DAVINCI ACADEMY

2024-2025

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

DAVINCI

Welcome!

Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding and meaningful educational experience that enhances a child's secondary education. It is important that students realize the time demands, responsibility, dedication and sacrifices required when making this kind of commitment. The following information defines the interscholastic policies and procedures for all students participating in our High School athletic programs. The Athletic Department hopes this document provides parents and students with a better understanding of our philosophy, goals and policies. Please refer to the following information when a question about your child's athletic experience arises.

Philosophy of Athletics at Davinci Academy:

At Davinci Academy, we consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, and to work cooperatively with team members. While winning is a natural goal in the pursuit of excellence, the principles of good sportsmanship and enjoyment of competition take precedence at all times and enhance the educational value of contests.

Governing Bodies:

Davinci Academy is a member of the Utah Schools Sports Association (USSA) whose purpose is to organize, regulate, and promote interscholastic athletics for charter and private schools in Utah. As a USSA school, DASA abides by the minimum standards set forth by this organization. Please note that these are minimal standards and member's schools may enforce stricter standards, which DASA does in many instances. We also compete against teams from other leagues, and these are referred to as "non-league" opponents.

DASA Athletic Team Information

Standards for Participation:

In order to participate in organized athletics, all student-athletes must have a current physical on file with the school office and satisfy all academic requirements for eligibility.

- An up to date physical examination must be on file with the office prior to the start of participation. If the physical examination expires in season, the student-athlete will need to provide an updated physical to the office in order to resume participation. All physicals are valid for 13 months from the date of the physical. A licensed health care provider must sign all physical forms..

- Student-athletes are required to meet academic requirements for eligibility. Grade point average must be a 2.0 or higher and students must be passing all classes at the most recent marking period (end of term/midterm). If a student-athlete's GPA drops below 2.0 and/or the student-athlete has an "F" or "U" in a class, that student-athlete will be placed on academic probation.
- Academic probation will require the student athlete to have grade/behavior checks each Tuesday to be eligible to play in any games that week until the end of that term in which they received the failing grade or "U". In order to play while on academic probation, the student athlete grades, attendance, class and school behaviors will be reviewed each week with the Athletic Director and Assistant Principal. It is the student athlete's responsibility to get the academic probation form filled out and in the hands of the Athletic Director by the end of school day on each Monday for which they are on academic probation. Failure to submit the grade/behavior check form by the end of day on Monday, will make the student athlete ineligible to play any games that week. The student athlete is eligible to play in games while on academic probation if he/she is passing all classes, no U's, no unexcused absences, and no unexcused tardies. We don't expect perfection but we expect improved academic and behavioral results. **Midterm grades will become final for academic probation status on the Tuesday following the midterm grade deadline as set forth in the school calendar, while end of term grades will be based on final posted grades for the semester.** Failing to meet the academic/behavioral requirements for two consecutive weeks may result in further requirements to meet eligibility while on academic/behavior probation. Our goal is to assist student athletes meet their academic, social, and behavioral goals to have competitive advantages in the future.

Program Goals:

Though the unique nature of each sport dictates its specific objectives, all teams will attempt to

- Emphasize the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values and team concepts.
- Allow as many students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership.
- Compete competitively with USSA and non-league opponents.

Participation at the Varsity level is generally limited to the most highly skilled players and those with the ability to interact constructively with other players for team success. It should be understood that playing time could be limited.

Athletic Offerings:

Fall Sports

The fall season begins sometime around August 20th and ends in late October. Varsity teams that qualify for the postseason tournament may participate into the month of November. Informational meetings will be held in June. The following sports compete in the Fall:

- Girls/Boys Volleyball

- Girls/Boys Cross Country
- Co-ed Cheer

Winter Sports
The winter season begins the week before Thanksgiving and ends in late February. Varsity teams that qualify for the post-season tournament may be participating into the month of March. Informational meetings will be held in November.

- Girls/Boys Basketball
- Co-ed Bowling
- Co-ed Cheer

Spring Sports
The spring season begins the second Monday of March and ends in mid May. Varsity teams that qualify for the post-season tournament may be participating into the end of May. Informational meetings will be held in February.

- Girls/Boys Soccer

Levels of Play:

VARSITY
At the highest level of athletic competition in high school athletics, athletes and parents should expect the following concepts to be emphasized:

- Developing a high level of proficiency in the physical skills of the sport
- Having the coach's evaluation of an athlete's attitude, skills, and team role determine playing time
- Developing sophisticated strategy, situation analysis, and other mental aspects of the sport
- Specifically defining an individual athlete's role within the team concept
- Fostering maximum commitment to the athletic team
- Understanding and valuing the physical conditioning components of one's sport
- Understanding the importance of individual sacrifice for the good of the team
- Winning within the rules of sportsmanship and fair play

There are many decisions made on a regular basis by members of our coaching staff that may include which athletes should start a contest, which athlete should play at what position, and the amount of playing time an athlete will be given. Only members of our coaching staff make these very difficult coaching decisions after weighing a considerable number of factors. Generally, the most competitive, skilled team members will play the major portion of contests; however, teams cannot be successful without committed substitutes. These athletes must work as hard as they can to help make their respective teams as competitive as possible and be ready at all times to step forward to compete. They must also demonstrate the perseverance and commitment to strive to advance to a starting role.

JR. VARSITY

At this time, DaVinci does not offer Jr. Varsity teams; however, students who are in 7th and 8th grade can participate in cross country and cheer.

Team Tryouts / Selection:

During the tryout period, each coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the duty of the student to demonstrate to the coach that they can fulfill these expectations. If a student is not selected for a team, he/she may contact the coach personally for an explanation. Students who are not selected are encouraged to explore other DASA athletic opportunities on teams that have not finalized their rosters.

The coaching staff of each sport has the sole responsibility for selecting members of the team, determining the level of play, and apportioning the amount of playing time for each student athlete.

Commitment:

Each member of an athletic team MUST:

- Commit to being present at all team activities, including try-outs, practices, meetings and contests with other schools.
- Dedicate himself/herself to becoming an excellent team member and school citizen.
- Strive to continually improve as an athlete.
- Demonstrate pride in team performance and in himself/herself as members of a team.

Game/Practice Sessions:

Practices are held daily for approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours, or as appropriate to the activity. Some practices and games may be held on weekends. Most practice sessions do not begin before 3:15 PM. Any team member who must be late or miss practice, games, or meetings must confer with his/her coach. Practice and game schedules, particularly in the case of winter and spring sports, include school vacation weeks. Students and families should take this into consideration when deciding to try-out for our teams.

Absence Policy:

Unexcused absences from practices may jeopardize retaining a position on the team, an opportunity to earn a varsity letter, and/or playing time at the coaches' discretion.

Excused absences from practices may impact position on the team and playing time, not as a punitive measure, but for the safety of that individual, fairness to the rest of the team, and strategic reasons.

Team Captains:

Captains are elected by team members and/or appointed by coaches. Prior to the selection, coaches will inform the team members of the selection criteria and obligations of the position. The position of team captain or officer is one of honor, leadership, and responsibility. As a result, students serving in that capacity are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner both in and outside of school. Any student who is involved in a violation of DASA rules and regulations resulting in a suspension from school, or any student who is found to be involved with drugs, alcohol, weapons, or crimes outside of school will lose the ability to serve as captain or to be appointed or elected to the position of captain of any school sponsored team for the period of one calendar year. Any sitting captain of a DASA team will have that position rescinded and will be ineligible to serve for a period of one calendar year.

VARSITY LETTER: Students who are on the varsity team and eligible to play in competitions for at least fifty percent of the season and **complete** the season shall receive a varsity letter.

Conflict Resolution:

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional and issues about playing time, team selection, honors and awards can arise. It is very important that these issues be addressed as soon as possible, and as directly as possible, so that they can be resolved promptly. The following model will be used when a problem arises.

STEP ONE: Meeting between Student-Athlete and Coach
As a general rule, the issue should be presented as soon as possible to the coach by the ***individual*** student-athlete. This is an important step in teaching self-empowerment, so please encourage, guide, and assist your student-athlete to self-advocate by talking with the coach. If that process is not possible based on the context of the problem, then proceed to step two and have the student-athlete's parent(s) should email the coach and Athletic Director and Assistant Principal to schedule a time to meet at an appropriate time.

STEP TWO: Personal Contact Between Coach, Student-Athlete and Athletic Director
If a satisfactory resolution is not reached through student-althlete/coach meeting, then the student-athlete's parent(s) should email the coach, the Athletic Director and Assistant Principal to schedule a time to meet at an appropriate time. It is very important for all student-athletes and their parent(s) to know that any comments, concerns, or ***issues raised to the athletic director will be addressed with the coach.***

- Kyle Scadlock – Athletic Director – Kyle.Scadlock@DaVinciAcademy.org
- Naomi Anson – Assistant Principal – Naomi.Anson@DaVinciAcademy.org

Sportsmanship Policy:

DASA expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials and visiting spectators with respect at all times. Davinci reserves the right to warn, censure, place on probation or suspend (for up to one calendar year) any player, team, coach, or school official determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Spectators who do not adhere to

standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be prohibited from future contests. If you are not sure what entails good sportsmanship, please follow this simple rule: Cheer for your own team, but do not belittle opposing teams and officials.

Three important USSA Rules pertaining to student-athletes should be noted:
1. A player "thrown out" of a game shall, at a minimum, miss the next game. Prior to returning to competition, the student-athlete must complete a free "Sportsmanship" course.
2. A player "thrown out" of two games during the same season is disqualified for one full calendar year.
3. Striking or assaulting an official results in disqualification for one full year.

School Athletic Equipment Policy:

Students are responsible for and expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Students are responsible for payment of any lost, stolen or damaged items. Each item not returned will be assessed at a rate comparable to the current replacement cost. All equipment is to be returned at the completion of the season. Grades will be withheld for those who do not return or pay for lost/damaged equipment. Additionally those student athletes will not be allowed to participate in another sport. Student-athletes are not to wear uniforms, either practice or game, at any time other than those allowed by specified team regulations.

Transportation Policy:

When DASA provides transportation to and from athletic events, student-athletes are required to ride that transportation. The members of the athletic staff feel it is in the best interest of team unity that everyone travel together and share the game experience. As the "guardian" during these trips, the athletic staff must be able to account for the whereabouts of all student-athletes and ensure their safety. It is expected that our student-athletes will conduct themselves appropriately while on bus transportation. Any misconduct will result in a penalty including and up to dismissal if warranted. Student-athletes will be responsible for any damages to bus property and subsequent costs to repair or replace.

In the event that there are extenuating personal circumstances or two Varsity games are scheduled back to back and a parent wishes to take responsibility for the transportation of his/her son or daughter, it is required, barring unforeseen circumstances, that the parent/guardian provide written notice to the coach requesting the exception 24 hours in advance. A parent/guardian must also present himself/herself to a member of the coaching staff informing the coach that his/her child is leaving with him/her. Student-athletes may then ride with their parents/guardians. **Student-athletes may not ride with other student-athletes or anyone else other than their parent/guardian.**

Athletic Code of Conduct:

Daily Attendance:
Any student-athlete absent from school the day of scheduled game or practice session will not be allowed to participate in that game or practice. A student must be in school for **a minimum of 3 ½ hours in order to participate**. Students who cut class responsibilities will also be ruled ineligible for participation.

Students in "Good Standing":

All athletes must be a student in "good standing" in order to participate in athletics. "Good standing" is defined but not limited to:

- Adherence to school rules that regulate behavior and attendance
- Respectful behavior towards all members of the school community

A student is considered not to be in good standing during the season of play/activity if he/she has a suspension or class cuts, violates any player contract, failing grades, or commits any other school violation that is considered a level 3 offense. A student found not to be in good standing will be placed on academic probation until the reason for being placed on academic/behavioral probation is resolved. A student on academic/behavioral probation may be denied the privilege of participating in an interscholastic sport or extracurricular activity. Any violation that is a level 3 offense while on probation will result in a student being removed from the activity.

Academic Duty:

Students will plan their time so that they will devote sufficient energy to their studies to ensure grades representing their true abilities. See 'Standards for Participation' above.

Taunting:

Taunting, either as an active team member or as a spectator, at a sporting event is forbidden and may lead to suspension or elimination from the team.

Honesty and Integrity:

Honesty is expected at all times. Stealing and lying will not be tolerated and may result in immediate dismissal from the team. Any individual who is found in possession of another individual's personal property will forfeit their privilege to participate on any DASA Athletic team for at least one full year. Participation on a DASA athletic team after the one-year suspension will be contingent upon the outcome of a hearing composed of DASA Administration and the Athletic Director.

Representation:

Student Athletes are considered representatives of the school at all practices and contests and events. Students will conduct themselves properly when traveling as they represent the community, school and team. Profanity will be discouraged.

Respecting the Spirit of the Game:

Students will realize that officials do not lose a game, but are there for the purpose of ensuring the game they are playing is a fair and safe contest for all participants. The officials will be shown courteous respect at all times. Student-athletes will also not employ illegal tactics to gain an advantage.

Respect for the Coaching Staff:

Students will understand that their coaches have their best interests in mind as they plan and guide the athletic team. They will obey the specific rules of the coach.

Respect for school buildings and grounds:

Students will understand that damage to the school building, grounds, or school equipment will result in immediate suspension from the team. The length of such suspension will depend on the severity of the damage as determined by the Athletic Director and Coach. Please note, cleats are not to be worn in the building.

FINAL MESSAGE TO ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES, SPECTATORS AND PARENTS:

We urge you to support Davinci Athletics by:

- attending sporting events;
- lending positive support to our teams and coaches;
- encouraging all players without regard to their role on the team;
- helping other spectators and parents to maintain an appropriate sportsmanlike attitude;
- showing respect for the authority of the game officials;
- enjoying the Davinci Academy athletic experience.

Davinci Athletics Player Contract

August 17th, 2024 thru May 23rd, 2025

Grades: 2.0 GPA and NO F's

If you have an "F" or "U" grade in any class you will not be allowed to participate in competitions until that "F" or "U" grade has been made passing (see academic probation in Athletic Handbook).

Team Fee: Athletic fees (click here for school fees) are due in the office before your first contest. Fee waivers apply to this activity, so if you have qualified for a fee waiver, all fees will be automatically waived. If you feel that you would qualify for a fee waiver, please click the "Fee Waiver Link/school lunch application" to apply. You will be notified if fees are waived and all fees are temporarily waived while your fee waiver application is being processed.

Attendance:
You must attend practice. If you are going to miss a practice for any reason, you need to let the coach know beforehand. More than one unexcused absence may result in academic/behavior probation (see academic/behavior probation). Coach # _____, Coach # _____

Uniforms:
You may only wear your uniform during the game or if otherwise specified by your coaches. If you are seen wearing the uniform at any other time you may lose the privilege of using it and may be placed on academic/behavior probation.

Behavior:
You are representing Davinci Academy; you will behave appropriately at all times (in and out of school). If you are suspended you may be placed on academic/behavior probation. We expect all student-athletes to meet and exceed the DaVinci code of conduct.

Academic Probation:
Academic probation will require the student athlete to have grade/behavior checks each Tuesday to be eligible to play in any games that week until the end of that term in which they received the failing grade or "U". In order to play while on academic probation, the student athlete grades, attendance, class and school behaviors will be reviewed each week with the Athletic Director and Assistant Principal. It is the student athlete's responsibility to get the academic probation form filled out and in the hands of the Athletic Director by the end of school day on each Monday for which they are on academic probation. Failure to submit the grade/behavior check form by the end of day on Monday, will make the student athlete ineligible to play any games that week. The student athlete is eligible to play in games while on academic probation if he/she is passing all classes, no U's, no unexcused absences, and no unexcused tardies. We don't expect perfection but we expect improved academic and behavioral results. **Midterm grades will become final for academic probation status on the Tuesday following the midterm grade deadline as set forth in the school calendar, while end of term grades will be based on final posted grades for the semester.** Failing to meet the academic/behavioral requirements for two consecutive weeks may result in further requirements to meet eligibility while on academic/behavior probation. Our goal is to assist student athletes meet their academic, social, and behavioral goals to have competitive advantages in the future.

Physical Form:
You must have a physical exam and turn in the attached form to the office before your first practice.

I have read this contract and the handbook with my player and give them my permission to play under the guidelines in the handbook and noted above.

X_____Parent or Guardian X_____ Player
I will abide by the guidelines in the handbook and noted above.

GO

DRAGONS