



Davie County High School Athletics

Parent/Player Handbook



Information:

- Principal: Michael Pruitt
- Athletic Director: Tim Devericks
- Athletic Department: 336-751-5905 ext 312060
- Website: daviecountyathleticzone.com
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Welcome!

Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding and meaningful educational experience that enhances a child's secondary education. It's important that students realize the time commitments, responsibilities, 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 mission, vision, core values and policies. Please refer to the following information when a question about your child's athletic experience arises.

Mission of War Eagle Athletics

With an emphasis on our core values, the athletic department will provide support to all areas of the Student-Athlete, while working to enhance the mission of Davie County High School.

Vision of War Eagle Athletics

Striving to be our best is the standard in everything that we do!

Core Values of War Eagle Athletics

1. Student-Athlete (Academics First)
2. Sportsmanship
3. Character
4. Humility
5. Encourage the Multi-Sport Athlete
6. We are **DAVIE COUNTY!**

Do what you are supposed to do, when you're supposed to do it, to the best of your ability, while representing your school, your team, and your community in a positive way!



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Governing Bodies

Davie County High School is a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) whose mission is to provide governance and leadership for interscholastic athletic programs that support and enrich the educational experience of students. As an NCHSAA school, DCHS abides by the minimum standards set forth by this organization. Please note that these are minimal standards and member schools may enforce stricter standards.

Locally, DCHS belongs to the Central Piedmont Conference (CPC), which comprises eight area schools. Those schools are Glenn, East Forsyth, Mount Tabor, Parkland, Reagan, Reynolds, West Forsyth, and Davie County. We also compete against teams from other conferences, and these are referred to as “non-conference” opponents.

Standards for Participation

In order to participate in organized athletics at DCHS, all Student-Athletes must reside in our district (or meet NCHSAA transfer or residence policies), have a current physical uploaded and approved in Dragonfly, have all athletic forms completed and satisfy all NCHSAA requirements for eligibility.

- Primary residence with parent or legal guardian in Davie County School District
- An up to date physical examination uploaded and approved on Dragonfly prior to the start of participation. IF the physical examination expires during the season, the Student-Athlete will need to provide an updated physical in order to resume participation. All physicals are valid for 395 days from the date of the physical.
- Other paperwork consists of the Gfeller Waller Concussion Form, Participation Policy, MRSA form, Photo Acknowledgement form, Consent to Participate and Release Form
- Student-Athletes must also meet all NCHSAA eligibility requirements (pass 3/4 , and fewer than 13.5 days missed)



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Program Goals

All teams will attempt to:

- Emphasize the development of fundamentals, sport specific 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 while also maintaining the integrity of the program.
- Compete with conference and non conference opponents.

Participation at the Varsity level is generally limited to the most highly skilled players and those with the ability to interact constructively with the coaches and other players for team success. The coaching staff will determine the level of play for each student-athlete (Varsity or Junior Varsity) based on what would be most beneficial to the development and progress of each player and team. **It should be noted that playing time could be limited and is left to the coaching staff to decide.**

Fall Sports

The fall season begins the first week of August (sometimes late July) and ends in late October (but may go longer depending on the sport). Varsity teams that qualify for the postseason may participate into the month of November or December. The NCHSAA website provides a sports calendar for each season. The following sports compete in the fall:

- Men's Soccer (Varsity and JV)
- Football (Varsity and JV)
- Volleyball (Varsity and JV)
- Men's and Women's Cross Country
- Women's Tennis
- Women's Golf
- Cheerleading (Varsity and JV)



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Winter Sports

The winter season begins in late October and ends in late February. Varsity teams that qualify for the postseason may be participating into March. The following sports compete in the winter season:

- Men's Basketball (Varsity and JV)
- Women's Basketball (Varsity and JV)
- Men's and Women's Indoor Track
- Men's and Women's Wrestling (Varsity and JV)
- Men's and Women's Swimming
- Cheerleading (Varsity and JV)

Spring Sports

The spring season begins in the middle of February and ends in late May. Varsity teams that qualify for the postseason may be participating into June. The following sports compete in the spring:

- Baseball (Varsity and JV)
- Softball (Varsity and JV)
- Men's and Women's Outdoor Track
- Men's Tennis
- Women's Soccer (Varsity and JV)
- Men's Golf
- Men's Lacrosse
- Women's Lacrosse

Junior Varsity

This is a transitional level for high school athletes. Athletes and parents should expect the following concepts to be emphasized:

- Reinforcing and refining skills
- Having the coach's evaluation of an athlete's attitude, skills, and team role determine their playing time
- Demonstrating sportsmanship and fair play
- Developing more sophisticated athletic strategies
- Specifically defining an individual athlete's role within the team concept (Know your role, accept your role, star in your role)
- Refining and reinforcing the concept of team play



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- Focusing on physical conditioning and development needed to participate in high school athletics
- Developing the ambition to achieve the next level of competition (desire needed to advance to the varsity level)
- Prioritizing skill and character development or winning

Varsity

This is 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 their playing time
- Developing sophisticated strategy, situational analysis, and other mental aspects of the sport
- Specifically defining an individual athlete's role within the team concept (Know your role, accept your role, star in your role)
- Understanding and valuing the physical conditioning components of one's sport
- Understanding the importance of individual sacrifice for the good of the team
- Competing 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 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 members to fulfill all roles needed within a team. These athletes must work 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 whatever role is decided by the coaching staff.



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Team Tryouts / Selection

During the tryout period, each coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the duty of the Student-Athlete to demonstrate to the coach that they can fulfill these expectations. If a Student-Athlete 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 DCHS athletic opportunities on teams that have not finalized their rosters. **Athletes will not be allowed to quit a sport to start another sport. They must wait until the previous sport has completed their season before beginning another.** The coaching staff of each sport has the sole responsibility for selecting members of the team, determining level of play, and determining the amount of playing time for each athlete. Coaches will provide policies specific to their sport at pre-season informational meetings. The following are general policies for all sports.

- Commit to being present at all try-outs, practices, and games/matches.
- Dedicate to becoming an excellent team member and role model within the school.
- Strive to continually improve as a Student-Athlete
- Represent their school and team in a positive manner at all times!

Game/Practice Sessions

Practices are held daily and the length of practice may vary as appropriate to the activity/sport. Some practices and games may be held on Saturdays (**No Sunday activities**). Most practice sessions are held immediately after school on a regular school day (teams may occasionally have practices before school in the mornings). Any team member who will be late, miss a practice or game, 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 a team. Skill development sessions are optional workouts that teams can hold outside of their season. These sessions are limited to 1.5 hours per session and no more than 3 times a week. These are not mandatory, but are encouraged if they are not participating in a sport during this time.



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Absence from Team Practices Policy

Unexcused absences from in-season practices may jeopardize retaining current position on the team, playing time at the coach's discretion, and could also lead to removal from the team if this is a recurring problem.

Excused absences from a practice may impact a player's position on the team and playing time, not as a punitive measure, but fairness to the rest of the team, and strategic reasons at the coach's discretion.

Conflict Resolution

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional and issues 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 problems arise.

STEP ONE: Personal Contact between Student-Athlete and Coach

A.) As a general rule, the issue should be presented as soon as possible to the coach by the **individual** Student-Athlete.

B.) If this recommended route is not successful, the coach should be contacted by the Student-Athlete's parent(s) at an appropriate time. Times to be avoided are:

- Either prior to or immediately after competition
- During a practice session
- During a time when other students may be present

Usually the best solution is to ask the coach either over the phone or via email if an in person meeting could be made to discuss the issue. **It is required that the Student-Athlete join parent(s) at this meeting to ensure that all sides of the issue can be thoroughly discussed.**

Please keep in mind that coaches will NOT discuss the following with parent's:

- **Playing Time**
- **Another Student Athlete**
- **Scheme/Strategy**

However we will always discuss how we can support Student-Athletes academically, socially, and emotionally.



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STEP TWO: Personal Contact between Student-Athlete, Parent(s), Coach and Athletic Director.

A.) If a satisfactory resolution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the Student-Athlete and/or parents should contact the Athletic Director. **As a courtesy, the coach should be informed by the parents that this contact is being made.**

B.) If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a meeting will be scheduled with all concerning parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution.

STEP THREE: Student-Athlete Administration Contact

If there is not a satisfactory resolution, the Student-Athlete and/or parent(s) should contact the High School Principal. **As a courtesy, the Athletic Director should be informed that this contact is being made.** While there is no guarantee that all parties will agree with all resolutions or findings, hopefully this process can lead to more productive relationships and clearer understandings in the future.

School Breaks

Coaches with seasons that overlap school breaks should use good judgment on family travels when scheduling practices and games over the breaks.

Winter Break: It is expected that winter sports athletes will be available during the December/January break for games/practices.

Spring Break: Spring Sport athletes should expect to have practices/games over spring break.

Summer Break: There are many opportunities during the summer time for athletes to improve. These are optional workouts during the summer time. The NCHSAA has two mandatory dead periods in the summertime (July 4th week and usually the 3rd week of July). Fall Athletes are expected to be at the first official practice (as set by the NCHSAA).



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Sportsmanship Policy

Davie County High School expects all parties at a contest to display the highest level of sportsmanship. Coaches, players, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials and visiting spectators with respect at all times. Davie County High School reserves the right to warn, place on probation or suspend any coach, player, or spectator determined to be acting in a manner contrary to the standards of good sportsmanship. Follow the simple rule: **Cheer for your team, but do not belittle opposing teams and officials.**

Any athlete that is ejected from any NCHSAA game is required to take the NFHS Sportsmanship course. Athletes are ineligible to return to game action until they have served their ejection penalty and completed the NFHS Sportsmanship course and/or any other course required by the NCHSAA.

School Athletic Equipment

Student-Athletes are responsible for and expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Student-Athletes are responsible for payment of any lost, stolen or damaged items. All equipment must be returned at the end of the season. Student-Athletes are not to wear uniforms, either practice or game, at any time other than those allowed by the coaching staff.

Athletic Training Room Policies

The training room exists to help athletes receive the best possible care. At certain times, the trainers and training room are extremely busy, thus the training room and its services are limited to athletes who require care only. Training services are granted on a first come, first served basis on practice days. On game days, students will be treated in an order that will allow bus and/or game commitments to be met.

All sport related injuries must be reported to the Athletic trainers and an athlete may not return to competition without clearance by the trainer. This may also include written permission from a physician. We encourage athletes to see our trainers prior to seeing a medical doctor when applicable. A note is required to resume participation any time there is a doctor visit.



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Transportation Policy

Davie County High School will provide transportation to and from athletic events that are out of county. Student-Athletes are required to ride that transportation. Insurance and liability issues are the main reasons for this. 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 penalty including and up to dismissal if warranted. If parents want their child to ride home with them, they must get this cleared through the coach. They are not allowed to leave with anyone other than their parents or legal custodian. Special circumstances could allow Student-Athletes to ride with parents to or from an athletic event when school activities overlap the dismissal of the team to the competition. These circumstances would need to be approved by the principal and/or the Athletic Director.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Daily Attendance:

Any Student-Athlete absent from school on a game or practice day will not be allowed to participate unless they have attended at least 50% of the day. The principal/athletic director has the discretion to be the governing body in the event of an emergency where a Student-Athlete is not present for 50% of the school day.

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 Davie County High School school rules that regulate behavior and attendance
- Respectful behavior towards all members of the school community
- School fees and debts are paid (or payment plan in progress)

If a Student-Athlete is suspended during their sport season they will not be allowed to play or practice during the time of that suspension. Period suspensions and lunch detentions will be handled by the coach at a “team” level.

Academic Duty:

Student-Athletes will plan their time so that they will devote sufficient energy to their studies to ensure grades represent their true abilities. Athletics allows students to learn time management skills.



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Honesty/Integrity:

Honesty is expected at all times. Stealing and lying will not be tolerated and, subject to due process, could result in dismissal from the team.

Representation:

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

Respecting the Spirit of the Game:

Student-Athletes 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 courtesy and respect at all times.

Respect for the Coaching Staff:

Student-Athletes will understand that their coaches have their best interests and the team's best interest in mind as they plan and guide the team. They will adhere to all team rules.

Respect for School Building and Grounds:

Student-Athletes will understand that damage to the school building, grounds, or school equipment could result in immediate suspension from the team. We take pride in our facilities, as a representative of the school Student-Athletes should as well.

Social Media:

Student-Athletes should understand that inappropriate activity on social media may result in disciplinary action from the administration. Social media activity should be a positive reflection of the school, team, and community.

Bullying/Hazing:

Davie County High School will not tolerate bullying/hazing in any regards. Activity that represents this type of behavior could result in disciplinary action by administration and could lead to removal from the team.



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Any policy in this handbook is considered the minimum consequence and/or requirement and can be more strictly enforced at a team level.

Message to all Student-Athletes, Parents, and Spectators:

We urge you to support War Eagle 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 game officials.
- Enjoying the Davie County High School athletic experience.

GO WAR EAGLES!



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