D2 Youth Sports

Policies and Procedures

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Approved by the Board of Directors

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Table of Contents

[Purpose 3](#_Toc44633357)

[Volunteer Background Checks 3](#_Toc44633358)

[Background Checks Policy Screening Standards 3](#_Toc44633359)

[Social Media Policy 4](#_Toc44633360)

[Lightening Policy 5](#_Toc44633361)

[Coaches and Players/Fan Conduct 5](#_Toc44633362)

[Coaches Conduct 5](#_Toc44633363)

[Player/Fan Conduct 6](#_Toc44633364)

[Draft Selection Process 6](#_Toc44633365)

[Freezes: 6](#_Toc44633366)

[Baseball / Softball 6](#_Toc44633367)

[Draft Order 7](#_Toc44633368)

[Coach Selection Process 7](#_Toc44633369)

[All Star Selection Process 7](#_Toc44633370)

[Player Selection Process 7](#_Toc44633371)

[The Nomination Process: 8](#_Toc44633372)

[Evaluation Process: 8](#_Toc44633373)

[Coaches Selection Process 8](#_Toc44633374)

[The Head Coach Nomination Process 8](#_Toc44633375)

[The Assistant Coach Nominations Process: 9](#_Toc44633376)

[Practices & Games Scheduling 9](#_Toc44633377)

[Athletic Committee 9](#_Toc44633378)

[Chain of Command 10](#_Toc44633379)

[Executive Director 10](#_Toc44633380)

[Commissioner(s) 10](#_Toc44633381)

[Baseball Specific Rules 10](#_Toc44633382)

[Softball Specific Rules 11](#_Toc44633383)

[NOTES: 11](#_Toc44633384)

# Purpose

The purpose of D2 Youth Sports shall be to promote, provide, maintain, and govern athletic programs for young people between the age of 3 and 12 of age. These efforts will provide the fellowship, physical fitness, good sportsmanship, training, and sponsorship of young athletes. A key component to accomplishing this goal is through demonstrations of good character by our adult volunteers.

# Volunteer Background Checks

All volunteers that will be on the field with players, working with players, in any capacity will be required to submit a background check with D2 annually. This includes Coaches, and team moms, and any other volunteer that will be involved with the youth of D2. If they can provide proof that they have had a background check in last year, they can bring it in to include in a file. Background check data will be handled discretely, and with confidence by the board of directors.

## Background Checks Policy Screening Standards

Criteria for Exclusion a person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as a volunteer if the person has been found guilty of any of the following crimes: For purposes of this policy; Guilty shall mean that a person was found guilty following a trial, entered a guilty plea, entered a no contest plea accompanied by a court finding of guilt (regardless of adjudication), or received court directed programs in lieu of conviction, or has charges pending.

**SEX OFFENSES**

* **Any Sex Offense** – Regardless of the amount of time since offense.

**Examples include**: child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure, etc.

**FELONIES**

* **All Felony Violence** – Regardless of the amount of time since offense.

**Examples include**: murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated Burglary, etc.

* **All Felony offenses** other than **violence** or **sex** within the past 10 years.

**Examples include**: drug offenses, theft, embezzlement, fraud, child endangerment, etc.

**MISDEMEANORS**

* **All misdemeanor violence** offenses within the past 5 years

**Examples include**: simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit & run, etc.

* **Two or more misdemeanor drug & alcohol offenses** within the past 5 years.

**Examples include:** driving under the influence, simple drug possession, drunk and disorderly, public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia, etc, or any other misdemeanor within the past 5 years that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the functions of that volunteer.

# Social Media Policy

D2 recognizes the role social media plays in modern communication. As such, we respect the rights of members to use social networks for self-publishing and self-expression to our league’s guidelines.

As a D2 member, your commentary is not only a direct reflection of you personally but also our brand. Commentary that is considered defamatory, obscene, proprietary or libelous by any offended party could subject you to personal liability and damage D2’s reputation. Once it’s on the internet, it’s there forever.

* As a member of D2: You are always a representative of D2 regardless of how or when you are posting on social media. This is for all the member of the league.
* Engaging with and sharing content posted by D2 -branded accounts is encouraged and appreciated.
* Engaging personally with D2 Stakeholders (donors, volunteers, board members, sponsors, vendors, etc.) is encouraged and appreciated.
* Representing yourself as a D2 member, up to and including the use of our logos and branding, on your personal profiles is encouraged and appreciated.
* We highly recommend if you have a problem with someone in our league. Work it out in person! Airing your personal grievances on social media rarely leads to positive outcomes.
* Harassing, threatening, discriminating against or disparaging any individuals or our league will not be tolerated. Do not use people’s names, organizations names, or the leagues name in a negative way.
* Sharing any organization-privileged information, including copyrighted information or organization-issued documents, through social medial will not be tolerated. This would include conversations with members via text, and screenshot to social media.
* Sharing photographs other identifiable info of other members, children, and without their permission is prohibited.
* Posting anything on social media involving child such as: Child’s name, picture, or any identifiable info without guardian’s consent is strictly prohibited.
* Although we encourage feedback on our organization’s social media, and we encourage it and understand your right to express your opinions. Please refrain from anything that would be defamatory towards D2 or hurt our image. We also have the right to protect our image as well.
* You are to contact leadership immediately if contacted by the media or press about any post that relates to D2 business.

Violations of any of the guidelines listed in this policy will be subject to corrective counseling and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal of membership. Where necessary, we will advise appropriate officials of any violations of law. If you become aware of any violations of this policy, you should report the violation to our board immediately.

Nothing in this policy is intended to infringe on the rights of freedom of speech, nor freedom of expression. It is simply meant to protect the image of D2 and the members of our league.

# Lightening Policy

Lightening can strike up to 10 Miles from a potential storm, so if lightening is in the area shelter needs to be taken for all players, and spectators. They do not need to return to the field for a game or practice until lightening has not been in a 10 mile range for 30 minutes.

# Coaches and Players/Fan Conduct

## Coaches Conduct

Any coach ejected from a game will serve a minimum of one game suspension, week of practice, and pay a $50.00 fine to D2 before being reinstated back to coaching. The coach will have the right to appeal the process, at which time he will notify the commissioner. The commissioner will discuss with committee, the commissioner will meet with the coach to decide, no board involvement on first offense, unless requested by commissioner. If coach is ejected out of two games in one season, and appeal is not won, the board will be notified and will be involved in the second appeal process, and if guilty the coach will have to sit out from coaching the remainder of the season. Coaches are responsible for their players, coaches, and parents. If a coaches is not helping resolve any conflicts could also be removed by the officials.

Our coaches are to be held to a high standard of conduct, any issues with the coach with profanity, conduct, behavior, or bad sportsmanship will be first addressed by the commissioner of that sport. If the issues cant be resolved by the commissioner it will be reported to the board of directors who at that time will make a ruling on the coach. The coach can come before the board to appeal the decision.

## Player/Fan Conduct

We hold all players and fans to same standard of conduct. If a player/coach is ejected from a game they will serve a one game suspension.

If a parent, fan, spectator becomes disorderly at a game/practice they may be asked to leave the complex immediately; authorities will be called if needed. The commissioner will be notified, and they will investigate. The commissioner will report incident to the board immediately and they will decide if they need to intervene depending on the severity of the issue. Repeat defenders will be banned from participating in D2 activities. Threatening off officials, coaches, players, or other fans has zero-tolerance, and player/fan can be removed from league immediately.

# Draft Selection Process

D2 is here to provide a fair but competitive recreational sport. We work to try to have balanced teams while allowing the coaches to try and establish competitive teams that can compete against teams from other organizations as well. The following will be followed unless noted in specific rules by any governing sports through organizations we participate in.

## Freezes:

You can freeze a player for the following reasons only:

* Player played with coach the previous year
* Players parent has agreed to coach or be team mom on the team
* A coach MUST freeze their kids
* Freezes will be turned in the before evaluations and draft

### Baseball / Softball

* 6U – No draft Commissioners select teams
* 8U and above – 5 freezes permitted

To avoid the draft you can play in the advanced level league and bring your own team.

A member from the Board of directors and that sports commissioner will be present for the draft. The board is not there to be involved with the draft, it is worked out between the coaches, and the commissioner of that sport is just there to advise.

Any player that signs up late or is not at evaluations if the sport has it will go in to the blind draft following the regular draft.

All freezes will be announced to start the draft, If a coach does not have all their freezes they will get picks to catch up If a player being drafted has a sibling, the next selection has to be the sibling. Car Pools and coach requests don’t have to be honored but recommended, unless under special request and approved by the board of directors and will be address 24 hours before the draft. At the end of the draft the last draft pick will be noted, any late sign ups they will be assigned in the same order as the draft was as a blind draft. Trades can be made before everyone leaves the room. Once the draft is complete, the roster is final, no changes to the roster regardless if a coach losses a player.

### Draft Order

Numbers will be drawn to determine the order of the draft, the draft will be a snake style draft.

# Coach Selection Process

Coaches for the regular season are determined by the following factors.

1. Issues with coach in the past on and off the field
2. Background Check verification
3. Seniority are based on the following:
   1. Head Coach at current age group
   2. Assistant at current age group
   3. Head coach moving up from another age group
   4. Assistant coach moving up from another age group
   5. Volunteer time with the league

# All Star Selection Process

In the interest of fairness and selecting the highest quality tournament teams, D2 has modeled its all-star selection process recommendations for a process to avoid accusations of favoritism or dishonesty that often come when such a selection is left to the sole devices of the Board of Directors, commissioners and/or coaches. D2 is not a win at all cost organization. We are competitive but at the same time development should be the higher standard. We believe in process over results. So winning above all else will not determine the head coaches. The rules below will be followed unless noted in specific sports from organizations we are participating in.

## Player Selection Process

The objective of the All-Star selection process is as follows:

* Comply with D2 rules
* Create the most competitive team(s) possible
* Create teams that will represent the league and community’s values
* Provide transparency of the process
* Be sustainable through ease of execution
* Create self- governance among coaches
* Be fair to players, parents, and coaches
* Be consistent in its application across D2

### The Nomination Process:

There will be open evaluations for all all-star teams. Coaches will nominate up to 5 players from their teams.

### Evaluation Process:

Players of good sportsmanship, high character, and team players will be the first factor, any player showing a lack of any of these will be disqualified immediately. Player must commit to play and be available for all sanctioned all-star events, dates will be provided ahead of time. Head coaches from their team will provide a list of recommendations, stat’s, and any other info pertaining to players on their team to help with the final roster. The goal of the All-Star teams is to put the most qualified and advanced players on the team to represent our organization every year. The players will be evaluated by the following: All head coaches at current age group, and the commissioner, if the commissioner happens to be a coach at that age group, then representative from D2 board will reside in commissioner’s spot. All- Star team will be selected from predetermined evaluations for that sport. Teams will be set to the size required for their sport. The players will be voted on from a 3/4 quorum of the above.

In the event Tie breakers some of the following will be considered.

* Is player eligible to play at a younger age group
* Two players that have the same skill set or attributes, one is moving up to next age group, while other has another year at the age group.

## Coaches Selection Process

### The Head Coach Nomination Process

If the head coaches and the commissioner can all agree on the coach at a certain age group, and then the board will not have to get involved in selecting the head coach, nothing else is needed otherwise:

If the head coaches and the commissioner cannot all agree then it will have to go to the board of directors to decide based on the following.

Head coaches will come in and interview with the executive board so that the executive board can make a decision on the head coach based on philosophy, and other factors determined by the Executive Board. Once the interview has taken place, D2 executives will seek feedback from officials, parents, and opposing coaches.

Deciding facts in the selection process will be:

* Issues with Coach (Issues with coach’s conduct, etc.)
* Seniority (Years of service with D2)
* Retention (players continue to want to play after coached by coach)
* Volunteering with league
* Coaching Experience (Knowledge of the Sport)
* Competitiveness (Teaching to compete the right way)

### The Assistant Coach Nominations Process:

If the head coaches and the commissioner can all agree on the assistant coach at a certain age group, and then the board will not have to get involved in selecting the head coach, nothing else is needed otherwise.

If the head coaches and the commissioner cannot all agree then, the assistant coaches are awarded by the executive board; they don’t necessarily have to be the assistance on the rewarded head coach’s team. It will be the coaches that the board believes will give the most continuity, competitiveness, and representation for all teams. The following order should be used:

* Head coaches from other rec. teams
* Assistant head coaches from rec. teams

# Practices & Games Scheduling

D2 must make the scheduling of practices and games for recreation teams their priority during the scheduling process. Recreational teams should take precedence over select / travel teams and games will precedence over all practices.

# Athletic Committee

All the Sports of D2 will make up the athletic committee as a whole; each sport will have its own commissioner of that sport and be a subcommittee of the Athletic Committee. Commissioner will operate its sport within the policies and procedures of D2. Anything that comes up outside the scope of the D2 policies and procedures will be brought to the President for approval, at that time the President will make a ruling on the issue and then bring to the board of directors for board approval to update the policies and procedures accordingly. The President will be the Chair over the Athletic Committee, VP will be the Co-Chair over the Athletic Committee. As long they are operating within the scope of the policies and procedures, they be able to operate freely and as needed.

# Chain of Command

D2 will operate on a chain of command. All issues will be handled by the coach first, and then brought to the commissioner, then to Athletic Committee, then to the Board of Directors. The board of directors has no power individually; they can however enforce any rule that is already set such as by-laws, previous approvals by the board, and the policies and procedures defined by the board of directors.

## Executive Director

Executive Director is the ex-officio to all the commissioners of D2. Executive Director is the highest-ranking executive with in D2. Also referred to as the President, or Chair of the Athletic Committee. Primary responsibilities include: making major decisions not defined in policies and procedures and bring to boards attention, managing overall operations and resources, operating as the main point of contact with the board of directors and D2 operations, communicating on behalf of the board, members, and community. Will manage business relationships with other leagues, county, and school district. Operate within budget and other standards approved by the board of directors. Operate within the policies and procedures that are defined by the Board of directors.

## Commissioner(s)

The commissioner will have complete oversight over their specified sport. They report directly to the executive director. They will work with executive director to make sure all fields are properly allocated for practices and games. They will operate within the rules and guidelines of the D2 Policies and Procedures. If they are not defined in the D2 Policies Procedures or any the rules that govern this sport, they will defer to the executive director. They can appoint assistant commissioners(s); etc to assist with making sure operation is run smooth. They will be the Chair of their specific sport, and the committee will be made up of the head coaches of that sport.

# Baseball Specific Rules

D2 follows the Spartanburg County Recreational Baseball rules. If not specified they defer to the Dixie baseball rules.

# Softball Specific Rules

D2 follows the Spartanburg County Recreational Softball rules, if not specified they defer to the Dixie Softball rules.

# NOTES: