



2019-20

ATHLETIC  
HANDBOOK  
*Gymnastics*

Head Coach: Jenifer Hunt

Assistants: Patty Braun, Kris Foster and Shannon Grabrick

# Present~Respectful~Ownership~United~Determined

Welcome to our Decatur High School Athletic program! Athletics and activities provide participants additional opportunity to learn, develop skills, grow as an individual and as a member of a team. Our Gator Athletic program will promote a united culture that fosters a high work ethic, accountability, outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork and respect.

During any season, there will be a wide range of emotional highs and lows, challenges that require perseverance, problem solving, wonderful celebrations and many lifetime memories. We consider ourselves partners with each role clearly defined:

Participants Compete, Parents Support, Coaches Coach, Officials Officiate

Decatur is a member of the North Puget Sound League (NPSL) with fifteen other schools that provide for competitive contests. As Golden Gator's we will support the NPSL sportsmanship code and commit to: *Show pride, class, spirit and respect. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.*

The North Puget Sound League website contains all the information important to participants, coaches, parents, and spectators. Please always refer to our NPSL website <http://www.npslathletics.org/> as the Decatur Athletics master contest schedule. Our NPSL site provides the opportunity for people to sign up and receive emails when a contest is changed. Find the orange Subscribe button to follow any of our programs. You will find the most current contest schedules as well as locations and directions to all of the venues for our NPSL and non-league opponents. To assist participants and their families in planning for practice and contests during our season, coaches provide additional documents on team pages. Viewing the NPSL site on a regular basis is encouraged.

I am excited to lead the Decatur High School Athletic Program. Since my hiring, my observation and experiences have confirmed my beliefs of the Gator culture. In my previous jobs I have admired from the opposite side of the field/court the spirited support for Gator Athletics. I appreciate the district emphasis on developing scholar-athletes. I am determined to expand the Decatur Family through positive athletic experiences that respect and recognize positive contributions to our community.

Go Gators!

Terry Jenks

Director of Athletics

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**Coaching Staff:**

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Remind 101 – Text enter phone #81010, then enter @gatorgym and your name into text box

<http://www.npslathletics.org/>

We are excited to be coaching and working with such a great group of participants. Coach Hunt graduated from Federal Way High School and competed in gymnastics and fastpitch. This will be Coach Hunt's twelfth year coaching the gymnastics program at Decatur High School and has been teaching in FWPS's since 2002. She has also coached middle school gymnastics since 2003 at Sacajawea and Saghalie. Other sports she has coached are high school and middle school volleyball and middle school basketball. Her husband of 11 years also teaches and coaches at the high school level. They have two daughters who keep them very busy!

**Decatur Athletic Program Philosophy:**

Varsity is committed to compete and win while demonstrating PROUD characteristics.

JV is designed to develop and retain participation numbers while demonstrating PROUD characteristics.

**Philosophy of our program:**

A successful season for our team will be determined by our gymnasts ability to improve every day; by how hard we practice, by how disciplined we compete, & by how united we are as a team. We believe that it takes the talents of many individuals and hard work to produce a successful team effort. Our success as a team hinges on our ability to develop our individual talents and build a team culture that operates as one cohesive unit. We believe that for our team to be successful the good of the team must come first, before the good of the individual; however, individual contributions are valued and recognized.

A Head Coach makes event competition line-ups and team level decisions from a variety of factors a day or two prior to competition.

**Varsity (V):** All gymnasts have the opportunity to compete at the Varsity level if they are capable and can be competitive. Competition decisions per event are dependent upon PROUD characteristics, talent, commitment, punctual, in attendance, work ethic, and attitude. In addition, our Varsity team has the highest emphasis on skill and artistry in order to compete with the best teams in the state. Coaches will communicate who is competing per event before the day of meet. Line-up changes could occur based on participation performance leading up to the meet. There is no guarantee of line-up for any player. We will focus on outcome-based results which may lead to an inequity in the number of competitions events one competes in at the Varsity level. The coaching staff has the responsibility and prerogative to make these decisions.

### **Determining factors for level of competition in our program:**

- PROUD characteristics
- Academics, attitude and attendance
  - We understand some gymnasts may have jobs or work commitments. This makes a 100% commitment to any team challenging. If a job or work commitment impacts one's ability to be a fully present gymnast, coaches and gymnasts will collaborate with the intent to find a solution but ideally, our athletic program priorities are family, academics, team.
- Talent, experience, work ethic and cooperation
- Performance & dedication at team practices and meets

### **Lettering Requirements:**

#### **Varsity Team (V):**

Gymnasts will perform on at least two events in at least 3 NPSL meets

Gymnasts will be in attendance at practice and meets 95% of the season

All participants must consistently demonstrate PROUD characteristics throughout the entire season. In addition, gymnasts will:

- be academically eligible at the end of the season
- continue competing until the end of their qualifying opportunities
- have returned all issued equipment or gear
  - missing or damaged may result in a fine for that item.
  - uniforms are to be returned before the banquet
- have paid all fines through the finance office before the season ends
- **must help** store equipment at the end of the season

If in case there is a behavior standard or a situation that falls short of our PROUD characteristic standard, it is possible that this could impact their receipt of a Varsity letter.

All participants must consistently demonstrate PROUD characteristics throughout the entire season. In addition, participants will:

- meet the 80% attendance requirement throughout the season which includes all practices and matches
- be academically eligible at the end of the season
- have returned all issued equipment or gear before the banquet
- have paid all fines through the finance office before the banquet

If in case there is a behavior standard or a situation that falls short of our PROUD characteristic standard, it is possible that this could impact their receipt of a Varsity letter.

**Junior Varsity (JV) team:** The JV team will focus on the development and retention of gymnasts with the intent to prepare them to eventually compete at the Varsity level. Meet participation will depend on PROUD characteristics, commitment, punctual, in attendance, work ethic, attitude and skill. Coaches will communicate to gymnasts who is competing before meets. Our JV meets are

opportunities to develop and not outcome focused- there are all skill levels and it is all about the experience of competition.

### **Program Expectations**

#### **Core covenants of all Decatur Athletics - PROUD characteristics:**

**Present** – we show up everyday, fully committed to learn and develop in our sport.  
**Respect** - of self, teammates, coaches, opponents, officials and all people and property.  
**Ownership** - of all decisions, being a dependable and trustworthy teammate.  
**United** - as a team, Decatur Athletic program and as a high school.  
**Determined** – to do our best everyday, never give up and to represent Decatur at the highest level at all times.

### **Program Expectations:**

Our focus during the 2019-20 season will be to build and retain participation depth in our gymnastics program. Our first priority will be to always have the necessary depth to compete at full strength in Varsity meets.

### **Practice Standards:**

We will practice in the gym from 2:30-5:00pm on non-meet days (4:30pm end time starting December). We expect everyone to be in the gym, dressed and ready to set up equipment at 2:30pm. Certain days we will set up then meet in Mrs. Hunt's Room 503 for leadership training.

When we train off campus, the school will not provide bus or organized transportation to the private gym. We recognize this will present challenges with transportation these practices.

- Gymnasts are not allowed to transport teammates to practice.
  - Gymnasts may drive themselves or related family to practice.
- Parent/guardians may drive their own children to practice without a FWPS form.
- FWPS school district Form 121-A is required for parents to fill out and return to Decatur's Athletic office in order to transport other gymnasts in a private vehicle to practices.
- Form 121-A must be returned to the Athletic office at Decatur High School before transport of any gymnast with the exception of family members.
- Form 121-A requires proof of insurance and a copy of a current Drivers License which must also be provided to the Athletic office.
- Form 121-A may be picked outside the Athletic office at Decatur.
- Families can work together with carpools.
- Coaches are not involved in organizing private car or carpool transportation.
- Pick up time at Decatur for gym practices will be 5:00pm.
- Pick up time at private gyms will be communicated by Head Coach.

- Attendance is extremely important when you are part of a team and a reasonable expectation.
  - Attendance at practice every day is critical to our ability to improved and be competitive. If for some reason a gymnast cannot make practice a Parent/Guardian needs to communicate to Head Coach at your earliest convenience through #1 – phone/Remind or #2 – a note from parent or guardian the following day.
  - Excused absences will be: illness, Dr. or Dentist appointment, death in the family, other instances to be determined by the coaching staff.
  - If a gymnast is injured, they should still attend practices and contests. It is important to continue to learn and be present as a team member.
  - FWPS scholars are required to attend at least half a day to compete in a contest or practice. School related activities and pre-arranged health appointments are considered part of the regular school day.
  - 100% attendance is required at all team practices, games and functions.
  - If you are sick and at school, you need to see you Coach if you believe you need to go home, in lieu of practice.
  - If you stay home from school, do not attend practice. If you are too sick to be in school, you are too sick to participate.
  - ASB cards must be purchased before competing in a meet.
  - Financial hardships should be communicated to the Head Coach and/or Athletic Director during a school day.
- Per WIAA rules, gymnasts must have 15 practices before competing in a meet.
  - Help with all equipment set up and clean up is required. No one leaves practice until all the equipment is put away.
  - Gymnasts are not to be active until there is a Coach present and is overseeing everyone's safety.
  - When a gymnast is academically ineligible, recovering from an illness or injured, we expect them to be fully present to the best of their ability, an "all in" team member, supporting and cheering on teammates during practices/meets and in a position to continue learning so they are fully prepared and ready to contribute upon return.

***Come to practice ready to compete with intensity every day.***

### **Meet Standards:**

- Meets start at 7PM. Gymnasts need to be dressed in Decatur gear and ready for scheduled warm-ups. Bus will pick us up in front of DHS at designated time prior to meet.
  - Team sweats, Decatur T-shirt, Black spandex, competition leotard. Always bring all parts of your uniform. Hair must be away from face and no jewelry.
- Per NPSL policy, admission will be charged for all meets.
- Gymnasts must meet the WIAA fifteen (15) practice rule before competing in a meets.
- Gymnasts will know one day ahead of time if they are competing V and/or JV the next day.
- Bring a snack and drink on meet days.
- When we are competing in meets, we want all the players in our program to attend. If they are not suiting up, they are to cheer for their teammates and be learning.

- For all meets, our Gymnasts presence is required from start to finish, unless there is a valid reason from a parent that is communicated as early as possible and supported by the Head Coach.
- During any season, there could be unexpected illness, family travel plans or school conflicts. Please inform Head Coach as soon as possible. How unexpected issues are processed will be on a case-by-case basis.
- Safety is a high priority. Gymnasts must use the buddy system and let a coach know when using the restrooms or moving out of vision from our coaching staff.
- Gymnasts should always communicate if they have an injury or do not feel right. Communication is helpful if it is immediate so coaches can make appropriate safety decisions.
- Each Gymnast on our team will wear Decatur gear at meets (NO EXCEPTIONS).
- Decatur gymnastics jacket will be worn to school on ALL meet days.
- We will exhibit outstanding sportsmanship at all times.

#### **Post-Meet Behavior Standards:**

- We will sit as a team for awards at the end of meets.
- All gymnasts are responsible for making sure our bench area is completely cleaned up whether the trash belongs to Decatur or not. We will always leave our spaces better than we found them. Everyone in our program will lend a helping hand.
- All gymnasts will assist the host school with breakdown of equipment if needed. (Teams help us, we help them!)
- Gymnasts leaving with parents instead of riding the bus back to Decatur need to be signed out by the parent prior to leaving. Girls that are going home with an adult that is not their guardian must have a written note given to coach prior to meet- phone calls will not be accepted and Gymnast will be transported back to DHS with the team.
- After meets if a gymnast is approached by a reporter before we meet, politely tell them that you will be glad to talk with them in a couple of minutes after our team meeting.
- When talking to the media always be a humble winner or a gracious loser. Always give your teammates and coaches credit for their performance and allowing the team to be successful. Give your opponents credit where credit is due, and never ever criticize your teammates, coaches, opponents or the judges in public.

#### **As a Decatur Gymnastics Member:**

- No longer am I simply myself. Everything I do reflects upon those I serve, my teammates and Decatur High School.
- I do not cheat, steal, or lie. People must be able to count on me, and my word, as solid and trustworthy.
- I set the positive example for others to follow.
- I am tolerant of those who may not yet share the same level of commitment I have, and those who seem to have even more.
- I have high expectations and will focus on our accomplishments - not on our disappointments.



- I will always strive to be worthy of the responsibilities I have been given and to promote the goals of our team to the best of my ability.

### **Behavior Standards:**

- Gymnasts are expected to conform to all state, local, community, district, school and team rules, policies, and standards. That includes showing proper respect to coaches, officials, parents, other teammates, other sports athletes, school faculty and staff, bus drivers, and/or any other adult in an authoritative position at our school or any locations that we may visit.
  - Families and gymnasts can be a tremendous help for coaches to become aware of bullying and harassment. Please communicate with the Head Coach or AD asap.

We do not allow demeaning initiation ceremonies or hazing of any kind. Families and gymnasts can be a tremendous help in this area as well. Please communicate to the Head Coach or AD asap.

### **Program Communication:**

***Remind 101 message is preferred! I can't always check email (preferred for more important info like vacation etc). Must have Parent Phone Number on file. (I don't know who is really texting if I do not!)***

Remind 101 – Sign up now! Text @gatorgym and your name to 81010 for team text message reminders!

NPSL bulletin board - <http://www.npslathletics.org/>

Email: [jenhunt@fwpw.org](mailto:jenhunt@fwpw.org)

### **Problem Solving Steps:**

We encourage all participants to speak directly with coaches if there is a misunderstanding, clarification is needed or an issue arises. As parents, please encourage your children to speak directly with coaches. If the issue is not resolved with their coach one on one, the problem solving chain will be:

- Athlete speaks directly with Head Coach in person when emotions are controlled
- Athlete and Parent speak directly with Head Coach
- Athlete, Parent, Head Coach and AD speak in person
- Athlete, Parent, Head Coach, AD and Vice Principal speak in person
- Athlete, Parent, Head Coach, AD, Vice Principal and Principal speak in person
- Athlete, Parent, Head Coach, AD, Vice Principal, Principal and District Athletic Director speak in person

Gator Head Coaches have high expectations and are developing competitive programs which naturally lead to intense emotion responses at times. As we work through emotional situations, Gator Head Coaches are committed to collaborative, healthy problem solving interaction believing that our communication order provides a healthy framework for working through conflicts. If there is a situation of high priority, danger to participants and/or others of severe nature, these steps may be altered for the welfare of all involved.



### **Team travel and transportation standards for contests:**

Our bus transportation standard is for everyone to ride to and from contests. Bus transportation is a great opportunity and time for building team culture and bonding. Gymnasts returning home with parent or guardian after meet will need to sign out with a coach on the designated roll clipboard. Athletes going home with another parent/guardian must bring a NOTE PRIOR to the meet from their own parent or guardian designating permission. Phone call or text message is not acceptable.

If parent/guardians opt to transport in their private vehicle, that process will be:

- Parent/guardian will sign out with the Head Coach on a document clarifying who will be privately transporting a participant after the contest has ended.
  - A FWPS district form is not required to transport your own participant.
- FWPS Form 121-A is required for a parent to drive someone else's child. This form is available outside the athletic office.
  - Form 121-A along with proof of insurance and a copy of a current driver's license must be returned to Decatur HS athletic office before any private transport. Please do not give these forms to any coach.
- We will travel with PROUD characteristics at all times.
- When we step off the bus, we will be ready to compete by our behavior and appearance.
- Participant safety is our paramount duty and highest priority. Please help us with communicating clearly and in writing about transportation of a participant home from contests.
- **For in city meets, there will be no bus transportation. Gymnasts should arrive at the host school two hours before start time (5PM).**

### **Injuries:**

Decatur Athletics has an ATI Athletic Trainer (ATC) who provides care for our participants. Hours are posted on the entry door to the AT office which is located by the locker room entrances. FWPS has a detailed contract with ATI. We encourage all participants to utilize this resource for physical care.

- Injury defined is when a participant can no longer practice or compete in a contest. Our AT or anyone at ATI can reinstate a participant after an in person review as long as an outside Dr. has not been part of the evaluation process.
  - It is not inside a coaches expertise of knowledge to determine a participants physical status so they are not able to reinstate an injured participant. AT's or ATI has this responsibility.
- If an injured participant sees a physician he/she must then provide a written physician's note clearing the athlete for the referred injury before return to play to the AD or AT.
  - The AD or AT will communicate in writing to the coach that a participant is released for practice or competition.
- If a participant is removed from a practice or contest due to a suspected concussion, he/she must have approval from a medical professional before they return to play.

- The participant must also be cleared through our AT who has specific return to play protocol for concussion.
- If an injury bridges seasons, a written physician clearance is required to participate in the second season.
  - ALL written notes are to be turned into the AD or the AT – not a coach. AD or the AT will communicate in writing to Head Coach that the participant is released for practice and/or contests.

### **Defining Roles:**

#### Role of a Decatur Coach:

- Encourage sportsmanship
- Lead by example
- Promote a family atmosphere
- Increase the student-athlete mastery of fundamental skills
- Establish and develop a positive culture that is based on PROUD characteristics
- Help each participant be a better competitor and person
- Inspire participants to reach their full potential
- Foster a passion for competition and their respective sport

#### Role of the Participant:

- Be coachable
- Display PROUD Gator characteristics and take PRIDE in your team
- Always give your best effort – be fully Present
- Keep control of your emotions at all times
- Always bring a positive attitude
- Show respect for your teammates and be the BEST teammate
- Work hard and compete with intensity
- Be enthusiastic, honest, dependable and loyal
- Earn the respect of your teammates by your actions
- Compete each day as if it is for the CHAMPIONSHIP (#wecompete)

#### Role of the Parent:

- Leave the coaching to the coaches
- Participate in the program where there is a need
- Support your participant with your presence and words
- Understand and support the goals/dreams of the program
- Communicate with the Coach when you have concerns (ideally with your child present)
- Always stay positive and enjoy your participants experience
- Encourage your participant and the entire program throughout the season

### **Academic Requirements and Eligibility:**

Academic status will be monitored by the Athletic Director. FWPS has defined dates for academics to be checked as well as specific recovery process. Parents will not be notified if their

high school scholars are academically ineligible. Our high school participants will be notified by the AD or Head Coach and they are responsible to communicate their status to others. Parents can view scholar grades through ParentVue. Please connect with your child's counselor if you need assistance to access ParentVue.

### **Social Media Standards**

FWPS and Decatur Athletics supports Social Media sites as this is how information is shared in today's times. Decatur Athletics and Coaches commit to projecting an image that supports our PROUD characteristics - focusing and acknowledging our accomplishments. Once comments and information are posted on a social media site, they are difficult to retract. Therefore, we trust and respectfully request that our participants, parents and coaches are positive on all social media sites focusing on Gator accomplishments.

- Trash talking on any social media form is considered inflammatory and subject to athletic discipline.
- Inappropriate postings on any social media site is subject to athletic discipline.

We ask our entire Gator Community to avoid challenging or being critical of other schools, our own programs, our coaches/players, official's etc. on social media sites. Thank you in advance for protecting our Decatur image as PROUD and RESPECTFUL GOLDEN GATORS!

### **Early Dismissal Days:**

During our season, there will be a few early dismissal days. Unless the Head Coach has scheduled supervised time in a specific location for team members, participants will need to leave campus and then return when coach supervision is present for practice/contests.

### **Athletic Code for Alcohol, Anabolic Steroids, Illegal Drugs, Tobacco Products (including e-cigarettes) and Misuse of Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs:**

Participants that violate any of the above will work through the language in both the FWPS Athletic Handbook (<https://www.fwps.org/Page/4920>) and policy 18.25.0 in the WIAA Handbook (<http://wiaa.com/conDocs/Con1690/Eligibility.pdf>) with the appropriate Decatur Administrators or Designee.

### **Areas Parents can be involved/helpful:**

We appreciate and value parent involvement. Opportunities available are:

- Organizing team dinners for a potluck or spaghetti feed during our season.
- Involvement in our school wide Booster Club
- Come and support your child by watching them perform. They LOVE to have you watch them perform!!!

### **General information:**

- Please check [www.npslathletics.org/](http://www.npslathletics.org/) for league schedule, transportation departure times and standings. (just a note the standings are sometimes not up to date)

### **Additional Resources**

- NCAA Eligibility Center (EC): [www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org](http://www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org)
  - This is for ANY student who has the desire to continue playing in college.
  - The NCAA EC allows for any school you are recruited by or you contact, to track your transcripts, test scores and amateurism.
  - Without clearance from the NCAA you will not be allowed to participate on a college team.
  - There are 1,200+ NCAA Div. I, II, and III colleges and Universities across the country, there is a place for anyone who is interested.
- NAIA Eligibility Center [www.PLAYnaia.org](http://www.PLAYnaia.org)
  - There are 250 NAIA colleges and universities
  - Initial Eligibility standards are similar to NCAA Division II
  - Decatur Athletic Director or Counselors assist our scholars with NCAA or NAIA Eligibility. Please connect with them if you need assistance
- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA): [www.wiaa.com](http://www.wiaa.com)
  - Provides in depth rule and policies that all high schools are required to follow.
- Federal Way Public Schools website – [www.fwps.org](http://www.fwps.org)
  - In depth athletic department rules and policies for all high schools in the district:  
<https://www.fwps.org/Page/4920>