



## **Member Schools**

American Dreamer

Dennis Lab School

Hope Academy

Johns Hill Magnet School

Montessori Academy For Peace

Robertson Charter

Stephen Decatur

Rational:

Soy City Conference (SCC) is a Decatur Public Middle School athletic conference designed to provide organization, structure, and consistency for the district high school athletic feeder programs. It is for student athletes to develop their skills, character and leadership that will prepare them for the rigor of both academics and sports.

Member schools will form a conference committee, which will be made up of Middle School AD's. The conference committee will develop bi-laws and create all schedules for Girls/Boys Basketball, Cross Country, Volleyball, and Track & Field. Schools will be allowed to schedule games outside of the conference. A conference assigner, as available, will be hired to schedule officials for conference games and to find replacement officials.

The conference will have champions for Cross Country, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Volleyball, and Track & Field.

The above sports will have a post season 8<sup>th</sup> grade City Tournament which will prepare them for IESA post season. Hopefully this format will help motivate our young athletes to excel toward the end of their season.

Each 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade sport will have a conference champion.

SCC will offer ten sports for the school year:

- Fall: Cross Country, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Girls Basketball
- Winter: Boys Basketball, Volleyball, Wrestling
- Spring: Boys Track & Field, Girls Track & Field

The conference will have to be approved by the following:

- 1) Middle Schools Athletic Directors
- 2) Keil Building Administration
- 3) DPS BOE
- 4) RCS Administration
- 5) RCS BOE

# **Constitution**

## **Article I**

### **Name**

The name of this association shall be Soy City Conference (SCC) Decatur Middle School Athletic Conference.

## **Article II**

### **Objective**

The objective of this conference is to encourage and develop inter-school activities among member schools that will have maximum educational and athletic values to those who participate.

## **Article III**

### **The Executive Body**

**Section 1.** The Executive Body shall consist of the Athletic Director from each member school. Decisions of the Executive Body shall be made by a majority vote of that body.

**Section 2.** A quorum shall be a simple majority of the member schools.

## **Article IV**

### **Membership**

**Section 1.** The following schools are charter members of the conference: American Dreamer, Dennis Lab, Hope Academy, Johns Hill Magnet, Montessori Academy for Peace, Robertson Charter, and Stephen Decatur.

**Section 2.** Other schools may be added to the conference upon written petition of the member schools and a favorable vote by not less than three-fourths of the member schools.

**Section 3.** Schools wishing to join the conference must submit a letter requesting admission to the Conference President. This letter must be presented to the Executive Body at the next meeting for the first reading. Participation will begin as decided by the Executive Body at the meeting.

**Section 4.** Member Schools are expected to participate in Cross Country, Girls / Boys Basketball, Volleyball, and Track & Field conference sports. If a member school cannot field a team for a conference contest, that contest will be considered a forfeit and the opposing school will be credited with the win.

## **Article V**

### **Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of this conference shall be a President, Vice President and Secretary. A conference webpage will be added to the current district website.

**Section 2.** The Executive Body will appoint all officers for the conference. Only the athletic director of a member school may hold an office. The Executive Body may appoint officers on a permanent basis or they may rotate officers.

**Section 3.** The Executive Body will decide the dates for all meetings. The President will make all arrangements for meeting sites. The President will also be responsible for sending out meeting agendas working with the Vice President. The Secretary will be responsible for recording meeting minutes and preparing a report on expenditures, deposits and financial reports to the Executive Body. The Secretary will also be responsible for passing on all pertinent information to the Web Director, including conference contest results to be posted on the conference webpage.

**Section 4.** Upon the written request of three member schools, the President of the conference shall have the power to call special meetings. The President shall notify each school in the conference of the date, time, and place of such meeting.

## **Article VI**

### **Meetings**

**Section 1.** There shall be a mandatory August meeting for all athletic directors of member schools prior to the start of the upcoming school year. The fall meeting will be held at a place designated by the President. The date and time of the meeting will be decided at the spring meeting.

**Section 2.** After the August meeting, meetings will be held bi-monthly on dates to be determined at the Primary meeting in August. Athletic Directors will be released for a half day to attend the conference meeting. Member schools will pay for a full day sub for their Athletic Director to attend the meeting.

**Section 3.** Meetings will consist of review of old business, financial report, upcoming conference event planning, and the current agenda for that month's meeting.

**Section 4.** The last meeting date of the year will be for the purpose of year end business. This meeting shall be held at a site designated by the President during the month of May, and should begin at a time agreed upon by the member Athletic Directors. Each member school must send one representative with the authority and necessary materials to complete scheduling for the upcoming school year.

## **Article VII**

### **Dues and Assessments**

**Section 1.** The Executive Body shall have power to levy special assessments upon the member schools of the conference for the purpose of discharging the obligations of the conference incurred by an emergency or by a deficit incurred through the conduct of the conference activities.

**Section 2.** The Soy City Conference will hire two (2) official assigners, as available: one for baseball, softball and volleyball; & one for girls and boys basketball. Each athletic director will issue one check in the amount of \$100.00 to each assigner for a total of \$700.00 to each. The responsibility of each assigner will be to hire officials for each school and find replacements when an absence occurs. The assigner will take care of conference and non-conference games.

Assigner #1 – Baseball, Softball, Volleyball = \$700.00 (divided equally between the 7 member schools)

Assigner #2 - Girls and Boys Basketball = \$700.00 (divided equally between the 7 member schools)

## **Article VIII**

### **Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting upon a two-thirds vote of the Executive Body, provided that the proposed changes have been submitted in writing in advance (to all member schools two weeks prior to the meeting in which the vote is to be taken).

The by-laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of a quorum.

## **By-Laws**

### **Article I**

#### **Contests**

**Section 1.** This conference shall sponsor regular season contests in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cross Country, Boys and Girls Basketball, Volleyball, and Track & Field - following all IESA guidelines.

**Section 2.** Under building discretion, the SCC will allow 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade students to play on both the seventh and eighth grade teams during regular conference play, but this action must comply with IESA's Athletic By-Laws on season limitation and participation limitation.

**Section 3.** City Tournaments will be held in the following activities and grade levels: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Volleyball. In addition, a conference City Track and City Cross Country meet will be held each year. Regular season team competition will be held for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys.

**Section 4.** Conference start times:

All outdoor athletic contests will begin no later than 4:30 pm (Softball, Baseball, and Track/Cross Country). All indoor athletic contests will begin at a time the host school designates (Basketball and Volleyball)

**Section 5.** All conference games must be played. Any team that is required to forfeit must notify the opposing school/Athletic Director and the conference administration.

**Section 6.** Administrators are required to be present at all home contests.

### **Article II**

#### **Eligibility**

**Section 1.** The rules of the Illinois Elementary School Association shall govern the eligibility of all students participating in athletic contests (except as otherwise provided for by that governing body).

## Article III

### Conference Tournaments

**Section 1.** The Athletic Director of the school, which hosts the contest, or his/her designee, shall act as manager of the contest. All other Athletic Directors should be in attendance unless there is a prior school commitment with another home activity. An administrator must be present at conference tournament games.

**Section 2.** The net proceeds of the tournaments shall be paid to the SCC to meet financial needs of the conference.

### Section 3.

A. The Board of Education shall determine the price of admission to regular conference games.

B. At the spring meeting, the Executive Body will align the prices (according to those set forth by the IESA for postseason events) of admission to conference tournament games.

C. The current fees as of 2020-2021 School Year are:

- Conference Tournament Admission: Adults \$4.00 (High School and above), Child \$2.00 (up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Senior Citizens Free (65 and above)
- Proceeds from the Conference games will be used to off-set the cost of hosting the tournament.

**Section 4.** The Executive Body will establish conference tournament dates and Conference Track & Field meets.

**Section 5.** As of the 2017-2018 school year, permanent hosts have been determined. The following is a list of the tournaments and the host schools.

8th Girls Basketball – Hope Academy

8th Boys Basketball – Robertson Charter

8th Volleyball – Stephen Decatur

SCC City Cross Country Meet – South Shores Park

City Track Meet - MacArthur or Eisenhower High School (times and arrangements, TBA)

The Executive Body will review the tournament sites annually at the spring meeting.

**Section 6.** Tournament seeding will be determined by the following criteria and established by the Executive Body:

1. *Overall conference record*
2. *Head-to-head competition (If winning record is the same for both teams).*
3. *Winning percentage (For uneven number of games. Ex. 6-1 vs. 6-2)*
4. *Blind draw*

**Section 7.** The Soy City Conference may allow (at building discretion) 5th/6th/7th grade students to play on both the seventh and eighth grade teams during conference play under the following conditions:

1. Guidelines of games per day follow the IESA regulations
  - a. Basketball – for all regular season contests and tournaments, students shall be limited to a maximum of 8 quarters per day and a maximum of 24 contests per season at any grade level.
  - b. Volleyball – for all regular season contests, students shall be limited to a maximum of six (6) sets per weekday/twelve (9) sets per Saturday Tournament with a maximum of 24 contests per season. Students who participate on a school squad shall be limited to a maximum of 110 sets in any one season, exclusive of the IESA tournament series. For all tournaments, students may play in no more than four (4) matches per day.
2. For 8th grade conference tournament, the number of 5th/6th/7th graders allowed to dress and play up is used only to fill the number requirements 10-15 players for basketball and up to 15 for volleyball.
3. 5th/6th/7th graders are used only for substitutes unless the number of eighth graders is less than the number required to start competition. Eighth graders cannot participate in seventh grade competition.

## **Article IV**

### **Awards**

**Section 1.** The athletic director of each school should report the results of each regular season contest to the designated person per the August meeting. The designee will change on a rotating annual basis. The designee will post the results on the conference web site. The SCC member Athletic Director's will use the regular season contests to seed the tournament brackets.

The Conference Tournament seeding will be determined by the following criteria:

1. Overall conference record
2. Head-to-head competition

The Conference winner will be determined by the conference tournament.

**Section 2.** As of 2020-2021 school year, a traveling plaque/trophy will be established for conference tournament champions in cross country, boys/girls basketball, volleyball, and track & field.

**Trophy Display:** Trophy Display: Each time a conference school plays another during the conference tournament the trophy is displayed. If the school currently holding the trophy loses the contest, the trophy is transferred to the winning school. The trophy will remain with the tournament champion.

**Trophy Passing:** The trophy will be passed to the winning school after the contest. The losing school's team captains will bring the trophy to the winning school's team captains. After the conference tournament, each champion will keep the trophy until the following season.



**Soy City Conference**

***Sign off of Athletic Director Compliance and Understanding.***

American Dreamer

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Dennis Lab School

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Hope Academy

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Johns Hill Magnet

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Montessori Academy for Peace

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Robertson Charter

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Stephen Decatur

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