



**Danbury
Local Schools**

**ATHLETIC
HANDBOOK
2023-2024**

**Superintendent:
7-12 Principal:
Athletic Director:**

**Mrs. Cari Buehler
Mr. Laramie Spurlock
Mr. Joseph Miller**

Varsity Sports

Baseball

Boys Basketball

Girls Basketball

Cheerleading

Boys Cross Country

Girls Cross Country

Softball

Football

Boys Golf

Girls Golf

Boys Swimming

Girls Swimming

Boys Track

Girls Track

Girls Volleyball

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Danbury Athletic Department Philosophy

The athletic program of Danbury Local Schools is a cooperative effort of the Board of Education, the Administration, and the Athletic Department. The opportunity for participation in a wide variety of student-selected activities is a vital part of the student's educational experience. The experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable students to make maximum use of their education.

Participation in activities is a privilege which carries with it a responsibility to the school, activity, student body, community, and to the individual student. We believe that by promoting sportsmanship at all levels, the program instills pride and reinforces a sound value structure, and enhances the individual's self-image as well as the image of the school district and the community.

Danbury's student activities are considered an integral part of the educational program providing experiences that will help develop young men and women physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

Athletic Objectives

The student athlete shall learn teamwork: To work with others in a democratic society, a person must develop self-discipline and respect for authority and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. Athletes must place the team and its objectives above personal desires.

To improve: Continual improvement is essential to good citizenship. As an athlete, you must establish a goal and constantly try to reach that goal. Try to better yourself in the skills involved and in those characteristics set forth as being desirable.

To have fun: The main reason people participate in sports and games.

Enjoy Athletics: It is necessary to acknowledge all of the personal rewards we derive from athletics, and to give sufficiently to ourselves in order to preserve and improve the program.

To be successful: Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. You learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication. Develop a desire to excel.

To develop desirable personal health habits: To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop a desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

Sportsmanship: To accept success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing you have done your best. We must learn to treat others as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.

General Information

Ohio High School Athletic Association (O.H.S.A.A)

Danbury is a member of the Ohio State High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). It is important for all coaches, parents and athletes to be familiar with the bylaws of the OHSAA. Intentional violation of any bylaws or other policies is a very serious offense. While it is not possible to agree with every rule and regulation, it is important for all to comply with them.

Please visit the Ohio High School Athletic Association website at www.ohsaa.org.

Sandusky Bay Conference

Danbury is a member of the Sandusky Bay Conference – River Division. The River Division consists of public and private high schools: Tiffin Calvert, Hopewell-Loudon, Old Fort, New Riegel, Lakota, Gibsonburg, Sandusky St. Mary, Fremont St. Joseph, Woodmore, and Danbury. The SBC is a prestigious and competitive Conference. Teams from the conference's three divisions are competing at the State level on an annual basis in several sports.

Danbury coaches are required to attend all League meetings including All-Conference selection meetings in their sport.

Visit the Sandusky Bay Conference website at www.sanduskybayconference.net

Athletic Schedules:

The most up to date athletic schedules can be viewed at www.danburyschools.org

Requirements for Student-Athlete Participation

As a student-athlete, you are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following is completed (*all can be completed in Final Forms*):

1. OHSAA Physical Examination Form
2. Emergency Medical Authorization Form
3. OHSAA Authorization and Consent Form
4. OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement
5. OHSAA Concussion Information Sheet
6. All academic eligibility requirements satisfied

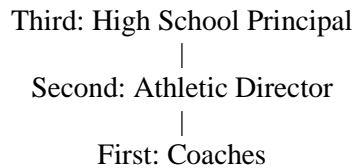
Danbury Athletic Department *Student Handbook*

The purpose of this handbook is to inform prospective athletic participants about the philosophies, policies, and procedures of the interscholastic athletic program at Danbury Middle/High School. Application of the rules and regulations herein will be as deemed appropriate by the administration of Danbury Local Schools.

This information is to be used in conjunction with the Danbury Student Handbook and the rules and regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Any questions a student or parent should be directed to the Athletic Director or Principal.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is not a right of any student; it is a privilege extended to eligible students in good standing. We believe that participation will be an important and enjoyable part of the educational experience at Danbury. The will to win is something that we hope all of our athletes strive for, but the principles of good sportsmanship should prevail at all times.

DANBURY ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION CHAIN OF COMMAND



Coaches, athletes, and parents should follow the line of authority on all matters pertaining to the athletic department. To bypass any office not only delays consideration, but causes misunderstanding.

DANBURY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Communication You Should Expect From the Coach

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach may have for your student athlete and team.
- Locations and times of all practices and scrimmages/contests.
- Team requirements (attendance, off-season conditioning, fees, equipment, eligibility, etc.)

Communication the Coach Expects From Parents and Student-Athletes

- Notification of scheduling conflicts well in advance.
- Special needs of the athlete that may not be apparent to the coach.
- Concerns expressed directly to the coach first.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With a Coach

- The mental and/or physical treatment of your child.

- Concerns about your child's behavior.
- Ways to help your child improve.

Concerns Not Appropriate To Discuss With a Coach

- Playing time/Position assignment
- Team strategy/Play calling
- Matters concerning other student-athletes

Procedure for Addressing Appropriate Concerns with a Coach

- Encourage your child to first address the concern with the head coach.
- Contact the head coach to set up an appointment.
- If the head coach cannot be reached after a reasonable amount of time, call the Athletic Director. An appointment with the head coach will be arranged for you.
- **Important!** Please **do not** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice session. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and in fact often escalate the situation.

What If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution?

- Although total agreement may not always be reached, a meeting affords the opportunity for productive discussion and better understanding. If a parent desires further discussion, please call the Athletic Director to set up a meeting.

** Please follow Chain of Command previously listed**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION A: Department Guidelines (pages 8-14)

SECTION B: Definitions / Explanations (page 15)

SECTION C: Athletic Disciplinary Code (pages 16-21)

SECTION A: DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES

1. Player Expectations

Because players are admired and respected, they exert a great deal of influence over the actions and behavior of the community in general; both at athletic contests and other various events throughout the community. It is important that players:

1. Treat opponents with the respect that is due them as guests and as fellow human beings.
2. Shake hands with opponents and wish them a good game when appropriate.
3. Exercise self-control at all times, accepting the judgment of the officials as the best judgment they could make given what they know and see. Never argue or make gestures indicating lack of respect for the officials' judgment.
4. Accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.
5. Show respect towards opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
6. Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community.

1-1- Player Ejection from Contest

Any student-athlete ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant foul shall be **ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day.** In addition, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/ tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football). If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student-athlete under this denial of participation may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during or traveling after the contest(s).

A student-athlete who is ejected a second time shall be denied participation for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student-athlete who has been ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Athletic Director. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student-athlete participates. All student-athletes participating in the athletic program at Danbury will be held accountable to the OHSAA player ejection rule.

1-2- Unsporting Player Behavior with Fans

No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the 'playing area in which a contest is being conducted and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of conflict—verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the 'playing area' and enters the spectator area of a facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

1. The student-athletes privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year.

2. The school shall be immediately placed on probation pending an investigation (and report) into what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what safeguards have been implemented by the school to prevent further happenings.

- 1-3-** Participants (players and cheerleaders) should avoid the following inappropriate behavior:
1. Taunting officials, opponents or spectators.
 2. Violation of bench rule: If an athlete leaves the bench area and is involved in an altercation on the playing field/area, it is strongly recommended that the athlete be denied participation for two contests. The denial of participation should include non-conference and tournament games and should carry over into the next sports season if it occurs at the end of a sports season.
 3. Ejection from contest.
 4. Use of profanity.
 5. Damage/destruction of school property.
 6. Theft of school or personal property.

2. Fan and Spectator Expectations

Partisan spectators by their behaviors and reactions determine to a large extent the reputation for sportsmanship of their school. Spectators should be reminded and should keep in mind that athletes are friendly rivals as members of opposing amateur teams. They are expected to be treated as such. Spectators should be reminded too, that the contest should be between the teams engaged in the competition and not between their supporters. It is important that all spectators:

1. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
2. Respect, cooperate, and respond enthusiastically to the cheerleaders, coaches, and student-athletes of all teams.
3. Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is unacceptable.
4. Be positive toward players and coaches regardless of the outcome of the contest.
5. Respect the judgment and the professionalism of the officials and coaches.

Spectator inappropriate behavior:

1. Verbal/physical abuse of officials.
2. Berating players, coaches or other spectators through: chants, signs, cheers, and profanity.
3. Publicly berating school officials within a contest environment.

Unacceptable interruptions of a contest:

1. Throwing objects on playing area.
2. Entering playing area.
3. Disruptive behavior.

2-1- Spectator Code of Conduct

Danbury Local School District, in association with the Ohio High School Athletic Association promotes interscholastic events and sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is an essential part of any athletic competition and is expected from athletes, coaches, officials and fans. As a fan/spectator (student or adult) at Danbury Local

School District, you are to be an example of positive encouragement while supporting our athletes, coaches and officials. Our behavior should be positive, respectful and encouraging of the athletes, coaches, officials and the game. Failure to be an example of these athletic practices and/or ejection from an athletic contest will result in the following procedures to be taken:

First Offense – The spectator will schedule a meeting with the athletic director with resulting action that may include removal from the next two home athletic contests. A letter will be sent by the athletic director and principal to the spectator in question notifying them of the ejection and the dates of ejection.

Second Offense – The spectator will be removed from all home athletic contests and other school events and activities for the remainder of the season of infraction. A letter of ejection will be sent from the office of the Principal notifying the spectator of the remainder of the season ejection.

Third Offense – The spectator will be removed from all home Danbury Local School District athletic contests and other school events and activities for the remainder of the school year. A letter of ejection will be sent from the office of the Superintendent notifying the spectator of the ejection. Any athletic official, including but not limited to, contest officials, athletic director, principal, assistant principals, game site supervisors and anyone else in an administrative role on the site, may uphold enforcement of an ejection. While the Fan Code of Conduct encompasses behavior expectations and consequences for both student and adult fans, Danbury Local School's administration may apply further consequences to a student ejected from a contest due to the student violating the Student Conduct Code

3. Alcohol, Tobacco, or Controlled Substance

Possessing, buying, or selling of these substances is against the laws of the state of Ohio for our students and athletes alike. Violation will result in the appropriate action of the Athletic Disciplinary Code (Section C).

4. Locker Rooms

It is extremely important to LOCK all belongings in your locker. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. You may ask for a lock from the athletic director's office.

The varsity locker room is only for use by those athletes in season. It is off limits to friends and other students not participating during a given season. Coaches shall inform players of their policy for assigning or selecting lockers. High school athletes involved in out-of-season training programs will use the physical education locker rooms.

Respect for the locker room and items in it are expected. Vandalism, theft, and any mistreatment of or misconduct in the locker room will not be tolerated. When written up by the proper authority, the violation will result in the appropriate action of the Athletic Disciplinary Code.

5. Transportation and Conduct:

Athletes will conduct themselves in a mature manner when riding on busses to away games. Coaches will discipline athletes for unacceptable behavior. Dress must be suitable and appropriate by the coach's standards, coach's "dress up" instructions, or athletic uniform required.

All participants must ride the school approved transportation vehicle to and from contests. The only exceptions must be approved in advance by the coach, with Athletic Director approval. Students will not be released to ride with another student for any reason.

6. Awards

The awards system pertains to the high school. All middle school players and high school players who do not qualify for an athletic letter are recognized with a certificate of participation.

The means of attaining awards differ with each sport and will be explained by each coach. Awards will be presented following each sport season at an athletic banquet. Every athlete is expected to be at the award ceremony to receive recognition. Athletes will not be issued their awards if they are absent from the Awards Banquet/Program without a prior acceptable excuse. Quitting a team or being dismissed from a team will result in no consideration for awards.

The requirements for earning a varsity letter are listed below for each sport (exceptions due to special circumstances can be made by the coach with the approval of the athletic director. Exceptions could include any Senior Athlete in good standing and/or any athlete who due to injury did not meet the requirements):

Cross Country	Place in the team's top seven runners in one-half of the meets
Football	Play in one-half of the total quarters
Golf	Place in the team's top five players in one-half of the matches
Volleyball	Play in one-half of the total games
Basketball	Play in one-half of the total quarters
Baseball	Play in one-half of the total innings
Softball	Play in one-half of the total innings
Track	Score in 3 meets or meet event standards (see coach for policy)
Wrestling	Compete in one-half varsity contests

The following is the award progression for varsity letter winners:

First Year	White embroidered "L" and numerals OR sport pin if already received "L"
Second Year	Service bar pin
Third Year	Service bar pin & Plaque
Fourth Year	Service bar pin & Trophy

7. Practices

There will be no mandatory practices on Sundays or the following holidays: Thanksgiving and Christmas Day unless there is a scheduled athletic event the following day.

Whenever school is cancelled due to poor weather conditions, games and practices may also be cancelled for that day. Only the superintendent has the authority to admit teams to practice or to allow contests to go on as scheduled once the dangerous weather conditions have passed.

Athletes will remain in the athletic portion of the building only. Athletes should not be allowed in the school hallways or classrooms without staff supervision.

Athletes will not arrive more than 30 minutes before their practice and **will exit the building as soon as possible after practice**. Your coach is expected to be there when you arrive and depart. **Athletes need to make arrangements to be picked up immediately after practices and contests.** We

cannot keep an athlete on the team if he/she can't leave the school in a reasonable amount of time following practices or games.

PRACTICE / CONTEST ATTIRE: Players will follow the school handbook as regards to appropriate attire. Offensive messages, ads for tobacco or alcohol products, even “dew rags” that hint at certain allegiances have no place as attire at a Laker practice session or contest. All jewelry and watches are to be removed for your teammates’ safety during all practices and contests (cross country and track coaches may allow their athletes to wear watches).

8. Conduct Pertaining to Game Officials

Athletes will be aware that it is not their place to criticize, be rude, or to argue with any game official. Be courteous and respectful. Let the coaches do the discussing. Violation may result in use of the Athletic Disciplinary Code (see Section C).

9. Dual Sport Participation

Dual Sport Participation is offered to our student athletes under certain conditions. Rules for how an athlete may take part in dual sport participation is as follows:

Individual-Based Sport Pairing

Pairing of “individual-based” sports is permitted within the same season (ex. Cross Country and Golf).

Team to Individual-Based Sport Pairing

Team-based sports may be paired with individual-based sports under the following circumstances:

1. Team sports hold schedule priority over individual sports for games, scrimmages, and practices. This is due to the complexity and overall dynamics of team-based sports and how it impacts a team’s participants and coaches.
2. Competition in individual-based sport may be prioritized over the team sport only under the following conditions: OHSAA playoff/ tournament, Conference prelim/ championship/ county meet, or if there are no team sport activities (listed above) on that day.

*Cheerleading may be paired with the fall and winter seasons regardless of sport. The cheerleader must meet with both coaches and Athletic Director prior to season to create plan for practices.

In order to take part in multiple sports in the same season, the athlete must fill out a Dual Sport Participation form and meet with both sport’s coaches and Athletic Director to ensure understanding of the Dual Sport Participation policy.

9-2- Conflicts in Co-Curricular Activities (Dual Sport)

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many co-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of co-curricular activities; and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid a continuous conflict.

This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying their coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in activities in which they can commit fully. This is only fair to other members of the sport/activity. If there are continuous conflicts between multiple school activities, students will have to choose one commitment at that time.

10. Injury / Illness

Report any injury or illness to the trainer or coach as soon as possible. In the event of illness, **an athlete must be in school by 11:15 a.m.** to be deemed healthy enough for a game or practice participation that evening.

11. Changing Sports

An athlete will not be allowed to quit one sport to start practicing another sport; nor to quit or be removed from one sport to switch to another sport during the same season (if cut from a squad after a try-out, a student may switch sports with approval from both coaches). If denied participation in a sport or if an athlete quits a sport, he/she may not report to open gyms or other sport-specific training programs in preparation for the following season(s) until the season from which he/she was denied or quit is completed. Athletes will have 8 calendar days from the start of official practice to decide if they wish to continue their participation without any consequences for quitting.

12. Care of Equipment and Uniforms

The purchase and maintenance of athletic equipment is a major expense of the athletic department. As a member of an athletic team, an athlete accepts the responsibility for this equipment and must return all at the end of the season. Uniforms will be worn for contests only – they are not social apparel.

Please take care when washing your uniform. Hot water, harsh detergents, hard water, and high heat from a dryer could cause your uniform to shrink or “bleed”. Use lukewarm water, mild detergent, and tumble dry at a low setting (or hung to dry).

Any equipment or uniform lost or damaged is the responsibility of the athlete and the athlete must pay the replacement cost of the lost or damaged item. Failure to pay may result in denial of participation in athletics. You must return the same uniform and the same equipment issued to you.

13. Academic Eligibility

Middle and high school athletes must pass a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses (or the equivalent), maintain a minimum of a 1.5 grade point average, and have no more than one (1) “F” per grading period in order to be eligible to participate during the subsequent grading period. The OHSAA credit, age, and resident requirements also apply.

Failure to meet these standards will result in a denial of participation for the next immediate grading period. Questions on academic eligibility should be directed to the principal or athletic director. (See Page 7-Ineligibility and Page 9-OSHA Bylaw 4).

14. Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA)

Age limitations for high school and middle school athletes, transfer students, playing on independent teams, out of season conditioning, and season start/end times are under the authority of the OHSAA. Questions in these areas should be directed to the athletic director or principal.

The principal will be the final judge at the school level for interpretation of the bylaws, rules, regulations, etc., regarding the above. Foreign exchange students must notify the principal of their intent to participate in sports so that the proper OSHAA approval may be attained. Residency requirements must be adhered to.

15. Due Process Procedures (Denial of Participation)

The athletic handbook will be distributed to each student. Athletes and their parent/guardian must sign the contract stating that they have read the athletic handbook prior to the athlete being allowed to participate. If a coach has any other training rules that apply to his or her sport, these will be given to the athlete prior to the beginning of participation.

School Suspensions – During the day of any school suspension (and through the duration of the suspension), whether in or out of school, a student becomes ineligible to participate in contests or practices of any kind, nor can the athlete be present with the team.

16. Hazing, Bullying, & Harassment

It is expected that an athlete show respect to his or her teammates. Hazing, bullying, and harassment are unacceptable behaviors toward teammates or opponents. This includes social media. The administration reserves the right to increase punishment in accordance with the student handbook.

17. Vacations During A Season

It is expected that a player commits him/herself to the team for the duration of the season. It is expected that players will be present for contests and practices during school vacations that occur during the sports season. If a parent or legal guardian must take the 7th-8th grade athlete along on a trip, it is excused. Coaches are not obligated to “save” any role or position for an absent athlete. If the trip involves the missing of school time, it will be excused provided the family vacation form has been completed and approved according to the student handbook.

Older (high school) players that could stay with a relative or friend will be expected at practice and contests. Special arrangements may be made with the head coach if the parents must have their child accompany them. Coaches will need to know before the season begins of possible vacations. The player will not necessarily return to the line-up immediately upon return, but may work back gradually.

High school students vacationing without parents or legal guardians during the season will be counted as unexcused absences. It is the philosophy of the department that high school age children have no business on extended, unsupervised vacations.

Parents are asked to remember that an athlete’s commitment to a sports program is really a commitment being made by the whole family. The athlete who violates this commitment to his/her team is letting down both his school and teammates.

18. Team Captain’s Role

1. Assume a leadership role in initiating dialogue among the team to encourage a complete understanding of the athletic code and live by the rules established in the code.
2. Set a good example and display good character by following all training rules, team rules, school rules and always doing the right thing.

3. Play the role of a grievance mediator if others do not wish to go directly to the Coach.
4. Help build team unity by communicating regularly with all the players.
5. Be an example during practice by giving a total effort during drills and following the Coaches directions.
6. Be a leader by helping to motivate the team during practices and before and during competition.
7. Consult with the coach about players and playing time but realize that the Coach will make the final decision.
8. Be a trouble shooter for the Coach but do not attempt to intimidate teammates. Do let the Coach know if there are problems he/she is not aware of.
9. Lead by example in and out of the classroom as well as on the playing field.

18. Participation on Junior Varsity and/or Freshmen Teams

The purpose for offering a junior varsity (JV) or freshmen team/schedule is to allow younger, inexperienced members of a given sport the opportunity to participate and gain experience to prepare them for Varsity level competition. In sports and activities in which rosters are restricted by a tryout procedure, seniors (12th grade) will not be permitted to participate on a Junior Varsity team.

SECTION B: DEFINITIONS / EXPLANATIONS

1. Practices

As we expect the coach to inform his/her team members of when practices start and end, we expect athletes to arrive and leave on time. The coach will inform his/her players how tardies to practice and missed practices will be handled. If tardies or unexcused absences are a continual problem, the coach may write up the athlete to be dealt with by the Athletic Disciplinary Code (see Section C).

Excused absences will be acknowledged under the following circumstances:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| A. medical emergency | D. funeral |
| B. personal illness/injury | E. quarantine |
| C. legal appointments approved | F. extenuating circumstances
approved by the coach |

When a doctor has recommended that an athlete not participate for a particular length of time, a doctor's release is necessary to resume participation.

2. Conflicts with Other School Activities

Due to small numbers of our student body, there are bound to be times when participating in athletics will conflict with participation in other extra-curricular activities (i.e. school play, cabaret, academic challenge, etc.). When these conflicts occur, the coach and activity advisor will be expected to work out a mutually agreed upon practice plan. If a plan cannot be worked out mutually, the athletic director will intercede and determine how the practices will be done. On-going conflicts mean a student should make a choice committing fully to one activity.

3. Student Jobs and Participation in Out-of-School Activities

Once an athlete has committed himself/herself to a school-sponsored sport, the commitment supersedes out-of-school activities if student participation is to continue. From season start to season end, to remain involved, the student's obligation to the sport comes first.

4. Ineligibility

Middle School and high school students become ineligible to participate in athletics or other extra-curricular activities under the following conditions:

- a) Student's grading period GPA falls below a 1.5 (C-minus average)
- b) Student has no more than one (1) "F" in a grading period
- c) Student passes fewer than five (5) courses per grading period
- d) School suspension or expulsion
- e) Detentions or Saturday school (if assigned at the same time as the activity)
- f) Student violates OHSAA Bylaw 4 (see page 8)

a,b and c necessitate removal from activities for the next immediate grading period

e,f, may be considered unexcused absences which could lead to removal

SECTION C: ATHLETIC DISCIPLINARY CODE

1. Athletic Participation

Student participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Students that wish to participate in an athletic program must be willing to accept the guidelines, rules, and responsibilities set forth by the school and the coach of that sport. Athletes can be denied participation or removed from teams/squads for general misconduct, which includes but is not limited to insubordination, repeated absenteeism, fighting, sexual misconduct, drugs/alcohol, negative/apathetic attitude, unsportsmanlike conduct, inappropriate language or gestures, destruction of school property, police arrests, and any inappropriate behavior in public domain, etc. Also recognizing the varying degrees of severity, types of misconduct and an athlete's previous record of conduct; each situation will be considered individually.

B. High School:

The Athletic code shall be in effect from the start of the athlete's first season participated in once entering his/her freshmen year until the last day of the sport season of their senior year (**effective 365 days/year**). Athletes and parents will sign the code of conduct through Final Forms when they sign the section titled: Athletic Handbook.

C. Middle School

The athletic code shall be in effect from the start of the athlete's first season of participation until the first sport played in high school (**effective 365 days/year**). Athletes and parents will sign the code of conduct through Final Forms when they sign the section titled: Athletic Handbook.

Student athletes must be aware that all school, team, and OHSAA conduct policies are in effect at games, practices, and on school transportation for athletic participation.

2. Denial of Participation

The board of education believes that participation in extra-curricular activities, events, teams and programs is a privilege.

The following procedures are established to govern the same in the Danbury Local School District:

- A. Actions and decisions shall be determined as to appropriateness in accordance with adopted rules and procedures relative to the activity as well as within sound discretion of the staff persons (coach) and/or administrators supervising.
- B. In situations where actions involve both curricular and extracurricular activity, judgements may be handled separately. However, in a situation that includes both parties, the extracurricular party will wait for judgement of the curricular party before issuing additional disciplinary action.
- C. Denial of participation may be for part or all of the remainder of the activity(s) for the current school year.

3. Due Process Procedure for Removal of Students From Athletic Participation

- A. All team and athletic department rules and regulations regarding athletic participation will be developed and discussed so that each student involved will be aware of acceptable and unacceptable conduct which may lead to a student's denial of participation in such activities will be so noted. It is the responsibility of each coach to review with his/her team members these rules and regulations.
- B. A Coach may deny an athlete participation for a period not to exceed 24 hours at any time without notice.
- C. When it becomes necessary to deny a student participation in athletics, the student will be given written notice by the denying party (coach or athletic director), which will include notification of reasoning for such actions.
- D. The final authority to deny a student the privilege of participation in such activities will be reserved to:
 - i. If an athlete is denied participation by the coach for breaking a team rule, the athlete has 24 hours to submit an appeal to the Athletic Director
 - ii. If an athlete is denied participation by the Athletic Director for a violation of the athletic handbook, the athlete has 24 hours to submit an appeal to the Principal.

Note only one appeal will be heard on any given infraction of team or athletic handbook rules/procedures.

4. Insubordination/ Inappropriate Behavior/ Hazing/ Social Media

A refusal to follow the directions of a coach will be considered insubordination. Any deviation from expected behavior such as but not limited to: hazing, causing a school disruption through social media and/or inappropriate behavior will be dealt with in the following manner by the head coach, athletic director, and/or principal.

1st Offense:

Verbal warning, meeting with parents and additional consequences are possible.

2nd Offense (20%):

2 game/ match/ meet denial of participation for cross-country, football, and volleyball.

- 3 match denial of participation for golf
- 4 game/ match denial of participation for basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball

3rd Offense:

Removal from team for the season

***** Athletic Director and/or Principal retain the right to enforce stricter punishment based on the severity of the infraction.**

A. Hazing

Hazing of any type is inconsistent with the educational process and shall be prohibited at all times at Danbury Local Schools. No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in the hazing of any person. No administrator, faculty member, or any other employee of the school shall encourage, condone, tolerate, or permit the hazing of any person. Any person who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action stated above and may be liable to civil and criminal penalties in accordance with Ohio law.

Hazing can be defined as any act, or coercing another, including the victim to do any act that causes or creates a substantial risk of mental or physical harm to a person.

B. Social Media

Danbury Local Schools and the Athletic Department realizes that social media is part of our ever-changing society. Danbury Local Schools respects the rights of individuals to use social media and personal websites, but it is important that the athlete's personal use of these sites/apps does not damage the school/team reputation or affect their athletic team in any negative way. Athletes must realize that boundaries need to exist because what is private in the digital world often has the possibility of becoming public. The athletic department strongly encourages athletes to exercise care and good judgement when posting content on any website/app.

All students/athletes are encouraged to exercise the utmost caution when participating in any form of social media or online communication both with the DHS/DMS community and beyond. Students who participate in online activities must remember that their posts reflect on their teams and the entire Laker community and are subject to the same behavioral standards set forth in the Student Code of Conduct. Social media that causes a disruption to the school day and/or athletic team will be subject to disciplinary action stated above.

5. Alcohol/ Controlled Drugs/ Steroids/ Tobacco/ Smokeless Tobacco/ Vape (Juul) Devices Policy

Athletes shall not possess, use, or distribute any controlled or counterfeit substances including but not limited to alcohol, tobacco, steroids, smokeless tobacco, and vapor devices, and/or any paraphernalia related to any of these substances.

1st Offense:

The team member shall be denied participation for a total of 20% of the regularly scheduled games, meets, or matches (including tournaments). If the infraction occurs at or near the end of the season, the number shall be calculated as above and applied to remaining games (including tournaments) up to the appropriate number of contests. A conference with parents will be held in addition to the denial of participation of the game(s).

2nd Offense:

The team member shall be denied participation for **one calendar year** and be put on probation for the remainder of his/her high school career with any additional violation leading to permanent removal from extra-curricular activities. The student must also make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health OR the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for a chemical dependency assessment and follow the recommendations of the counselor. The parent/guardian/custodian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the Athletic Department with documentation that the athlete completed all recommendations of the counselor.

Third Offense:

Permanent denial of participation from extra-curricular activities at Danbury for the remainder of their career.

Note All offenses carry over from year-to-year. Student-athletes **do not** receive a fresh slate entering 9th grade year

6. Association/Social Media Drug Policy

Athletes in violation of any policy in the Athletic Code of Conduct may be found guilty by association. Athletes who attend a party, event, or social gathering where alcohol or illegal substances are proven to be on premises may be found guilty of violating the athletic code. This includes pictures on social media, which places the athlete and the illegal substance on school premises.

If a student-athlete violates the Association Policy, the following steps will be taken:

- a) The student-athlete and guardian will be notified.
- b) A committee with the coach, athletic director, principal and/or superintendent will meet to discuss possible disciplinary action.
- c) Discipline may include but is not limited to:
 - i. Placed on the proper offense of the policy that was violated (ex: Drug or Behavioral policies).
 - ii. A punishment determined by the committee.

The OHSAA designates the dates when a particular sports season begins and the number of regular season contests allowed.

Examples (for a FIRST OFFENSE):

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1-14 regular season contests | 20% = denial of 2 contest |
| 15-24 regular season contests | 20% = denial of 4 contests |

25 or more regular season contests 20% = denial of 6 contests

Offenses do NOT carry over from middle school into high school. All athletes begin their middle school and high school careers with zero offenses.

OHSAA Bylaw 4 – Student Eligibility: Section 5-Conduct, Character, Discipline:

4-5-1 In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics.

4-5-2 In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are involved, the principal and game officials shall file a report and the Commissioner’s office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties including whether or not the student may participate in athletics.

The OHSAA requires that any athlete who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for contests for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two (2) regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection. Any questions on OHSAA rules and regulations may be directed to the athletic director or principal.