



Dallas Parochial League

# Handbook

(revised 4/2024)

# 7100 Eligibility

## 7110 - School Eligibility

All Catholic Schools (Diocesan and private) of the Diocese of Dallas are eligible for membership in the Dallas Parochial League. To participate in the DPL the member school must have paid the annual assessment (dues).

## 7111 - 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. Students must be in good standing in both academics and conduct as determined by the principal of their school of attendance. Students must be in good standing with regard to past sportsmanship as defined by section 7400 of the policy.

In any given school year, students who turn 13 prior to September 1 may not play on a Junior Varsity level team (5<sup>th</sup> and/or 6<sup>th</sup> grade). In any given school year, students who turn 15 prior to September 1 may not play in 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. Team and school placement will be determined by the league and school AD.

Students are permitted to “play up” in regard to grade level, but they may not “play down”.

## 7112 - Team Eligibility

Teams will be deemed eligible provided that all players are meeting the eligibility criteria as stated in the Student eligibility section above. Teams are required to have accurate, completed team rosters on file with the league office prior to the start of the regular season. Failure to meet this standard could place the team in danger of forfeiting based on the discretion of the DPL Athletic Director.

## 7113 - Coach Eligibility

Schools select coaches to represent their teams. It is the school’s responsibility to ensure that the coach has completed all necessary Safe Environment training required by the school. By listing the coach on any required DPL form 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 (PLC): 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. These rules should be addressed in the individual school’s handbook. 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 (Section 7400) (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 will also require re-certification in the PLC program, or other applicable training program based on the discretion of the DPL in consultation with the school

### **7114 - Spectator Eligibility (Fans)**

Refer to Spectators' Code of Conduct (Section 7300). This will be used as a primary basis, along with the DPL Disciplinary Guidelines (Section 7400) 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.

### **7115 - Officials' Eligibility**

The Dallas Parochial League will assign and oversee the officials that moderate league games. All officials will be required to have background checks performed based on Diocesan guidelines. DPL strives to provide competent officials for all sports. The DPL will also 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).

## **7200 - 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.

### **7210 - 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.

### **7211 - 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. For the 5th, 6th and VD3 basketball, 10 minute per game minimum is required. In 5th, 6th and VD3 volleyball, continuous rotation is required in order to give all players quality time on the court. For the varsity level teams and the other sports (without specific playing time requirements) quality/fair playing time is mandated.

This principle should be applied over the course of a season given that situations vary from game to game. As a Catholic, Christian league, every effort should be made to see that playing time is given adequately and fairly.

## **7220 - Teams & Leagues**

### **7221 - 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.

Some sports will also offer skill-based leagues (Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3) which will allow teams placed in those divisions to compete with like teams. Teams placed in Division 1 would be competing at the highest skill level offered by the league (2-3 players that could play at the next level). Teams placed in Division 2 would be skilled but not at the level of those teams in D1 (1-2 players that could compete at the next level). And teams placed in Division 3 would be strictly recreational teams with no players skilled enough to compete at the next level.

### **7222 - League Formation**

Each sport may have a variety of leagues based on gender, grade, skill, etc. The DPL Athletic Director will determine which leagues are to be offered each year based on registration information from the schools. 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 adjust as deemed appropriate. For a league to be formed, a minimum of 5 teams must be registered for that season.

### **7223 - 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.

### **7224 - 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.

Once teams have been registered by their schools and schedules created for those teams, schools will be 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. (See DPL Re-Alignment Procedures for a better understanding of the team adjustment process.)

## **7230 - Games**

### **7231 - 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.

All games, regardless of sport, are expected to start at the scheduled start time (game 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. A decision will then be made to determine if the start of the game can be delayed so that it does not affect the game, referee and scorekeeper schedule for the remainder of the day.

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 are not permitted to officiate a practice or scrimmage game-

### **7232 - Re-Scheduling Games**

Only athletic directors and principals may request re-scheduling. League games may be requested for re-scheduling for the following reasons: School and/or Church functions not originally submitted to the league office or facility problems that prevented a game from being completed or started. All re-scheduling requests must be submitted in writing no later than 72 hours prior to the start time of the originally schedule game.

Requests for re-schedules due to conflicts with outside leagues and social events are not allowed.

### **7233 - League Review of Policies, Procedures**

The Dallas Parochial League reviews policies and procedures annually with its' school athletic directors.

The DPL utilizes a divisional placement vs. an enrollment based system for its teams. This policy 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.

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.

### **7234 - League Structure and Re-Alignment Procedure**

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.

For regular season play, 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.

For post season play, should a team be moved up 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.

# 7300 - DPL Sportsmanship Code

## 7301 - Sportsmanship Code for Coaches, Parents, Students, Spectators and Players

**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 or harass 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.
- Coaches should address the fans, officials and scorekeepers in a respectful manner consistent with the PLC philosophy.
- 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.

**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 or harass 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.

**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 (See Section 711 for specifics). 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 in consultation with the school.

## 7400 - Disciplinary Guidelines

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.

### 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, Intentional or UNS (UB)	Suspended for one quarter
2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical (different game) or UP	Suspended at least one game
Flagrant or 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
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2 <sup>nd</sup> Technical (different game) or UP Ejection	Suspended indefinitely pending review
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ejection	Suspended for minimum of two games
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.

## **7401 - 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 facility supervisor. The coach should then go back to coaching and allow the game to proceed as deemed appropriate. The ~~facility supervisor~~ 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. Only a school principal may file a grievance on behalf of the school.

## **7500 - Video Recording Policy**

The league follows the Diocesan policy regarding video recording/pictures as stated in appendix 2 of the Diocesan Handbook (Protection of Children).

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

The DPL does not prohibit scouting. Schools may send representatives to watch other games and take notes if they wish.