



Diocese of Victoria

ATHLETIC LEAGUE *Constitution and Bylaws*



2Timothy 2:5 *An athlete is not crowned, unless he competes according to the rules.*

THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA ATHLETIC LEAGUE (DVAL)

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THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA ATHLETIC LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

- This organization shall be known as The Diocese of Victoria Athletic League (DVAL).

ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT

- The DVAL will foster the Christian values of good sportsmanship in athletic competitions. Good sportsmanship is a commitment to the Christian values of fair play, ethical and moral behavior, and integrity.

ARTICLE III OBJECTIVES

- The DVAL shall assist member schools in the development of the skills necessary for athletic competition and the regulation of inter-school athletics, specifically football, basketball and volleyball and other sports.

ARTICLE IV GOVERNANCE OF THE DVAL

SECTION 1

- The DVAL shall be governed by the DVAL Governing Board.
- The Governing Board shall be composed of the principals of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria.

SECTION 2

- The Governing Board will meet monthly on the date and at the location of the Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools administrators meetings at a time to be determined on the agenda of that meeting.
- The President of the DVAL Governing Board shall call other meetings as required. Two-thirds of the members of the Governing Board shall constitute a quorum.
- The DVAL Governing Board shall determine the method by which to schedule athletic events for the upcoming school year. It may be done electronically, by phone and/or by a scheduled meeting of the coaches involved.
- Once schedules are formulated, they must be approved by the DVAL Governing Board in order to become the official schedules for zone play.

SECTION 3

- The Governing Board shall have the right to rule on interpretations of the Constitution and shall enforce the rules contained in the Constitution and By-Laws of the DVAL.

SECTION 4

- The principal of each DVAL member school shall submit to the President of the DVAL Governing Board a verification of the age and eligibility of all student athletes prior to the start of each season.
- The president shall verify the eligibility of participating students.

SECTION 5

- The Governing Board shall settle eligibility disputes and shall decide all questions of eligibility according to the Constitution of the DVAL.

SECTION 6

- The Governing Board shall have the right to dissolve the DVAL by a two-thirds vote.

SECTION 7

- A *Grievance Committee* of three principals, appointed by the President as needed, shall rule on controversies, and their decision shall be final
- Penalties which may be imposed on students or teams include reprimand, suspension, forfeiture, or disqualification.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

- Students in Grades 5 – 8 may participate in the athletic program offered by the school.
- Yearly physicals are highly recommended. However, the minimum requirement is the UIL rule of only one in the junior high years.
- Students in Grades 6 – 8 may participate in the football program.
- Students in Grades 5 – 8 may participate in other sports.
- Fourth grade students may be used in all sports with the exception of football, if needed, to allow the school to field a team.
- Tryouts may be performed prior to formal practices. A tryout is only allowed by schools that must eliminate students from the roster.
- Tryouts may be held the Friday afternoon or Saturday before the planned practices begin; tryouts are not to be a practice but drills to show competence.
- Eighth grade students play on “A” Teams” not “B” Teams unless mutually agreed upon by both school administrators in advance of a game.

SECTION 2 DVAL Members

Charter Members	Current Members
1. St. Anthony School, Columbus	1. Holy Cross, Bay City
2. St. Michael School, Cuero	2. Nazareth Academy, Victoria
3. St. Philip School, El Campo	3. Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
4. Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville	4. Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
5. St. Mary School, Nada (school closed)	5. Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville
6. St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg	6. St. Anthony School, Columbus
7. St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner	7. St. Joseph School, Yoakum
8. Nazareth Academy, Victoria	8. St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner
9. Our Lady of Victory, Victoria	9. St. Michael School, Cuero
10. St. Michael School, Weimar	10. St. Michael School, Weimar
11. St. Joseph School, Yoakum	11. St. Philip School, El Campo
	12. St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg
	13. Trinity Episcopal, Victoria

SECTION 3

- Any private Catholic and/or parochial school may secure membership by a two-thirds majority vote of the Governing Board of the DVAL.

SECTION 4

- Each member of the Governing Board shall be entitled to one (1) vote cast by the principal with the exception of the President of the DVAL who will vote *only in the case of a tie*.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

- The officers of the DVAL shall be elected for a term of one (1) year.

- The officers will be elected by the Governing Board and shall be a President-Treasurer, Vice-President, and a Secretary.
- The officers of the DVAL shall be elected at the August meeting each year.
- Officers shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Board.
- All officers are eligible and encouraged to serve a second term.
- No officer position can be served for more than two years in a row.
- It is also encouraged that the Vice-President will become President, after his/her second term is completed.

SECTION 1

- It shall be the duty of the President-Treasurer to preside at meetings of the DVAL.
- The President-Treasurer shall call all *special* meetings.

SECTION 2

- The Vice-President shall, in the absence or disability of the President-Treasurer, perform all the duties of the President.

SECTION 3

- The Secretary shall keep faithful account of meetings, distribute minutes of the meetings, and give notice for specially-called League meetings.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

- Additions, alterations, or amendments shall be made to the Constitution at a regular or *special* called meeting.
- At least thirty days' notice of any proposed change must be given to the President-Treasurer who will notify the members of the Governing Board from each school before the proposed change can be acted upon.

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA ATHLETIC LEAGUE BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

SECTION 1

- Only students enrolled in member schools or those schools approved for participation in DVAL activities by the Governing Board may participate in DVAL activities.
- Students taking part in games of the DVAL shall be in no grade higher than the 8th and may not have attained their 15th birthday on or before September 1st of the school year in which they will participate in DVAL activities.

SECTION 2

- Minimum academic eligibility requires that a student must not be failing a core subject (mathematics, language arts, reading, science, social studies or religion) as of the Monday prior to the event. Eligibility is determined by the cumulative average for the grading period.
- The eligibility rule is enforced beginning each school year on the Tuesday following Labor Day.
- The eligibility rule is also enforced after two weeks during the second, third and fourth quarters. (January 2022)
- Eligibility carries for one week from Monday to Monday including all regular and tournament games.

ARTICLE II. GENERAL RULES

SECTION 1

- All equipment will comply with the official rulebook published by the National Federation of State High School Associations for that sport.
- For football, dark jerseys will be worn for home games and light jerseys for away games.
- In basketball, light jerseys will be worn for home games and dark jerseys for away games.
- In volleyball, there is no requirement for the color of the jersey.

SECTION 2

- The principal of a school may submit a written protest arising from a contest to the President within one (1) school day after completion of the contest.
- The President will submit the protest to the *Grievance Committee* within seven calendar days of the contest.
- The Grievance Committee will deliver a ruling on the protest within seven calendar days to the President of the DVAL.
- The ruling of the Grievance Committee will be final.

SECTION 3

- In all games outside the DVAL, a DVAL member shall abide by the rules and regulations of the DVAL and be subject to the same penalties for infractions.

SECTION 4

- Certified or chapter officials are required for all zone games unless a mutual agreement is reached by the principals or the principal's designee of the two schools.
- Home teams are responsible for getting officials.
- If the home school can not obtain a certified and/or chapter official before meeting for the scheduled game/s, there can be an agreement between the two schools to have each school furnish an official.
- If an official/s do not show up for a game, the principals or their designees can determine how the game/s will be officiated.
- The goal is to avoid a forfeit.
- Two certified referees are required for eleven man football and at least one certified official for eight man football.
- In volleyball and basketball, at least one certified and one unofficial referee are required for zone games.
- All officials for games must be neutral, i.e., they should have no relatives who are playing in the games.

SECTION 5

- Postponement and rescheduling of games is permissible when agreed upon by the administrators of the respective schools.
- When agreement cannot be reached by the principals of the affected schools, the President of the DVAL will determine the date and place for the game. His/her decision will be final.

SECTION 6

- No outdoor practices or games shall be played or continued while there is danger of lightning.

SECTION 7

- The DVAL Governing Board will set fees and admission charges for games each year.

SECTION 8

- There will be no practice, scheduled games, or tournaments on Sunday.
- Any exception must be an emergency approved by the principal, and athletes should not be penalized if they do not attend.

ARTICLE III. CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

SECTION 1

- Each school year, the DVAL Governing Board will determine the zone configurations for football, volleyball and basketball, etc.

SECTION 2

- The team with the best record will be declared the champion. Teams that tie in the standings will be declared x-champions.

SECTION 3

- Any violation of the DVAL Constitution or By-Laws may result in suspension of the school committing the violation/s from DVAL competitions.
- Any suspension will result in no honors for the offending school in that sport for the current year and no honors in that sport for the next year.

ARTICLE IV. RULES FOR EACH SPORT

SECTION 1 FOOTBALL

- **STARTING DATES:** Football practice starting date will be set by the DVAL Governing Board in the spring of each year for the following school year.
- **OFF-SEASON PRACTICE:** There shall be no football practice and no football equipment issued from the close of the regular football season until the aforementioned dates.
- **SPRING TRAINING:** Spring training is not permitted.
- **SCRIMMAGES AND GAMES:** After one week of practice, one scrimmage game will be allowed for each team. Quarters for the A team games shall not exceed 8 minutes with at least a 10 minute half-time intermission. Quarters for the B team games shall not exceed 6 minutes with at least a 10-minute half-time intermission.
- **RULES:** The DVAL follows the official U.I.L. RULE BOOK and the FOOTBALL RULE BOOK published by the National Federation of State High School Association. The Diocese of Victoria will follow the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools, or TAPPS, leadership; therefore, girls will not be allowed to play football. The DVAL cites facilities, *Safe Environment* policies, and the fact that there is a sport offered during the same time period.
- **SCORING:** When a team is winning by 24 or more points, the clock may be run if the head coaches of both teams agree before the game, or at half time, to run the clock. Any team outscoring their opponents in **excess of 40 points** (Final Score) in a DVAL Zone football game, will result in the **forfeit** of that game by the winning team; the game is forfeited at the end of the game. In the event of a “tie” game, a team must play until there is a winner.
- **EQUIPMENT:** Mouth protectors are mandatory. Helmets should be checked annually for wear and tear.

SECTION 2 VOLLEYBALL

- **STARTING DATES:** Volleyball practice starting date will be set by the DVAL Governing Board in the spring of each year for the following school year.
- **NUMBER OF MATCHES:** The maximum number of league or non-league matches a volleyball team or individual may play is 15. In addition, a team or player may participate in up to three invitational tournaments. Matches are limited to two a week. Prior to the first game of the season, a scrimmage game will be allowed for each team.
- **SCORE KEEPING:** A scorekeeper from each school should be present at the scorer's table. If a team decides not to sit at the scorer's table, that team forfeits the right to challenge a score or penalty.

- **ZONE GAMES:** For volleyball Zone games, a team must win, two out of three to 25 points (cap at 30). The third games must be played to 25 points (cap 30). In all other matches for non-zone games, B & C team games and tournament games, the number of points – 15 (cap 20) or 25 will be determined before the beginning of the game by agreement of the coaches or the tournament officials.
- **RULES:** The DVAL follows the official U.I.L. RULE BOOK and the VOLLEYBALL RULE BOOK as published by the National Federation of State High School Association.
- **EQUIPMENT:** The home team will determine the color of the volleyball to be used.

SECTION 3 BASKETBALL

- **STARTING DATES:** Basketball practice starting date will be set by the DVAL Governing Board in the spring of each year for the following school year.
- **GAME PERIODS:** Periods will not exceed 6 minutes with at least a 5-minute half-time intermission for the A team. The B team will not exceed 4-minute quarters with at least a 5-minute half-time intermission. There is an option for two 15 minute halves if both B teams mutually agree. A second option exists to play 6 minute quarters for B and/or C teams upon agreement of administrators prior to the game. (December 2021)
- **SCORE KEEPING:** A scorekeeper from each school should be present at the scorer's table. If a team decides not to sit at the scorer's table, that team forfeits the right to challenge a score or penalty. In the event of a “tie” game, an A-Team must play until there is a winner. B or C-Teams will end in a “tie” game with no additional play.
- **RULES:** The DVAL follows the official U.I.L. RULE BOOK and the BASKETBALL RULE BOOK published by the National Federation of State High School Association.
- **SCORING:** When a team is winning by 24 or more points, the clock may be run if the head coaches of both teams agree before the game, or at half time, to run the clock. Any team outscoring their opponents in **excess of 40 points** (Final Score) in a DVAL Zone basketball game will result in the **forfeit** of that game by the winning team.
- **NUMBER OF GAMES:** The maximum number of league or non-league games a basketball team or individual may play is 15, and they may participate in three invitational tournaments during the season. Games are limited to two games a week. Prior to the first official game of the season, one scrimmage game will be allowed for each team. Minutes played during the scrimmage will be determined by the teams’ coaches.
- **UNIFORM/JERSEY:** If an undershirt is worn under the basketball jersey, it must be the same color worn by all players on the team.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

- Changes in the by-laws may be recommended by any member school
 - at any regular or *special* called meeting or
 - by e-mail
 - and/or mail to the DVAL president.
- A two-thirds majority of the members present at a regular or *special* called meeting is sufficient to change said by-laws.



DIOCESE OF VICTORIA ATHLETIC LEAGUE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have been given, read, and promise to abide by the Diocese of Victoria Athletic League Constitution and By-laws.

I further understand that exceeding a **40 point** margin in a DVAL Zone basketball or football game, will result in the **forfeit** of that game by the winning team.

Coach's Signature

Date

*This acknowledgement must be signed by coaches before the first practice in each sport and kept on file at each school.

DVAL NOTICE TO BE READ BEFORE ALL GAMES:

*"We remind you that this game is governed by the rules and regulations of the Diocese of Victoria Athletic League. We also abide by the rules and regulations of the University Interscholastic League. The Diocese of Victoria rules take precedence if there is a difference between the two sets of regulations. We remind all players, coaches, parents, and fans that **no unsportsmanlike conduct will be tolerated**. The referees' (officials') judgment will be respected and final. We also remind you that stomping on the bleachers, distracting noises or cheers during free throws, or calling the game from the sideline is against diocesan guidelines."*

(Follow with a prayer and pledge)

The administrative representative for today's game is:
