

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 Diocese of Victoria Athletic League 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.

Elementary and middle school interscholastic sports will be governed by the policies and regulations of the Diocese of Victoria Athletic League.

Secondary interscholastic sports will be governed by the policies and regulations of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) and the Diocese of Victoria Athletic League. When there is a difference between the policies and regulations of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools and the policies and regulations of the Diocese of Victoria Athletic League, the DVAL policies and regulations will rule.

ARTICLE III. OBJECTIVES

The Diocese of Victoria Athletic League (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-third 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, 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. 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 (Amended 4/4/2010.) 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 (Amended 11/6/2013.) Eighth grade students play on an “A-Team” unless mutually agreed upon by both school administrators in advance of a game (Amended 11/5/2014.)

SECTION 2. DVAL Membership

Charter Members	Current Members
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Anthony School, Columbus 2. St. Michael School, Cuero 3. St. Philip School, EI Campo 4. Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville 5. St. Mary School, Nada (school closed) 6. St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg 7. St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner 8. Nazareth Academy, Victoria 9. Our Lady of Victory, Victoria 10. St. Michael School, Weimar 11. St. Joseph School, Yoakum 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holy Cross, Bay City 2. Nazareth Academy, Victoria 3. Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca 4. Our Lady of Victory, Victoria 5. Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville 6. St. Anthony School, Columbus 7. St. Joseph School, Yoakum 8. St. Ludmila Academy, Shiner 9. St. Michael School, Cuero 10. St. Michael School, Weimar 11. St. Philip School, EI 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. Election shall be by majority vote (2/3) 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 step up to the President position 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 keep all dues collected by the DVAL and shall give an account of its receipts and disbursements annually. 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.

Additions, alterations, or amendments shall be made to the Constitution at a regular or 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. Eligibility carries for one week from Monday to Monday including all regular and tournament games. (Amended 8/02/06)

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 volley ball there is no requirement for the color of the jersey.

SECTION 2. The principal of a school may submit a written protest rising 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 4. 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 5.

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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, meaning they should have no relatives who are playing in the games.

SECTION 6. 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. (Amended 11/8/06).

SECTION 7. No outdoor practices or games shall be played or continued while there is danger of lightning.

SECTION 8. The DVAL Governing Board will set fees and admission charges for games each year.

SECTION 9. 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. Determination of 8 Man or 11 Man Football for a school will be made by the DVAL Governing Board each spring for the coming school year.

SECTION 2. In football championship determinations, all member teams will play each other once as determined by lottery. The team that ends the season with a better record than all other teams will be declared the DVAL Champion with no other game being played. If teams tie for the best record, the tie will be broken as follows:

In the event of a 3-way tie:

Head to Head

A head to head may eliminate one of the teams:

Example: A beats B A beats C B beats C

Team C will be eliminated because of the two losses.

If a Head-to-Head process will not break the tie, a point system is to be used:

Point System

3 points given for the team for games won by more than 8 points

2 points given for each win

1 point given for the team for away game wins

SECTION 3. There will be two zones in Volleyball and Basketball. Each Zone will determine a Champion Team for each sport. No overall DVAL Champion between the Zones will be determined for any sport. The DVAL Governing Board will determine zone configurations prior to the coming school year. Each school must determine prior to the start of the official calendar start date for school whether the volleyball and basketball team for that school is designated as “large school” or “small school” (Amended 3/4/2015.)

In each zone, every team will play the other teams once or twice depending upon the zone configuration. The team that ends the season with a better record than all other teams will be declared the DVAL Zone Champion with no other game being played. In the case of a two-way tie for best record, the two tied teams will be declared Co-Champions for their Zone with no additional DVAL game played. If three teams tie for the best record, the tie will be broken as follows:

Head to Head

A head to head should eliminate one of the teams:

Example: A beats B A beats C B beats C

Team C will be eliminated because of the two losses. And A&B will then be declared Co-Champions for their zone. If a head to head approach does not eliminate one team, then the DVAL committee with conference to determine the most practical solution to the situation on a case by case basis.

SECTION 4. 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

- A. **STARTING DATES:** Football practice starting date will be set by the DVAL Governing Board in the spring of each year for the following year. Only schools that must eliminate students from a roster are allowed to hold a tryout session prior to the practice starting date. Yearly physicals are highly recommended. However, the minimum requirement is the UIL rule of only one in the junior high years.
- B. **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.
- C. **SPRING TRAINING:** Spring training is not permitted.
- D. **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.
- E. **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 TAPP, 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 (Amended 11/6/2013.)
- F. **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** 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 (Amended 9/3/2014.) In the event of a “tie” game, a team must play until there is a winner. (Amended 3/4/15.)
- G. **EQUIPMENT:** Mouth protectors are mandatory. Helmets should be checked every two years (Amended 8/7/2013.)

SECTION 2. VOLLEYBALL

- A. **STARTING DATES:** Volleyball practice starting date will be set by the DVAL Governing Board in the spring of each year for the following year. Only schools that must eliminate students from a roster are allowed to hold a tryout session prior to the practice starting date. Yearly physicals are highly recommended. However, the minimum requirement is the UIL rule of only one in the junior high years.
- B. **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. If a tournament is scheduled after matches are finalized; the President of the DVAL has the authority to approve and deviate from the constitution the number of matches played in a week. Prior to the first game of the season, a scrimmage game will be allowed for each team (Amended 3/7/2014.)
- C. **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.
- D. **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 or

25 will be determined before the beginning of the game by agreement of the coaches or the tournament officials.

- E. **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. /
- F. **EQUIPMENT:** The home team will determine the color of the volleyball to be used (Amended 3/7/2014.)

SECTION 3. BASKETBALL

- A. **SCHEDULE:** Boys' basketball practice cannot start until the day following the last regularly scheduled football game. Girls' practice cannot begin until the day following the last regularly scheduled volleyball game. Only schools that must eliminate students from a roster are allowed to hold a tryout session prior to the practice starting date
- B. **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. If there is no A team, an option exists to play 6 minutes for B and/or C teams upon agreement of administrators prior to the game (Amended 5/11/15).
- C. **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 (Amended 3/4/15).
- D. **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.
- E. **PLAYERS:** In the event that a team does not have sufficient players to participate in a game, upon agreement of the coaches and the principals present, the players from a lower team may participate on a higher team, provided the number of games permitted per week is not violated. Tournaments requirements are left to the discretion of the host school.
- F. **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** in a DVAL Zone basketball game will result in the **forfeit** of that game by the winning team.
- G. **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. If a tournament is scheduled after games are finalized; the President of the DVAL has the authority to approve and deviate from the constitution the number of games played in 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 (Amended 3/7/2014.)
- H. **UNIFORM/JERSEY:** If an undershirt is worn under the basketball jersey, it must be the same color worn by all players on the team (Amended 10/3/2012).

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

Changes in the by-laws may be recommended by any member school at any regular or called meeting or by mail to the president. A two-thirds majority of the members present at a regular or 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 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 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:
