



Delaware Township Athletic Association

**** BYLAWS ****

UPDATED: 03/05/24

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Delaware Township Athletic Association of Delaware Township, New Jersey, also known as "DTAA" or the "Association".

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Association is youth athletics. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future tax code.

The objectives of this organization shall be:

- To provide the youth of Delaware Township and the surrounding communities with organized athletic programs in the most ethical and community serving manner possible.
- To implant firmly in all DTAA participants the ideal of good sportsmanship, honesty, courage, respect, and responsibility; to promote the physical, moral, mental, social, and emotional well-being of all participants; to encourage leadership, initiative, and good judgment on the part of all participants; to emphasize and instill in all participants the value of cooperative effort; and to promote sports as enjoyable, rewarding, and educational experiences.
- To provide a supervised program of competitive sports under the rules, regulations, and policies of each sport. Officers, coaches, and members shall bear in mind that stressing exceptional athletic skills and winning games is secondary to the objectives stated above and that the type of leadership extended to the sport is of prime importance.
- To act in a manner consistent with the "Young Athlete's Bill of Rights" found in Appendix 1.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 All officers, coaches and participants in the Delaware Township Athletic Association shall be members of this organization.

Section 2 Any person interested in the Objectives of DTAA and willing to uphold its policies and subscribe to its Bylaws may become a member if that person has registered their child, coached a sport, or has attended at least one DTAA general membership meeting in a calendar year.

Section 3 Non-residents of Delaware Township may join the organization. Non-residents may involve themselves as players or coaches. A non-resident may serve as a sport commissioner under a resident sport director. However, under no circumstances may a non-resident serve as a voting member of the Executive Board, unless the municipality that they reside in does not have their own program for youth sports or their children attend Delaware Township School.

ARTICLE IV: VOTING

All members of this organization, in good standing, shall have full voting privileges at all general membership meetings. Executive Board Officers and Sports Directors shall have full voting privileges at all regular and general membership meetings.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 The Executive Committee (also referred to as the Executive Board) shall consist of all elected Officers and Directors.

Section 2 The elected Officers of the Delaware Township Athletic Association shall be the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 3 The elected Directors are the Directors of Baseball, Basketball, Soccer and Softball. There may be two (2) Directors elected for each sport, each being known as a co-Director.

Section 4 No member shall be elected to more than one elected office simultaneously.

Section 5 Officers shall serve for a term of three years and can be re-elected for consecutive terms without limit.

Section 6 Whenever possible, the terms of the officers shall be staggered to avoid a total change of the Executive Board in any given year. The President and Treasurer shall be elected in the same year, while the Vice President and Secretary shall be elected in the following year.

Section 7 Sports Directors may serve a term of up to three (3) years and may serve an unlimited number of terms. Each Director may appoint up to 2 Commissioners. Each sport is entitled to only one (1) vote during Executive Committee meetings regardless of the number of Directors or Commissioners.

Section 8 The Executive Committee, having powers and functions as set forth in these Bylaws, shall consist of all elected officers and sports directors.

Section 9 The Executive Committee shall be the designated interpreter of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS

Section 1 Requirements: To hold any elected Office in this organization, a member must have held membership in the Delaware Township Athletic Association for a minimum of one (1) full year and be a member in good standing.

- Section 2 Annual elections shall take place as needed at a general meeting open to the public. The scheduled election shall be announced a minimum of one (1) month prior to the date of the elections. Newly elected officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall assume their respective duties immediately following installation at the public meeting at which they are elected.
- Section 3 Anyone interested in running for office will be required to fulfill the duties listed under their prospective position and the requirements set forth under Section 1 of Article VI. All candidates will be invited to address the public at the general public meeting when the election will be held. Nominations for elected positions will be presented to the community at the start of the general public meeting. A notification will be sent out to the public a minimum of one month prior to the general public meeting. Any party interested in running for office will be listed on the agenda of this meeting, with discussions and a vote to occur at this time.
- Section 4 At a minimum, one (1) nomination must be accepted for each elected position before a vote may be taken.
- Section 6 Each member family is entitled to one (1) vote.
- Section 7 Nominations and voting shall be in the order listed below, the complete election to each position being properly completed before proceeding with the nominations and election of the next position:
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. President | f. Baseball Director |
| b. Vice President | g. Basketball Director |
| c. Treasurer | h. Softball Director |
| d. Secretary | i. Snack Shack Coordinator |
| e. Soccer Director | j. Dilts Park Field Coordinator |
- Section 8 Vacancies: A vacancy occurring in any elected position, with the exception of President (Article VII, Vice President) shall be filled by appointment of the President, with majority consent of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Section 1 President
- a. The President shall attend all DTAA meetings and all out of organization meetings where DTAA is involved or appoint a designee to attend on his/her behalf. In the event that he/she is unable to attend, the Vice President will run or attend any meeting in the absence of the President. The President is required to give the Vice President any necessary information in order for the Vice President to run a successful meeting.
- b. The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the membership and at all meetings of the Executive Committee.
- c. The President shall enforce all rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines of DTAA sports programs and shall execute the will of the membership. The President shall see to it that members are properly briefed on all phases of rules, regulations, and policies of sports programs within the Association.

d. The President or his/her designate shall represent this organization at all meetings concerning DTAA and at all appropriate public occasions.

e. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall assume such other duties as are generally associated with this office.

f. The President will be, or will appoint a liaison, to the Township Recreation Commission.

Section 2 Vice President

a. The Vice President shall assist the President in the execution of his/her duties and shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and shall assume the duties of any elected officer in the absence of such officer.

b. In the event of permanent vacancy of the Office of President, the Vice President shall, at the time of notification of such vacancy, become President and assume all duties of that office, until the time a new President has been nominated and elected to that office.

c. The Vice President serves as the organization's Fundraising Chairperson and is responsible for all activities surrounding the solicitation of donations to the organization. This may take the form of team sponsorships, honorary banner on fences, or general sponsorship opportunities, etc.

d. The Vice President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees when the President is unable to do so and shall assume such other duties as are generally associated with this office.

e. The Vice President will oversee a fundraising committee formed by members of DTAA at the discretion of the Vice President.

Section 3 Treasurer

a. The Treasurer shall assume responsibility for all matters concerning funds of the DTAA. He/she shall maintain accurate records of the funds of the Association and shall present up-to-date financial reports at each Executive committee meeting and regular meetings of the membership.

b. The Treasurer shall be an active member of the Executive Committees connected with DTAA funds, including all fundraising programs and events.

c. The Treasurer shall maintain a checking account and any other bank accounts deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. The signatures of the Treasurer and the President will be the only 2 authorized signatories for the account.

d. The Treasurer is responsible for assuring that all State and Federal Tax Returns are completed and submitted annually in a timely and accurate fashion.

Section 4 Secretary

a. The Secretary shall faithfully and truly record the minutes of all meetings of the organization.

b. The Secretary shall prepare and disseminate completed minutes to all executive board members for review prior to the next scheduled regular/executive meeting.

c. The Secretary shall maintain on file at each meeting a true copy of these Bylaws with all duly adopted changes, additions, and deletions affecting these Bylaws.

d. The Secretary shall maintain an attendance record of the membership at all meetings.

e. The Secretary shall be responsible for all official DTAA correspondence and communications.

f. The Secretary shall maintain a file on all communications of this organization.

g. The Secretary shall be responsible for the developing and maintaining the DTAA websites and social media platforms.

Section 5 Directors: Baseball, Basketball, Soccer and Softball

a. The Directors shall be responsible for selecting all coaches, assuring that they uphold the rules, policies and guidelines set forth by this organization.

b. Directors are responsible for assuring that all head coaches and assistant coaches are certified by a New Jersey recognized organization (i.e., Nays, Rutgers Safety Course, NJ Youth Soccer, or equivalent), and that background checks are up to date on all coaches. All coaches, both head and assistant, are to be CPR, first aid, and concussion trained. DTAA will provide CPR and First Aid training throughout the year.

c. The Directors shall be responsible for the purchase, inventory, dissemination, and collection of all equipment.

d. Official rules are to be distributed by the Directors to DTAA coaches and umpires/referees, no later than two weeks prior to the start of the season (first games). Rule interpretation is the sole responsibility of the respective director. The respective director shall make the official player roster available to all coaches prior to opening day.

e. Each respective director must hold at least one meeting with coaches at the beginning of each season.

f. The respective director shall conduct the procedure for the formation of teams in accordance with DTAA policy. To ensure all recreation level teams are matched equally and balanced, selections will be made through the blind draft procedure as follows:

- To ensure fair and competitive teams, all athletes will be evaluated once per year, prior to establishing teams, through a basic skills evaluation program to be determined by the individual sports Director.

- Except for the Head Coach's child(ren), teams will be formed by equally dividing the levels of skill/ability of the players.

- All teams will have one head coach. Assistant coaches may also be appointed, but all coaches must be certified in accordance with section 5 b. DTAA may add, remove, and replace coaches as deemed appropriate by the Committee.

- Head Coach's child(ren) will be added to the respective rosters at the coach's discretion. At that time, any final adjustments may be made with the agreement of all head coaches and the Director to offset any inequities caused by the Coach's child(ren).
- The stacking of teams is not permitted.
- The sport Director may, for good cause, change team rosters. The sport Director(s) will have final say on all rosters.

g. Directors may establish Travel/All-Star Teams/Tournaments Teams, based upon the following:

- Official tryouts will be held for all Travel/All-Star Teams. Notification must be given to all members in the age bracket at least two weeks prior to the tryout.
- DTAA athletes must fill all available roster spots before non-residents may be recruited. In other words, no DTAA athlete can be cut from the team unless the team is comprised of 100% DTAA athletes.
- The team roster is to be fixed at the beginning of the season. Once the team is picked, there will be no further additions to the roster.
- All travel team athletes will be required to play the DTAA recreational sport for which they are participating as a Travel/All-Star player.

h. The respective Director or Co-Director, of their designee, shall be responsible for the scheduling of all regular season games, play-off games, and when necessary, special play-off games. Rescheduling (and required notifications) of games rained out or otherwise postponed shall be their responsibility.

i. Directors or Co-Directors, in consultation with the Dilts Park Field Director, will be responsible for closing any necessary fields.

Section 6 Snack Shack Coordinator

- a. The Snack Shack Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring the Snack Shack at Dilts Park is staffed and operational for as many sporting events as possible. They will also coordinate with Delaware Township School to have a snack table available at DTAA home basketball events.
- b. Snack Shack Coordinator shall be provided access to DTAA social media outlets in order to solicit for volunteers when a gap in coverage is identified.
- c. The Snack Shack Coordinator shall be provided with a debit card and the ability to purchase food and supplies as necessary for the effective operations of the Snack Shack, up to \$500 per week, without the advance approval of the Executive Committee. All receipts must be provided to the Treasurer as soon as possible after purchase. If, at the Treasurers sole determination, there is found to be abuse of this privilege, then purchases by the Snack Shack Director will need to be pre-approved by the majority of the Executive Committee as described in Article IX below.

- d. The Snack Shack Coordinator is responsible for maintaining a record of volunteer activities at the Snack Shack and report same to the Executive Committee on a monthly basis. The records of the Snack Shack Director will be used to confirm family fulfillment of volunteer requirements.

Section 7 Dilts Park Field Coordinator

- a. Dilts Park Field Coordinator is responsible for the year-round maintenance and upkeep of all baseball, softball, and soccer fields, and associated structures (dugouts, benches, stands, sheds, etc.), at Sarah Dilts Farm Park. This includes identifying required pre-season services and supplies, continued maintenance during the season and field care in the off-season.
- b. Dilts Park Field Coordinator shall be responsible for managing the pre-season field preparation and post-season field closure days, in consultation with the appropriate sport Director(s). This includes maintaining a record of those that participated as those records will be used to confirm family fulfillment of volunteer requirements.
- c. As needed, the Dilts Park Field Coordinator will attend the Delaware Township Committee meetings, on behalf of DTAA, to discuss possible uses of the Open Space Fund at Dilts Park and any other related matters.
- d. The Coordinator will be the liaison between the Delaware Township Department of Public Works (DPW) and DTAA regarding all required maintenance at the Park.

Section 8 Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of the policies of the Delaware Township Athletic Association.
- b. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for interpreting questions of Policy and Bylaws without the approval of the membership.
- c. The Executive Committee shall investigate, discuss, and decide upon questions of Policy and report such activities to the membership as appropriate.
- d. The Executive Committee shall define the functions and responsibilities of the special committees of the organization.
- e. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the faithful and regular review of DTAA policy, sports rules, and programs defined in the addendum. Changes will be formulated through the Executive Committee which shall present such changes to the membership at a regular or special meeting for adoption.
- f. The child(ren) of the members of the Executive Committee are exempt from DTAA registration fees.

Section 9 Removal

- An Officer or Director of DTAA may be removed from office at any time during his/her term in accordance with the process set forth in Article X Sections 1-3. Any Officer or Director of DTAA may be suspended, pending process for removal, from office at any time during his/her term by majority vote of the voting membership in attendance at the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

- Section 1 Executive Committee meetings of DTAA shall be held no less than once a month, except for the months of January and July in which no meetings will be held. All regular meetings shall begin at a time and place stipulated by the President.
- Section 2 General membership meetings shall be held a minimum of two (2) times per year. Date, time and place of general membership meetings will be stipulated by the President and announced to the public no less than two (2) weeks before the scheduled meeting date.
- Section 3 Special meetings of the membership or the Executive Committee may be called at the discretion of the President and at a time and place stipulated by the President.
- Section 4 All meetings of the DTAA shall be carried on according to Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise directed in these Bylaws.
- Section 5 Quorum for Meetings
- a. For all general membership and special meetings of the membership, a quorum of seven (7) members, including the Executive Committee and general membership, shall be required for the transaction of business of the organization.
 - b. For all Executive Committee meetings, a quorum of four (4) shall be required to conduct the business of the DTAA.
- Section 6 Conduct
- a. Meetings of this organization are held for the purpose of conducting the proper business of the Delaware Township Athletic Association. All members are to conduct themselves in an orderly and dignified manner. The use of profanity or indecent language or abusive language will not be tolerated. The President shall be empowered to call a halt to a meeting and, if unable to restore proper order, they shall call for the removal from the meeting of the offending member(s).
 - b. In order to ensure that a safe and healthy environment is maintained for the athletes, no alcoholic beverages shall be permitted at any athletic event. Umpires/referees and coaches are given full authority to take appropriate action by asking that alcoholic beverages be removed and suspending games until compliance is attained.
 - c. In accordance with NJ law, smoking is prohibited at all indoor and outdoor events. Those found to be in violation may be subject to fines and possible ejection from Dilts Park.
 - d. Unruly behavior by any coach, parent, or player during any DTAA event will not be tolerated. At the discretion of the umpire/referee and coaches, a player(s) or spectator(s) may be ejected from the event. In the event that a parent refuses to leave the event, the child will be disqualified from participation at the event. In the event of a second offense by a parent, the child will be suspended from playing for the remainder of the season.

e. All matters alleging improper conduct of a player, coach, parent, or umpire/referee shall be reported to to the Executive Board for resolution. The Executive Board may decide to permanently disqualify any player, coach, parent, spectator or umpire/referee.

ARTICLE IX: EXPENDITURES

a. Expenditures shall generally be approved by resolution and vote, per Article X, at a regular or business meeting.

b. In the event a purchase needs to be made between scheduled meetings, and time is of the essence, a request shall be made via group email or text communication, to include the entire Executive Board. The expenditure can be authorized with majority approval. All responses for approval or denial must be made via "reply all".

c. The President shall have for emergency use up to five-hundred dollars (\$500.00) within a 30-day period without prior approval of the Executive Board provided the expenditure is in the best interests of the Delaware Township Athletic Association.

d. During the respective sport season, Sport Directors or Co-Directors shall have for emergency use up to two-hundred dollars (\$200.00) within a 30-day period without prior approval of the Executive Board provided the expenditure is in the best interests of the Delaware Township Athletic Association. Notice of the expenditure shall be made without delay to the DTAA Treasurer and President. Emergency expenditures should be considered rare and only done in emergent situations. Generally, unforeseen expenditures should be undertaken in accordance with Article IX b, above.

e. Each Executive Board member and Sport Director or Co-Director is entitled to receive a DTAA debit card. Debit cards will be limited to one (1) per sport. All debit card purchases must adhere to Article IX a. and b., above.

f. Use of any DTAA funds, credit cards, or debit cards not provided as outlined above is strictly prohibited.

ARTICLE X: RESOLUTIONS

Section 1 All matters important to the purposes of this organization and to the proper of its business shall be presented to the membership in Resolution form. All such matters concerned with Policy shall be directed without vote to the Executive Committee for consideration. All other matters shall lay on the table from one (1) regular and/or special meeting to the next, at which time a majority vote of the membership at that meeting shall be required to adopt the Resolution.

Section 2 Rescinding of a Resolution: Any Resolution to rescind a Resolution already adopted must lay on the table until the next regular and/or special meeting, at which time a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership in attendance at that meeting shall be required to adopt the Resolution to Rescind.

Section 3 Resolution Lost: After a Resolution has been acted upon and defeated, said Resolution shall not be brought again to the membership for a minimum of two (2) months.

Section 4 Resolution to Amend Bylaws: A Resolution presented to amend these Bylaws shall lay on the table for a minimum of one (1) month, at which time two-thirds (2/3) majority vote

of the membership in attendance shall be required to adopt the Resolution to Amend. Written notice of the Resolution to Amend shall be given to all members of the DTAA a minimum of one (1) month prior to the meeting at which the Resolution will be voted upon. Written notice shall include the statement of the Resolution to Amend in its final form.

ARTICLE XI: RULES & REGULATIONS FOR EACH SPORT

Rules governing Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, and Softball shall be referred to as:

Attachment A: Baseball
Attachment B: Soccer

Attachment C: Basketball
Attachment D: Softball

ARTICLE XII: INSURANCE

DTAA shall maintain an insurance liability policy at all times covering all participants in each sport sponsored by the Delaware Township Athletic Association.

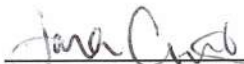
ARTICLE XIII: BYLAWS

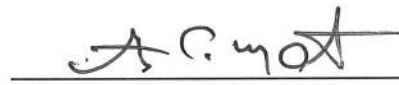
These Bylaws shall supersede and replace in full all other Bylaws of this organization known to exist or otherwise and shall hence be referred to as the Official Bylaws of the Delaware Township Athletic Association.

ANY CHANGES IN POLICY OR AMENDMENTS TO THESE RULES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.


DTAA President


DTAA Vice-President


DTAA Secretary


DTAA Treasurer


DTAA Director of Baseball


DTAA Director of Soccer


DTAA Director of Softball


DTAA Director of Basketball


DTAA Snack Shack Coordinator


DTAA Dilts Park Field Coordinator

DATE: 03/05/24

APPENDIX 1: DTAA - Bill of Rights for Young Athletes

- The right to participate in sports
- The right to participate at a level commensurate with each child's developmental level
- The right to have qualified adult leadership
- The right to participate in safe and healthy environments
- The right to share in the leadership and decision making of their sport
- The right to play as a child and not as an adult
- The right to proper preparation for participation in sports
- The right to an equal opportunity to strive for success
- The right to be treated with dignity
- The right to have fun in sports

APPENDIX 2: DTAA - Expectations of Coaches (Rev 3.0 - June 2001)

This guide is provided to the coaches, parents and athletes participating in DTAA Sports Activities. It is intended to clearly identify those attributes of coaching that all of our coaches must strive to meet in order that our young athletes receive the best that we can offer. Our overall goal is to provide a learning environment for the young athlete that stresses learning and fair play, while at the same time providing them with all the life lessons that sports have to offer. All of this must be designed to take place in a positive environment where respect for the coach, athlete, parent, and referee is the highest priority.

In the book "Coaching Youth Basketball", the basic principles of being a coach are highlighted in the acronym COACH:

- C..... Comprehension of the rules, skills, and tactics.
- O Outlook as it relates to your personal perspective and goals...do you have your priorities in order?
- A..... Affection and genuine concern for your athletes and their needs.
- C..... Character building based on modeling appropriate behaviors for your athlete.
- H..... Humor is often overlooked as a coaching tool.

Keeping all 5 of these critical factors in balance is the most effective way to develop the young athlete.

A: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

In the following list, we have attempted to capture the essence of that characteristic of coaches that will ensure that the goals of our program are met.

1. All coaches, both head and assistant, will be background checked by DTAA and must be certified either through the New Jersey Youth Soccer Association, the Rutgers University Coaching Safety course, or the National Alliance of Youth Sports. All these courses are available online. DTAA will reimburse all coaches for any fees associated with participation in any of these courses. Under no circumstances will uncertified coaches be permitted to run a practice or game.
2. All coaches are expected and required to display behavior conducive to being a positive role model for our athletes and their parents, always acting in the most ethical manner. Disparaging or otherwise offensive remarks and behavior towards players, opposing coaches, referees, parents, or spectators will not be tolerated. All disputes with referees and other coaches must be handled in a professional manner. Remember, the children are watching you! Complaints concerning coaches' behavior on the field during practices or games will be handled through a formal hearing with the DTAA Board of Directors.
3. Coaches are expected to meet with the parents of the athletes to explain their coaching philosophies, organize email/phone chains and post-game snacks, etc. It is important to develop a relationship with the parents of your team members in order that we provide the best environment tailored to individual athlete's needs.
4. Coaches are expected to inspect the playing field conditions prior to each practice and game, both home and away. Failure to do so can create a large liability situation for the coaches and the organization.
5. Coaches are expected to meet their commitments to field preparation and refereeing schedules.

6. Coaches are expected to continually work toward improving their coaching skills. There are numerous books, videos, clinics, and websites that can provide an enormous variety of information for keeping your practices interesting and improving player's skills.
7. Winning is not our main goal in Recreation Level sports. Developing an athlete's love for the sport, improving skills, and learning life lessons are the primary focus.
8. Study the rules of the sport. You can't coach a sport if you don't know the rules. Make sure you understand all rule modifications necessary for different levels of play.
9. Don't argue with referees. If you believe they got a call wrong, bring it to the attention of the Sport Director. There are very few things worse than arguing with officials in front of young athletes.
10. Coaches are expected to maintain a high level of organization concerning practice and game schedules. It is recognized that various other time commitments can impose difficulties with schedules from time to time. It is the head coach's responsibility to reschedule practices and games, assure that fields and referees are available and assure that the appropriate Sports Director is kept in the loop. The athletes of a recreation level team should never take a back seat to all-star level play. In other words, all scheduling conflicts are to be equitably resolved for all levels of play.
11. The "Bill of Rights for Young Athletes" (NASPE, 1977) that is included in Appendix 1 written by medical, physical education and recreation experts is a focal point of our program:
 - Right of the opportunity to participate in sport regardless of ability level
 - Right to participate at a level that is commensurate with each child's developmental level
 - Right to have qualified adult leadership
 - Right to participate in safe and healthy environments
 - Right of each child to share the leadership and decision-making of their sport participation
 - Right to play as a child, not as an adult
 - Right to proper preparation
 - Right to equal opportunity to strive for success
 - Right to be treated with dignity by all involved
 - Right to have fun through sport

B: CREATING THE PROPER ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG ATHLETES:

All DTAA coaches are expected to use the following principles in their coaching activities. These principles have been collated from many sources that help define what makes a good coach:

1. Strive to be a good teacher. Break down techniques into simple to understand segments.
2. Make learning fun. Nothing is more boring to kids than repetitive drills. Try to make every learning opportunity a game.
3. Maintain a positive, encouraging, always praising atmosphere. These are kids... they will make mistakes. It is most important that the self-esteem of the young athletes be bolstered at every opportunity. The following are some tips for maintaining self-esteem among players:
 - Say something personal to every player at every practice

- Set the players up for success at every opportunity
- It is never acceptable to criticize an individual player publicly. This is best handled one on one. However, public praise of an individual is completely acceptable and encouraged.
- Give each child an identity on the team
- Make sure more experienced players spend time practicing or partnering with less experienced players
- Engage in clear and honest communication with each player on and off the field
- Stay positive... Nothing good comes out of negativity.
- Yelling is not the same as coaching or teaching. It is a very destructive process for a team.
- Never lay sarcastic comments on your players. Kids don't get the humor in sarcasm.
- Never let your frustration show
- Act like a winner no matter what the circumstances

4. There are no great coaches, only great teams. Coaches are just one part of the team. It is unacceptable to blame only your players for a team's shortcomings. Coaches must look inside themselves as well.

5. Coaches must understand whom they are coaching. Children are not only defined by age. Each child develops and matures at a unique pace.

6. Coaches must set realistic goals for their team

7. Correct mistakes in a positive manner. Stop the play, demonstrate the correct technique, and try again.

8. Acknowledge and reward effort and progress.

9. Try to counteract parental pressures by communicating to the athletes that they always give their best and develop their skills, not that they must win or be a "star". Communicate to the parents that excessive pressure detracts from the fun of the game. Do not let parents interfere with either practices or games. Communicate privately with parents whose behavior is not seen as appropriate. If all else fails, bring the problem to the attention of the Sports Director.

10. ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND

APPENDIX 3: DTAA - Expectations of Parents (Rev 3.0 - June 2001)

DTAA is committed to providing the best possible athletic experiences for the young athletes of our community. There are many volunteers that spend many hours seeing to it that our children have the opportunity to participate in a safe environment focused on learning, character building and preparation for all of their life's future endeavors both on and off the playing field. You as a parent of a young athlete, whether you ever played an organized sport or not, are the most crucial part of the equation. Your time, effort, love and support make it possible for your child to succeed no matter what their ability or skill level.

We have developed this set of expectations of parents to help make your child's experiences the most positive possible.

Make sure that you take a few minutes to get to know your child's coach. Establishing a positive relationship can help you deal with any and all of the issues that may come up during the season.

Make sure your child's coach is advised of any special needs as it relates to scheduling conflicts, health issues, etc.

Make arrangements to have your child to practice and games on time. It is important that your child not be made uncomfortable by being late to an event. In addition, our practice times are somewhat limited each week. Every minute counts!

Advise your child's coach in advance of scheduling issues, illnesses, etc. that will cause your child to miss a practice or a game. There is nothing more embarrassing to a team than to have to forfeit a game because of lack of attendance. In our recreation level leagues, rescheduling of games is always possible.

Wherever and whenever possible be a volunteer to help with team organization, field preparation, snack shack or any other of the wide range of activities necessary to keep the organization afloat. We cannot survive without your help.

Encourage your child. Keep the positives to a maximum and the criticism to a minimum. Do not pressure your child to perform. It is counterproductive and takes the fun out of the game.

Encourage your child to practice skills learned at team practices on their own. Michael Jordan got to be the best player in history by working harder than anyone else on his own!

Encourage your child to watch their sport on television. There is a tremendous amount to be learned by just watching college and professional athletes.

Cheer for your child and their teammates, but do not try to coach them from the sidelines. It is confusing for the athlete to have instructions barked at them during a game from anyone but their coach. Athletes need to focus to be successful.

Do not accept poor sportsmanship from your child. Be constructive in pointing out the merits of treating teammates, opposing players, coaches and referees with dignity and respect. Most importantly, act as a positive role model by demonstrating and encouraging dignity and respect for all participants. It is unacceptable to denigrate anyone during a game and it will not be tolerated. If you have a concern over the behavior of players, coaches, or referees, it must be brought to the attention of the coach, sports director and DTAA Board in that order.

Any concerns with DTAA coaches should be dealt with in a timely and professional manner. Ideally you should raise your concern directly with a coach. If you are not satisfied, the issue should be raised to the appropriate DTAA sports director.

In closing, it is not our intention to instruct you on how to be a good parent. Our goal is solely to enhance the enjoyment of all athletes, coaches, parents and referees. You are a critical part of the equation when it comes to the success of our organization. Our children can only be successful if we as parents provide the right environment and act as positive role models.

APPENDIX 4: DTAA SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

The Delaware Township Athletic Association's mission is to instill firmly in all DTAA participants the ideal of good sportsmanship, honesty, courage, respect and responsibility; to promote the physical, moral, mental, social, and emotional well-being of all participants; to encourage leadership, initiative, and good judgment on the part of all participants; to emphasize and instill in all participants the value of cooperative effort; and to promote sports as enjoyable, rewarding and educational experiences.

To reward those student-athletes who best embody those qualities, DTAA has established a scholarship fund, which will provide \$500 to two (2) eligible graduating seniors. The scholarship opportunity will be announced at the discretion of DTAA, based on the availability of funding and other factors, to be awarded at a maximum of once per year. In order to be considered for a scholarship award, a candidate must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Must be a current resident of Delaware Township
2. Must have played in DTAA
3. Complete the application document found on the DTAA website
4. Submit an essay; maximum of 1,000 words, which discuss the following points:
 - Community
 - Sportsmanship
 - Volunteerism/Service Learning within the DTAA Organization
 - Volunteerism/Service Learning outside the Organization
 - How you've been impacted by DTAA
 - What makes you the best candidate

Essays will be evaluated by members of the Executive Committee using defined scoring parameters. While the exact parameters will not be made public, candidates should be aware that preference will be given to those individuals who have significant volunteer experience within DTAA (coaching, referee/umpire, field maintenance, etc.).

Applications must be returned by the date noted on the current application to the following address:

DTAA
PO Box 107
Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

APPENDIX 5: DTAA WORK BOND REQUIREMENTS:

Work Bond Requirements, Effective 2024

Delaware Township Athletic Association (DTAA) is a 100% volunteer-run association. We rely on the work of all of our members to ensure that our sports run as smoothly as possible for the youth of our community. Our work bond is established to ensure that all families put in a small amount of time to ensure the operation of our all-volunteer league that benefits our children.

What is the Work Bond?

A work bond is a check made out to DTAA when your child plays Baseball, Softball, and/or Soccer. That payment will not be processed unless the requirements of the work bond are not fulfilled. Mail checks to: PO Box 107, Sergeantsville, NJ 08557

How much is the Work Bond?

Starting in 2024, the work bond is \$200. Players will not be rostered and uniforms will not be distributed until the work bond deposit is received.

How can I satisfy the requirements of the Work Bond?

A family with one child playing a sport must complete 3 hours of volunteer work and a family with multiple children must complete 6 hours of volunteer work. This includes spring field prep, fall field clean-up, working Snack Shack shifts, pre-game and post-game field maintenance and coaching. At least 2 of your volunteer hours must come from the completion of a Snack Shack shift.

Board Members and Head Coaches are exempt from the work bond. Assistant Coaches are responsible for one Snack Shack shift only. Board members have discretion to exempt Assistant Coaches from the work bond depending on the number of other volunteer activities completed (e.g., Assistant Coach for more than one team). These exemptions must be in writing and provided to the Vice President.

For the purpose of fulfilling bond requirements, you have from January – November 30 of that sport year. It is suggested that Baseball and Softball families complete their bond in the Spring season, and Soccer families complete their bond in the Fall season to balance Snack Shack coverage. A sample list of volunteer opportunities is listed further below.

The bond requirement does not increase for children who play multiple sports (i.e. families of children who play soccer and baseball do not need to pay more than \$200 for the year or complete more than 6 hours).

How will the progress of my Work Bond be tracked?

The current year Work Bond Form is available at any time on the DTAA website. This enables you to start fulfilling your work bond beginning in January of the current sport(s) year. This form must be signed by a Board Member upon completion of a task. This form must be mailed to PO BOX 107, Sergeantsville, NJ 08557, emailed to DTAAsport@gmail.com, or handed to a Board Member upon completion of volunteer

hours. If the hours required are not completed by December 1 of that given year, your payment will be processed. If mailing your form, please ensure you keep a copy for your own records.

What happens if I don't volunteer?

You may choose to authorize payment up front if you do not wish to volunteer. Otherwise, your payment will be processed by December 1 of that sport year if you do not fulfill all of your bond requirements. We will not prorate the bond for partial volunteer hours. This money will be used to pay for field maintenance, equipment and capital improvements.

What are the volunteer opportunities?

Below is a non-exhaustive list of volunteer opportunities. The Vice President/Secretary/Sport Director will announce additional opportunities as they become available.

- Snack Shack shifts (2 hour increments); minimum requirement of one shift to meet bond requirement
- Spring field prep
- Fall field clean-up
- Pre- and Post-game field prep and clean-up
- Weekly field maintenance (as directed by Field Maintenance Coordinator)
- Assistant Coaching
- DTAA fundraising events
- Line striping
- Soccer net replacement
- Shed clean-up
- Picture day/coordination and distribution
- Uniform split/distribution
- Soccer sideline flags (2 judges/game)
- Baseball/sottball recordkeeping (scorebooks) Basketball games snack table shifts (DTS gym)
- Basketball recordkeeping (scoreboard and scorebook)

How are the registration and cashed bond fees used?

DTAA is transparent regarding finances and expenditures. Fees are used for uniforms, shared sports equipment (e.g. catcher gear), field maintenance, reteree/umpire tees, tournament fees, safety equipment (first aid kits, ice packs, etc.), insurance.