

Devine ISD

UIL Participant Handbook

2024-2025

I. **Introduction**

The purpose of this handbook is to communicate school policies and guidelines to students and parents. The policies and guidelines contained in this handbook apply to all students that participate in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities. The term “participant” in the handbook refers to a student who participates, or plans to participate during the school year, in any UIL activity.

The district believes students that represent the school should maintain a high standard of behavior and conduct. Students are required to follow these guidelines while at school, while attending school sponsored activities and while in the community and public, both in and out of the district. Students who elect to participate in UIL events are required to follow the policies and guidelines contained in this handbook.

II. **Eligibility**

A high school student must be less than 19 years of age before September 1. To be eligible as a sophomore, a student must have acquired 5 credits or more. A junior must have acquired 10 credits or more. A senior must have at least 15 credits. The participant must pass all of his/her courses at the end of every six weeks in order to maintain eligibility. The minimum passing grade is 70. Failing one or more subjects for a six weeks will result in the participant becoming ineligible 7 days from the reporting period until the end of the fourth week of the next six week grading period. The student may participate in drills and practices after school hours; however, the student will not be eligible for competition. Eligibility will be reinstated if the student is passing all classes at the end of the third week, as per UIL Guidelines, *TEA Side by Side*.

III. **Policy Applies Throughout Year**

This policy is in effect for the school attendance year and for summer UIL activities, i.e., camp, practices, competitions, etc...

IV. **Behavior**

Inappropriate behavior, as defined in the student handbook, the District Discipline Management Plan, or as announced by the coach, sponsor, and/or school administration, is unacceptable. A participant will be made aware of any problem his/her inappropriate behavior has created. The student/participant will be subject to sponsor/director designated discipline which may include dismissal.

V. **Criminal Conduct**

If a participant is ticketed or cited for a misdemeanor crime (other than minor traffic offenses), the participant may be dismissed and suspended from participation in the same manner as provided in Section VIII or Section X. If a participant is charged with and/or indicted by a grand jury for any felony offense, the participant will be dismissed and suspended from UIL activities pending such felony criminal proceedings. Should such proceedings result in a finding of guilt in court, or the payment of a fine or other forfeiture, even

though there was no formal trial, or placing the participant on probation by the court with or without a finding of guilt, when participant either admits guilt to the court, or pleads nolo contendere (no contest), such participant shall continue to be dismissed and suspended from participation in UIL activities for a minimum of one calendar year thereafter. In addition to the above penalties, any participant convicted of the above referenced criminal offenses shall be subject to penalties as provided by state law and local school board policies

VI. **Dress Code**

Participants must abide by the district policy in regard to the dress code. The sponsor, coach, or the person in charge of an extracurricular activity may regulate the dress and grooming of participants. Students who participate in speaking events may be held to higher standards in grooming and dress.

VII. **Present at Activities Where Alcohol/Drugs Consumed**

UIL participants who are present at activities where alcohol and/or drugs are illegally consumed may be subject to disciplinary action as provided under Section IV of this policy. The district believes that students who represent the school should not be in attendance at activities where alcohol and drugs are illegally consumed. It is not appropriate for students to be at such activities.

VIII. **Alcohol and Illegal Drug Use**

If a participant consumes or is in possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, he/she will be subject to penalties as provided by state law, local school board policies, and the student code of conduct.

Phase One For each activity, the participant will be suspended from the next competition in which he/she is presently involved. If, after a twelve-month period, the participant has had no further offenses, the first offense will be removed from his/her record. In addition, the participant will be subject to make-up practice or work assignments as assigned by the coach or sponsor.

Phase Two If a second violation occurs before the twelve-month period has passed, the participant will be dismissed from UIL activities for one calendar year thereafter. If an infraction of this policy occurs, a quorum of sponsors/coaches will convene to determine the activities in which the student is involved. The disciplinary action is determined by the coach or sponsor of each activity in which the student is involved.

All participants in UIL activities must agree to the district's random drug-testing policy as outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook and school policy which can be found at the principal's office or online at www.devineisd.org.

IX. **Attendance**

If a participant is aware he/she is going to miss a practice, he/she should contact his/her coach/sponsor ahead of time. If an illness causes a participant to miss practice, the student or the student's parent must contact the coach/sponsor. In order to participate in practice, students must attend school at least four periods that day unless extenuating circumstances exist. The coach or sponsor will have discretion on these

decisions.

X. **Theft**

Any participant caught stealing may be dismissed or suspended from participation. For a first offense, this penalty may be reduced, and the participant reinstated if the participant exhibits a positive and cooperative attitude and additionally fully participates in make-up work as determined by the coach/sponsor, and the stolen property is returned. If a subsequent offense occurs during a participant's career in the Devine Independent School District, the penalty will be suspension from participation for one calendar year following such offense and to further discipline by the school administration.

XI. **Tobacco Use**

The use of tobacco products is not allowed. According to law, it is illegal for minors to be in possession of any tobacco product. If a student is ticketed on a tobacco offense, the same rules apply as in Criminal Conduct and Section VIII of this handbook.

XII. **Drop Fees**

If a student fails to attend a contest or activity they sign-up to attend, they may be responsible for all entry and/or drop fees incurred by their absence.

XIII. **Summary**

In dealing with this or any other group, there will be circumstances when a coach/sponsor will have to make a decision on a rule interpretation or circumstance not covered by this handbook. In that event, the coach/sponsor will make a decision based on a full investigation and in the interest of fairness to all involved. Violations to this policy will be considered as disciplinary actions and will be recorded as such by the campus administration. It is the hope of our sponsor/coaching staff, administration, and faculty that these guidelines will enable our youth to represent the many positive aspects of our community.

XIV. **Literary Team Lettering Policy**

According to UIL rules, a student may earn only one school letter jacket in his/her high school career. Some students may have to choose from which activity to be awarded a jacket. Patches may also be earned. Members of the literary team earn a jacket or patch in one of two ways:

- Scoring points at the district literary meet in an individual event or as a member of a 1st place team in a team event,
or
- Scoring points at a minimum of three practice meets/tournaments during the current school year.

XV. **Review by the Board of Trustees**

The contents of this handbook were reviewed by the Board of Trustees on 8/19/2024.

UIL Participant 2024-2025

Student Name (please print): _____

I have read and agree to abide by the rules and regulations for UIL activities as stated in the Devine Independent School District UIL Participant Handbook.

I agree that, as the undersigned student of the Devine Independent School District, I am not to consume alcohol, illegal drugs, or use tobacco products or exhibit criminal conduct. I understand that a violation of this agreement will result in dismissal and suspension from participation in accordance with and for the time periods as stated in this handbook. The possession and/or use of illegal drugs will result in my dismissal and suspension from participation. Participants knowingly present at activities where alcohol and/or drugs are illegally consumed may be subject to the penalties as stated in this handbook. This agreement is in effect August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025.

Student's Signature

Date

As a parent and/or guardian, I (We) have read and understand the provisions set forth in this handbook concerning the use and/or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco or the exhibition of criminal conduct. This agreement is in effect August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025.

I certify that my child _____ has my permission and consent to attend UIL activities sponsored by Devine UIL Academic team and sponsors which will be at various times throughout the year. I understand that this permission form gives my child permission and consent to travel with the school on all activities with the above named organization.

I hereby release the Devine Independent School District and its employees from any liability for injuries suffered by my child while he/she is under the supervision of the sponsor of this particular activity. In case of emergency, I authorize the school officials to give permission for medical treatments by a licensed physician and to hospitalize the above named student if necessary.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number: _____