-athletes, families, coaches, staff, and community members in helping maintain a positive and successful athletic culture.

By working together and upholding the standards outlined in this handbook, we can continue to provide meaningful and rewarding athletic experiences for all members of the Durfee High School community.

