

DANIEL HAND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS STUDENT-ATHLETE & PARENT HANDBOOK



2026–2027

BE A TIGER

Madison Public Schools | Daniel Hand High School

This handbook is intended for Daniel Hand High School student-athletes and their parents/guardians.



Daniel Hand Athletics

Dear Student-Athletes and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Daniel Hand High School Athletics. Participation in interscholastic athletics is an important extension of the educational experience at Daniel Hand and our Madison Community. Our goal is to provide competitive, education-based opportunities that challenge students to grow as teammates, leaders, competitors, and people.

The Daniel Hand athletic tradition is built on high standards. We want our teams to strive for success, both individually and as a team, but competitive achievement will never come at the expense of student safety, academics, integrity, sportsmanship, or long-term development. Every student-athlete has an opportunity to contribute to the culture of our school by the way they prepare, compete, respond to adversity, treat others, and represent Daniel Hand.

Parents and guardians are essential partners in this experience. Your support, perspective, communication, and commitment to the educational purpose of athletics help our students thrive. This handbook is intended to provide a clear understanding of how Daniel Hand Athletics operates and what student-athletes and families can expect throughout a season.

We Will Be the Standard. Be A Tiger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Farrell".

Chris Farrell
Director of Athletics

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PART ONE — THE DANIEL HAND STANDARD

2. Purpose of This Handbook

This handbook is the primary family-facing guide for students and parents/guardians participating in Daniel Hand High School Athletics. It is intentionally separate from the Daniel Hand Coaches Handbook and Booster Club Handbook. Its purpose is to explain participation requirements, student-athlete and family expectations, health and safety procedures, communication practices, team operations, and the standards that apply throughout the athletic experience.

This handbook does not replace Connecticut law, Madison Board of Education policy, the Daniel Hand High School Student & Parent Handbook, the Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct, CIAC regulations, SCC policies, NFHS rules, or sport-specific tournament regulations. When a conflict exists, the applicable controlling authority governs.

Questions involving CIAC eligibility, transfers, waivers, unusual circumstances, or official rule interpretations must be directed to the Daniel Hand Athletic Office. CIAC's communication protocol directs student-athletes and parents/guardians back to the member school for interpretation and communication of CIAC rules.

3. Mission and Vision

Mission: Daniel Hand Athletics provides competitive, education-based athletic experiences that develop student-athletes as teammates, leaders, and people. Through athletics, we build accountability, integrity, respect, teamwork, resilience, and pride while preparing student-athletes to represent themselves, their teams, their school, and the Madison community with class and purpose.

Vision: Daniel Hand Athletics will be a student-centered athletic program known for competitive excellence, strong relationships, high standards, and a culture where every student-athlete learns to lead, serve, compete, and grow beyond the game.

4. BE A TIGER Core Values

T — TEAM FIRST — Commit to something bigger than yourself.

I — INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY — Do what is right and own your effort, attitude, actions, and choices.

G — GROW THROUGH ADVERSITY — Learn from challenges, setbacks, successes, and failures.

E — EFFORT & EXCELLENCE — Bring consistent effort, discipline, pride, and a commitment to improvement.

R — RESPECT — Respect the game and treat people the right way.

S — SET THE STANDARD — Lead through your words, actions, attitude, and example.

To Be A Tiger means to put the team first, act with integrity and accountability, grow through adversity, pursue effort and excellence, show respect, and set the standard through leadership, character, and class.

Be A Tiger. Every day. Everywhere.



BE A TIGER

**WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE THE
DANIEL HAND STANDARD EVERY DAY**

MISSION

Daniel Hand Athletics provides competitive, education-based athletic experiences that develop student-athletes as teammates, leaders, and people. Through athletics, we build accountability, integrity, respect, teamwork, resilience, and pride while preparing student-athletes to represent themselves, their teams, their school, and the Madison community with class and purpose.

VISION

Daniel Hand Athletics will be a student-centered athletic program known for competitive excellence, strong relationships, high standards, and a culture where every student-athlete learns to lead, serve, compete, and grow beyond the game.

BE A TIGER CORE VALUES

T		TEAM FIRST	Commit to something bigger than yourself.
I		INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY	Do what is right and own your effort, attitude, actions, and choices.
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PROFILE OF A GRADUATE CONNECTIONS



COLLABORATION



COMMUNICATION



SELF-DIRECTION



CRITICAL THINKING



CREATIVE THINKING



GLOBAL THINKING



CITIZENSHIP



RESPONSIBILITY

DANIEL HAND ATHLETICS

5. Education-Based Athletics and Shared Responsibility

Athletics at Daniel Hand are education-based. Success matters and is pursued with preparation, discipline, and pride, but the larger purpose is to help students learn skills that extend beyond competition.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Put academics first and maintain eligibility.
- Attend, prepare, communicate, and honor commitments to the team.
- Follow school, Athletic Department, team, CIAC, SCC, and sport-specific rules.
- Treat teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, staff, and spectators with respect.
- Communicate concerns appropriately and advocate for themselves.
- Care for school property and represent Daniel Hand with class.

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Support the student-athlete without coaching from the stands or undermining team expectations.
- Encourage self-advocacy and appropriate communication with coaches.
- Communicate scheduling, medical, and welfare concerns in a timely manner.
- Model sportsmanship and respect for coaches, officials, opponents, and other families.
- Understand that team selection, playing time, roles, strategy, and evaluation are coaching decisions.

PART TWO — BECOMING A DANIEL HAND STUDENT-ATHLETE

6. Athletic Registration and FinalForms

FinalForms is the Athletic Department's official registration, roster, and participation-clearance system. Students must complete the required registration process and be officially cleared before participating in tryouts, practices, conditioning, or contests.

NO CLEARANCE — NO PARTICIPATION

Families should complete all required parent/guardian forms and student acknowledgments by the published deadline. A student is not considered cleared because paperwork, a physical, or another document has merely been submitted. The official clearance status in FinalForms controls participation.

Registration for athletic seasons, deadlines, required forms, and current instructions are communicated by the Athletic Department. They will be posted in FinalForms and on the Athletic Website. Families should keep contact information in FinalForms current so that important notices are received.

7. Physical Examinations and Medical Clearance

Every student-athlete participating in a CIAC-sanctioned practice or contest must have a valid pre-participation physical examination on file and be medically cleared through the school's approved process. Under CIAC medical requirements, the physical evaluation must have been performed within the previous 13 months.

Families are encouraged to submit updated physical documentation promptly after an examination rather than waiting until the start of a season. Students may not participate when a physical has expired or when required medical clearance is incomplete. To be clear, if a student athlete's physical expires mid-season, the student-athlete becomes immediately ineligible on the 13-month anniversary date and cannot practice or compete until an updated physical form is submitted to and approved by the Health Office.

Medical restrictions communicated by the school nurse, Athletic Trainer, or other authorized medical personnel must be followed exactly. Coaches cannot override a medical restriction or independently authorize participation.

8. ImPACT Baseline Testing

Daniel Hand uses ImPACT baseline testing as part of its concussion-management program. Student-athletes who are due for baseline testing must complete the requirement before participation as directed by the Athletic Department and Athletic Trainer.

The test is completed using the current Daniel Hand at-home instructions. Student-athletes should complete it in a quiet environment, follow all directions carefully, and avoid distractions so the baseline is valid. Families will be notified if a student needs to repeat the test.

ImPACT is one tool used in concussion management. It does not replace medical evaluation, and return-to-play decisions are made through the approved medical process.

At-home testing directions: [ImPACT Baseline Testing At Home Directions \(PDF\)](#).

9. Participation Fees, Booster Fees, and Financial Assistance

Athletic Participation Fee

The Daniel Hand athletic participation fee is \$125 per sport, with a maximum family cap of \$625 per school year.

Payment Process

Parents/guardians are expected to pay the participation fee through Infinite Campus after teams have been selected. Fees will be added to Infinite Campus within the first week of the season. Cash and checks will not be accepted for athletic participation fees.

Confidential Waivers

Confidential participation-fee waivers are available for families who qualify. Parents/guardians should contact the Athletic Office to request assistance. Participation-fee waivers are granted by the Director of Athletics and require the parent/guardian to complete the appropriate waiver paperwork.

Use of the Participation Fee

The athletic participation fee is specifically allocated to help offset transportation costs associated with the athletic program. These funds help support safe and reliable transportation for student-athletes traveling to and from games, contests, and other school-sponsored athletic events.

Booster Club Fees

Booster Club fees are separate from the school athletic participation fee. Under the 2026–2027 Daniel Hand Booster Club Handbook, the maximum booster fee for a program is \$300. Booster Clubs must explain the purpose of the fee and provide transparency regarding its intended use. Financial barriers should not prevent participation in booster-supported activities, and families with concerns should contact the Director of Athletics.

Ice Hockey Program Fees

Boys and Girls Ice Hockey student-athletes are responsible for the \$125 athletic participation fee as well as an additional program fee. The hockey program fee helps offset the additional costs associated with operating the ice

hockey programs and does not count toward the \$625 family cap. The Boys and Girls Ice Hockey Booster Clubs will contribute \$30,000 per season, with that contribution expected to be paid before the first game of the season.

10. Preseason Student-Athlete/Parent Meeting

Each program will conduct a preseason student-athlete/parent meeting before the first competition. Attendance is strongly expected because this meeting establishes program-specific expectations and gives families an opportunity to understand how the team will operate.

Topics should include:

- Coaching staff and program philosophy.
- Team rules, attendance, commitment, academics, and conduct.
- Tryouts, team-selection process, and role expectations.
- Practice and competition schedules, vacations, and transportation.
- Injury reporting and Athletic Trainer procedures.
- Communication and conflict-resolution expectations.
- Sportsmanship and ejection rules.
- Uniform/equipment responsibilities.
- Captains and student leadership.
- Booster Club role and boundaries.

11. Program Offerings and Levels of Competition

Current athletic offerings and competition levels are published by the Athletic Department. Team levels may vary from year to year based on participation numbers, scheduling, and program needs. Not every sport will necessarily sponsor varsity, junior varsity, and freshman teams every season.

VARSITY (V) JUNIOR VARSITY (JV) FRESHMAN (F)

Fall	Winter	Spring
Cheerleading (V)	Boys Basketball (V, JV, F)	Baseball (V, JV, F)
Boys Cross Country (V)	Girls Basketball (V, JV, F)	Boys Golf (V)
Girls Cross Country (V)	Cheerleading (V)	Girls Golf (V)
Girls Field Hockey (V, JV, F)	Fencing (V)	Boys Lacrosse (V, JV, F)
Football (V, JV, F)	Boys Ice Hockey (V)	Girls Lacrosse (V, JV, F)
Boys Soccer (V, JV, F)	Girls Ice Hockey (V)	Softball (V, JV)
Girls Soccer (V, JV, F)	Boys and Girls Indoor Track (V)	Boys Tennis (V)
Girls Swimming & Diving (V)	Boys Swimming & Diving (V)	Girls Tennis (V)
Girls Volleyball (V, JV, F)	Wrestling (V, JV)	Boys and Girls Outdoor Track (V)
Unified Sports	Downhill Ski (V)	Boys Volleyball (V, JV)
	Dance (V)	Co-Ed Sailing (V)
	Unified Sports	Unified Sports

Varsity — The highest level of competition. Varsity teams strive for success, both individually and as a team, through preparation, effort, discipline, and continuous improvement. The primary purposes and focuses of varsity teams in a high school athletic program include but are not limited to: competitive excellence, skill mastery, high-level competition, leadership, championship aspirations, and character development. Playing time is not equal or guaranteed. Coaches make role and playing-time decisions based on the legitimate needs of the team and program.

Junior Varsity — A developmental and competitive level designed to build skill, experience, confidence, and readiness for higher levels. Participation is encouraged when appropriate, but playing time is not guaranteed or necessarily equal. Membership on a JV team does not guarantee future varsity placement.

Freshman — An introductory and developmental level when participation numbers and program resources support it. The emphasis is on learning, skill development, team habits, and adjustment to high school athletics. Playing opportunities are encouraged, but they are not guaranteed or required to be equal.

PART THREE — ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

12. Academic Eligibility

Academics are the primary purpose of Daniel Hand High School. Athletic participation is a privilege, and student-athletes must satisfy all current CIAC and Madison Public Schools academic eligibility requirements.

Official eligibility is determined by the school using current CIAC rules and school academic records. Eligibility may be affected by course enrollment, grades from the applicable trimester, incomplete grades, transfers, and other circumstances governed by CIAC regulations. Families should not rely on informal interpretations from teammates, outside coaches, or other schools.

Questions about eligibility, transfers, incompletes, schedule changes, or unusual circumstances must be directed to the Director of Athletics. The Athletic Office will communicate a student's official eligibility status and next steps when a concern exists.

13. School Attendance and the 4-Hour Rule

Daniel Hand requires a student-athlete to attend school for at least four hours in order to participate in a practice or contest that day, unless an approved exception applies under current school procedures. Academics come first. Daniel Hand student-athletes are expected to take their education seriously, make school attendance a priority, and attend the full school day unless an approved absence or exception applies.

4-HOUR RULE

A student-athlete must attend school for at least four hours in order to participate in a practice or contest that day, unless an approved exception applies. Coaches do not independently approve attendance exceptions. Questions should be directed to the Athletic Office or school administration.

Key expectations:

- A student who is absent for the school day is not eligible to practice or compete that day unless an approved exception applies.
- Attendance on the final school day before a weekend or extended break affects eligibility for weekend/break participation. Administrative approval is required when applicable.

- Approved college visits and school-authorized mental health wellness days are handled in accordance with the current Daniel Hand Student & Parent Handbook.
- A student who is sent home ill by the Health Office may not participate in athletics later that day.
- Student-athletes are expected to attend classes regularly and on time and may not use athletics as a reason to miss class except for approved early dismissals that are communicated to the teachers/staff ahead of time.

14. School Discipline and Athletic Participation

Student-athletes are subject to the Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct and Daniel Hand school rules at all times that those rules apply. Athletic participation does not provide an exception from school discipline.

Students serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension are excluded from extracurricular participation as required by the Code of Conduct. All suspensions prohibit participation in school activities on or off school grounds for the full suspension period, including applicable weekends, holidays, and school breaks. The administration may impose additional extracurricular restrictions when appropriate.

Serious or repeated misconduct may also affect team membership, leadership status, or participation in athletics. Athletic consequences will be handled in coordination with the school administration and applicable due process requirements.

15. Minimum Practice Requirements and Season Readiness

CIAC requires student-athletes to be properly prepared before competition. In general, teams and individual athletes must complete a minimum of ten physical/exertional school practice days before the first scheduled competition, subject to CIAC sport-specific rules and exceptions.

CIAC also requires a day of rest within the applicable seven-day cycle; a team or athlete may not practice/compete with the school for more than six consecutive days under the general rule.

Student-athletes should not assume they are immediately eligible to compete if they start the season later due to any number of reasons. The Athletic Department and coaching staff will determine the applicable practice requirement under current CIAC rules.

16. Multi-Sport Athletes and Outside Participation

Daniel Hand supports students who participate in multiple school sports and activities. In-season Daniel Hand programs have priority over voluntary out-of-season activities. Coaches are expected to communicate and collaborate when students participate in more than one school program.

Student-athletes must also follow CIAC rules governing outside participation. Participation on an outside team in the same sport during the school season may violate CIAC regulations. Before committing to club, showcase, travel, or outside competition during a Daniel Hand season, families should speak with the head coach and Director of Athletics.

No student should be pressured to choose an out-of-season Daniel Hand activity over an in-season school team.

17. Team Managers

Team managers are valued members of Daniel Hand athletic programs. Managers must complete the required registration process and are subject to school, academic, behavioral, and team expectations.

Managers may not participate in workouts, drills, or practice activities requiring physical clearance unless they have been appropriately cleared. Coaches are responsible for assigning safe, appropriate duties and providing supervision.

Managers who meet established program expectations and demonstrate appropriate commitment throughout the season may be considered for a varsity letter.

PART FOUR — TEAMS, TRYOUTS, AND COMMITMENT

18. Tryouts and Team Selection

The coaching staff is responsible for selecting the members of each team, subject to Daniel Hand procedures and CIAC requirements. Selection may consider sport-specific skill, demonstrated performance, potential, roster needs, safety, available positions, and other legitimate program criteria communicated by the head coach.

Before tryouts begin, student-athletes and families should be informed when cuts are possible and when team decisions are expected. Coaches should explain the general selection criteria and tryout process.

Team selection is a coaching decision. The Director of Athletics may review whether the established process was followed but does not re-evaluate athletic ability or replace legitimate coaching judgment with administrative judgment.

19. If a Student-Athlete Is Not Selected

Being told that a student has not made a team can be difficult. Daniel Hand expects the process to be handled with respect and dignity.

When cuts are necessary, a student-athlete who is not selected must be informed personally and privately by a coach or designated staff member. Public cut lists, notification through teammates, or other impersonal methods are not acceptable.

A student may appropriately ask a coach for feedback about areas for improvement. Families may also ask whether the published selection process was followed. They are welcome to ask questions about the team selection process. However, decisions regarding athletic ability, roster needs, and team fit, are the responsibility of the coaching staff.

20. Playing Time and Team Roles

Playing time and team roles are determined by the coaching staff. Factors may include performance, skill, preparation, practice habits, effort, physical readiness, tactical needs, opponent, game situation, team chemistry, attendance, conduct, and the overall needs of the program.

Playing time is not guaranteed at any level and is not required to be equal. Varsity athletics are highly competitive. Junior varsity and freshman levels place greater emphasis on development, but participation decisions still remain with the coaching staff.

Student-athletes are encouraged to ask coaches appropriate questions such as: “What can I improve?” “What does my current role require?” or “What can I do in practice to earn a greater opportunity?” These conversations are an important part of learning self-advocacy.

21. Practice Attendance and Team Commitment

A student who accepts a place on a Daniel Hand team commits to teammates, coaches, practices, contests, and program expectations. Teams depend on consistent attendance and communication.

Coaches may establish reasonable attendance expectations and consequences as part of team rules. Those expectations must be applied consistently and must align with school policy. Academic support, school obligations, medical restrictions, religious observances, and other legitimate circumstances will be handled thoughtfully.

Students should communicate conflicts as early as possible. A student should never simply miss a practice or contest and assume the absence will have no effect on preparation, role, or participation.

22. Vacations, College Visits, Religious Observances, and Conflicts

Athletic seasons may include practices and contests during school vacations, weekends, and other times when school is not in session. Families should review team schedules before making plans.

Missing team activities may affect a student's readiness or role when the student returns. An excused or understandable absence does not guarantee that a student will immediately return to a previous role or level of participation.

College visits and other known commitments should be communicated to the coach well in advance. Religious observances, school obligations, medical needs, and other protected or legitimate circumstances will be handled in accordance with school policy and, when needed, in consultation with the Athletic Department.

23. Captain's Practices and Out-of-Season Activity

Daniel Hand and CIAC do not sanction unsupervised "captain's practices." Captains may help lead within an approved and supervised team setting, but they may not replace a certified coach or organize school-associated practices that avoid supervision or season limitations.

CIAC Summer Out-of-Season Guidelines

Under the CIAC summer out-of-season rules, a member-school coach may coach their own student-athletes beginning on the Monday following the designated spring state championship weekend and continuing no later than the second Saturday of August, provided all CIAC requirements are followed.

For Daniel Hand student-athletes and families, **the key summer expectations are:**

- Summer team activity is voluntary. Participation may not be required as a condition of team selection, roster status, playing time, or a future role.
- Coaching is limited to no more than two (2) days per week, per sport. The two-day limit applies to the sport as a whole, not separately to each coach.
- A practice session may not exceed two (2) total hours in a day.
- A scheduled single official game or contest may extend beyond two hours when needed to complete that contest; however, multi-contest events, round-robin tournaments, and doubleheaders are not permitted under this summer exception.
- A program may use one practice day and one single-game/contest day in the same week, provided the two-day-per-week limit is not exceeded.
- All coaches providing instruction must meet current CIAC coaching credential requirements and mandates.
- School equipment, transportation, and insurance may be used only as permitted by the school district and CIAC for these approved summer activities.
- In football, full contact is prohibited during the summer out-of-season period.

- CIAC permits conditioning in addition to the two sport-specific summer sessions when the separate CIAC conditioning restrictions are followed.

Daniel Hand may establish additional restrictions or scheduling expectations within the CIAC framework. All summer activities must be approved through the Athletic Department and must follow current facility, supervision, safety, and communication procedures.

Families should contact the Athletic Office if they are uncertain whether an activity is school-sponsored, voluntary, or permitted under current CIAC out-of-season or summer rules.

Out of Season During the School Year

No program or coach can mandate that school-year conditioning or open gyms. All team activities must be voluntary, open to all students, non-sport specific. During those activities they cannot involve sport-specific coaching or skill instruction by coaches from that specific program.

PART FIVE — HEALTH, SAFETY, AND STUDENT WELLNESS

24. Athletic Trainer and Injury Reporting

The Athletic Trainer is the primary athletics medical professional for injury evaluation, treatment, rehabilitation, and return-to-play coordination. Student-athletes should report injuries, symptoms, and health concerns promptly to the coach and/or Athletic Trainer.

Students should not hide an injury to remain in practice or competition. Early reporting helps protect the student and allows the medical team to determine appropriate care.

All injuries that occur during school-sponsored athletics should be reported promptly so that required accident documentation and follow-up can be completed. Coaches do not independently diagnose injuries or overrule medical restrictions.

Insurance and Accident Forms

If a student-athlete is injured while participating in school-sponsored athletics, the Athletic Department will mail the appropriate insurance and accident forms to the student's home. The forms include instructions explaining the steps families should follow and any information that may need to be submitted.

Families should review the forms carefully and follow the directions provided. If the forms are not received within a reasonable period after the injury, please contact the Athletic Office so we can assist and ensure the necessary paperwork is provided.

Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Partnership

Daniel Hand Athletics has a sports medicine partnership with Dr. Stephen Maier, the official Orthopedic Physician for Daniel Hand. Dr. Maier is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine with extensive experience caring for athletes, including prior work with collegiate and professional sports programs.

This partnership provides Daniel Hand student-athletes and families with an additional resource when a sports-related injury may require evaluation by a sports medicine physician. Families who would like to schedule an appointment with Dr. Maier may contact the medical assistant at 203-407-3522 and explain that they have a Daniel Hand student-athlete who needs to be seen by Dr. Maier. The turnaround for an appointment is usually within a few days of the injury.

This resource is available to help families access timely sports medicine care when needed. Families may continue to use their own physician or medical provider. Regardless of the provider selected, all school return-to-play

requirements and medical-clearance procedures must still be followed before a student-athlete resumes participation.

25. Return to Play After Injury

When a student is referred for medical evaluation outside the school, return to participation must follow the approved Daniel Hand medical process. Written medical clearance may be required and should be provided through the school nurse/Athletic Trainer as directed, rather than handed to a coach as the final decision-maker.

A medical note may authorize immediate return, identify a future return date, or prescribe a gradual return-to-play progression. The school nurse and Athletic Trainer coordinate the school-based return requirements and communicate restrictions to the Athletic Department and coaching staff.

If symptoms continue or any responsible person involved in the student's care believes participation is unsafe, the student should be withheld from participation until appropriately evaluated and cleared. Coaches may not waive or shorten an authorized return-to-play progression.

26. Concussions and ImPACT

Any student-athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury must be removed from participation and managed according to Connecticut law, CIAC requirements, and Daniel Hand medical procedures.

Student-athletes must report concussion symptoms honestly. Teammates and parents should also speak up when they observe concerning signs. "Playing through" a suspected concussion is not acceptable.

Return to play after a concussion occurs only through the approved medical process and the required return-to-play progression. ImPACT baseline testing may be used as one component of assessment and management, but it does not by itself determine whether a student is cleared.

Connecticut requires a student-athlete with a suspected or diagnosed concussion to be removed from participation and kept out of supervised team activities involving physical exertion until the student receives written clearance from a licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. A student-athlete may not return to play on the same day as the injury.

After the initial written clearance is received, the student-athlete must complete a gradual, supervised return-to-play progression. The statewide guidance uses the following five-step progression:

1. Light Aerobic Exercise — Light activity intended to increase heart rate, such as walking, light jogging, or a stationary bike. No contact or strenuous activity.
2. Moderate Exercise — Moderate-intensity activity with increased body and head movement, but no head-impact activity.
3. Noncontact Exercise — More intense exercise and sport-specific drills without contact. This may include running, higher-intensity biking, regular weight training, and noncontact practice activities.
4. Practice — Return to full-contact practice with close observation by the Athletic Trainer and/or coaching staff as appropriate.
5. Return to Play — Return to full competition.

A student-athlete should advance only when no concussion symptoms are present at the current step. If symptoms return, activity must stop and the student should be reassessed before continuing the progression. Progression is individualized and may take more than one day.

Before a student-athlete may return to full, unrestricted team activities, Connecticut requires that the student no longer exhibit concussion signs, symptoms, or behaviors at rest or with exertion and receive written clearance for full participation from a licensed health care professional trained in concussion evaluation and management.

Daniel Hand's Athletic Trainer and school health staff coordinate the school-based return-to-play process. Families should provide all medical documentation and written clearances through the approved school process. Coaches may not independently clear a student-athlete or shorten the return-to-play progression.

27. Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac arrest is a medical emergency. Student-athletes and parents/guardians receive required education regarding warning signs and symptoms, which may include fainting or seizures during exercise, unexplained shortness of breath, chest pain, dizziness, extreme fatigue, or an abnormal/racing heart rate.

A student exhibiting concerning signs or symptoms must stop participation and be referred for appropriate medical evaluation. Continuing to exercise after warning signs can place a student at serious risk.

Return to athletics requires appropriate evaluation and written clearance in accordance with Connecticut and CIAC requirements. In an emergency, the venue-specific Emergency Action Plan will be activated, including EMS, CPR, and AED use when indicated.

28. Exertional Heat Illness, Hydration, and Acclimatization

Daniel Hand follows current district and CIAC guidance for heat, hydration, acclimatization, and exertional heat illness. Practices may be modified, shortened, relocated, delayed, or canceled based on environmental conditions and student safety.

Student-athletes are expected to arrive properly hydrated, use water/rest opportunities, report symptoms immediately, and follow Coach(es) and Athletic Trainer instructions. Conditioning progresses gradually, particularly at the beginning of a season or after extended inactivity.

Symptoms such as confusion, collapse, severe weakness, dizziness, unusual behavior, or other signs of heat illness require immediate attention. Suspected exertional heat stroke is a medical emergency.

29. Lightning, Severe Weather, and Emergency Action Plans

Every Daniel Hand athletic venue operates under emergency and severe-weather procedures. Coaches and site personnel will stop, delay, relocate, or cancel activity when conditions are unsafe.

Student-athletes and spectators must follow directions to leave fields, courts, pools, bleachers, or other areas when instructed. No participant or family member should remain in or return to a restricted area because conditions appear safe from their location.

Venue-specific Emergency Action Plans identify emergency communication, EMS access, AED locations, staff responsibilities, and other response procedures. Student-athlete safety takes priority over completing a practice or contest.

30. Student-Athlete Mental Health and Wellness

Student-athletes are people first. Competitive athletics can be a source of connection, confidence, belonging, and growth, but students may also experience stress, anxiety, loss, pressure, injury-related frustration, or other mental-health challenges.

Daniel Hand encourages students, teammates, parents, and coaches to notice meaningful changes, start appropriate conversations, listen without judgment, and connect students with qualified school or community support. A coach is not expected to serve as a therapist; coaches are expected to care, respond, and connect students to help.

NOTICE • ASK • LISTEN • CONNECT

NOTICE — Pay attention to meaningful changes in mood, behavior, relationships, performance, attendance, or energy.

ASK — Check in directly when something does not seem right.

LISTEN — Give the student space to talk without immediately judging or trying to solve the problem.

CONNECT — Help the student connect with a trusted adult, counselor, school professional, family member, or other qualified supports.

Student-athletes are encouraged to speak with a trusted adult when something feels wrong. Parents/guardians should contact appropriate school personnel when they have concerns about a student's well-being. Immediate safety concerns are handled through school emergency procedures.

31. Weight Rooms, Locker Rooms, and Athletic Facilities

Athletic facilities are school spaces and must be used safely and respectfully. Students may not use weight rooms or training areas without approved adult supervision.

Student-athletes must:

- Follow staff directions and posted facility rules.
- Use proper attire, lifting technique, spotting, and safety practices.
- Return equipment to its proper location and report damaged or unsafe equipment.
- Keep locker rooms, team rooms, buses, fields, and facilities clean.
- Respect the privacy, property, and personal space of others.
- Remain out of restricted, construction, maintenance, or otherwise unauthorized areas.

Misuse of facilities or equipment may result in loss of access, restitution, school discipline, and/or athletic consequences.

PART SIX — CONDUCT, TEAM CULTURE, AND LEADERSHIP

32. Student-Athlete Standards of Conduct

Student-athletes represent Daniel Hand High School and Madison Public Schools. The expectations of the Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct apply to student-athletes whenever the Code governs, including school-sponsored activities on or off campus.

Daniel Hand student-athletes are expected to demonstrate integrity, self-control, respect, responsibility, and good citizenship. Conduct that jeopardizes health or safety, disrupts school or team operations, damages property, disrespects others, or undermines program standards may result in school and/or athletic consequences.

The BE A TIGER Core Values are the daily standard: Team First, Integrity & Accountability, Grow Through Adversity, Effort & Excellence, Respect, and Set the Standard.

33. Hazing, Bullying, Harassment, and Team Culture

Hazing is prohibited at all times. The Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct defines hazing broadly to include initiation or affiliation activities, on or off campus, that endanger or create a risk of harm to a person's physical or emotional health or well-being. Consent or willingness to participate does not excuse hazing.

Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, discriminatory slurs, sexual harassment, intimidation, humiliation, and abusive team behavior are inconsistent with Daniel Hand Athletics.

Team traditions, group chats, locker-room behavior, team dinners, overnight activities, social media, and informal gatherings do not create an exception to school expectations. Students who experience or witness concerning behavior should report it promptly to a coach, administrator, counselor, Athletic Director, or other trusted adult.

The Athletic Department does not condone or promote the use of team group chats in any of the programs. There are approved forms of communication in section 38 of this handbook.

34. Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco/Vaping, and Performance-Enhancing Substances

Student-athletes are subject to the Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct and applicable CIAC chemical-health requirements. School rules address possession, use, sale, or distribution of alcohol, controlled drugs, tobacco/nicotine products, vaping devices, drug paraphernalia, and performance-enhancing substances.

Athletic participation is a privilege. A school disciplinary consequence may include exclusion from extracurricular activities. CIAC may also impose separate consequences for certain performance-enhancing substances.

Under the CIAC Chemical Health Policy, a student-athlete determined to have used androgenic/anabolic steroids or other covered performance-enhancing substances may be declared ineligible for CIAC-controlled activities for 180 school days for each occurrence. Students should never use a supplement, drug, or substance for athletic enhancement based on informal advice from teammates, coaches, or social media.

35. Technology, Social Media, and Digital Conduct

Student-athletes are responsible for their digital conduct. Team group chats, social media posts, direct messages, videos, photos, and other electronic communications can affect teammates, opponents, school climate, and the reputation of the program.

Students must not use technology to bully, haze, harass, threaten, humiliate, target opponents, criticize officials in an abusive manner, disclose private team information, or post content inconsistent with the Madison Public Schools Code of Conduct.

Official team communication should use approved platforms and professional standards. Student-athletes should assume that public or shared digital content can become permanent and widely distributed.

36. Captains and Student Leadership

A Daniel Hand Captain is a student leader and role model, not an assistant coach. Captains are expected to demonstrate academic responsibility, integrity, respect, attendance, commitment, communication, and conduct consistent with the Daniel Hand Code of Conduct and team expectations.

Daniel Hand Captain Selection Process:

- The head coach identifies and signs for potential candidates based on character and leadership.

- Candidates obtain required signatures from the school counselor and Assistant Principal.
- Candidates complete the required NFHS “Student Leadership: Becoming a Leader” course.
- The Athletic Office reviews completed nomination materials and determines the official candidate list with appropriate school personnel.
- The Athletic Office prepares the official ballot.
- Eligible varsity team members rank candidates using the established process; candidates may not rank themselves.
- Ballots are returned to the Athletic Office immediately after the ranking meeting for tabulation by the Athletic Office.
- The coach announces captain(s) after the Athletic Office completes the process.

Senior student-athletes with prior varsity experience receive priority consideration. Underclassmen may be considered when appropriate under current department rules and with prior Director of Athletics approval.

37. Student Section Leaders

Student Section Leaders are an important part of the Daniel Hand athletic experience and school community. We view these students as an extension of our team captains. They play an integral role in creating school spirit, supporting our teams, promoting sportsmanship, and modeling what it means to Be A Tiger.

Seniors interested in serving as Student Section Leaders must complete the appropriate interest form distributed to the graduating class. Students who express interest will meet with the Director of Athletics at the beginning of the school year to review the role, expectations, and selection process. Students selected for this leadership position must sign the Daniel Hand Student Section Leaders Contract.

Student Section Leaders are expected to:

- Serve as positive role models for students at athletic events.
- Demonstrate respect for officials, opponents, coaches, athletes, event staff, and spectators.
- Promote positive, inclusive, and appropriate cheers and chants.
- Help discourage negative behavior, inappropriate language, disrespectful gestures, or unsportsmanlike conduct within the student section.
- Arrive early when expected, help organize the student section, and encourage students to remain engaged in support of all Daniel Hand teams.
- Work with the Director of Athletics, Principal, and Class Act Council to reinforce game-day expectations and school-spirit initiatives.
- Meet weekly with the Director of Athletics as directed and communicate concerns regarding fan behavior or the student section.
- Represent Daniel Hand with integrity, positivity, pride, self-control, and the BE A TIGER standards at both home and away contests.

Student Section Leaders are held to a higher standard because of their visible leadership role. Failure to meet the expectations of the position may result in removal from the leadership role.

PART SEVEN — COMMUNICATION AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

38. Proper Forms of Communication

Clear, professional, and appropriate communication is an important part of the Daniel Hand athletic experience. Coaches are expected to use school-approved communication methods when communicating with student-athletes and parents/guardians.

Approved communication methods include:

- Madison Public Schools-issued email — Coaches should use their Madison-issued email account when communicating directly with parents/guardians.

- Google Classroom — May be used for team announcements, reminders, schedules, and other appropriate program communication.
- FinalForms — May be used for Athletic Department, registration, roster, medical-clearance, and team-related communication.
- SportsYou — May be used for approved team communication with student-athletes and parents/guardians.

Coaches should not communicate with student-athletes or parents/guardians by text message from a personal cell phone. Coaches are prohibited from using their personal cell phones to directly call or text student-athletes on their personal cell phones. Communication with student-athletes must occur through approved school communication methods and platforms. Personal texting should not be used as a substitute for school-approved communication platforms.

Student-athletes and families are expected to use these same approved channels when communicating with coaches. Using school-approved platforms helps maintain professional boundaries, creates clear communication, and supports appropriate documentation and transparency.

39. Student-Athlete Self-Advocacy

One of the educational goals of athletics is to help students learn to communicate respectfully, solve problems, ask for feedback, and advocate for themselves.

When a concern involves a student's role, skill development, expectations, communication, or team experience, the student-athlete should generally speak with the coach first. The conversation should occur at an appropriate time and should focus on understanding, improvement, and next steps.

Parents can help by preparing the student for the conversation, encouraging respectful questions, and allowing the student to take increasing ownership of their athletic experience.

40. Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents and coaches share a common goal: helping student-athletes have a safe, meaningful, challenging, and positive educational experience. The relationship works best when roles are understood and communication is respectful.

Families should expect coaches to communicate program philosophy, team expectations, schedules, team requirements, academic emphasis, and discipline procedures. Coaches should expect families to communicate known conflicts, relevant medical concerns, and questions about program expectations through appropriate channels.

Parents are encouraged to support the coach's role even when a student is disappointed. Different coaches will have different styles, just as teachers do. Concerns about safety, welfare, treatment, or program expectations should always be raised appropriately.

41. Appropriate Topics to Discuss With a Coach

Appropriate family topics include:

- The mental and physical treatment of the student-athlete.
- Ways the student-athlete can improve skills, habits, knowledge, preparation, or behavior.
- Academic concerns and support for school responsibilities.
- Clarification of team rules, program expectations, communication, or logistics.
- Health, safety, or student-welfare concerns.

When possible, the student-athlete should participate in or lead conversations that directly concern the student's development and team experience.

42. Coaching Decisions and Topics Not Appropriate for Parent Debate

The following are coaching decisions and are not appropriate topics for parent debate:

- Playing time or role decisions.
- Team strategy or play calling.
- Lineups, positions, substitutions, rotations, or tactical decisions.
- Evaluation or performance of other student-athletes.
- Confidential personnel, medical, academic, or disciplinary matters involving others.

A parent may ask how their own student can improve or what expectations apply to the student's role. The conversation should not become an attempt to negotiate playing time or compare the student to teammates.

43. Conflict Resolution and Communication Chain

Concerns should not be addressed immediately before or after a practice or contest, when attention is divided and emotions may be elevated. Families should request an appropriate meeting.

TIGER COMMUNICATION DECISION CHART

Playing time / earning a larger role? → Student-Athlete → Coach only. Parents/guardians should not contact the coach or Director of Athletics to discuss, question, or appeal playing-time decisions.

Other concerns? Follow the communication path below:

1. Student-Athlete → Captain(s), when appropriate.
2. Student-Athlete → Coach.
3. Parent/Guardian and Student-Athlete → Head Coach, if the concern remains unresolved.
4. Director of Athletics, if additional administrative review is needed.
5. Principal, when appropriate after the Director of Athletics has been engaged.

[Tiger Communication Guide](#)

The Director of Athletics may review whether school and Athletic Department procedures were followed. The Director of Athletics does not overturn legitimate coaching judgments about playing time, strategy, team selection, or evaluation simply because a family disagrees with the decision.

44. Privacy and Family Communication

Daniel Hand staff must protect student privacy. Coaches and administrators cannot discuss another student-athlete's medical information, discipline, academics, family circumstances, or confidential team information with a parent.

This means a coach may be unable to fully explain a decision when doing so would reveal protected information about another student. Families should keep conversations focused on their own student.

Coaches are expected to use school-approved communication methods, communicate schedule changes promptly, and maintain professional boundaries. Families should keep email addresses and contact information current in FinalForms to ensure this happens.

45. Booster Clubs: Support, Not Direct

Daniel Hand Booster Clubs are important partners in the student-athlete experience. Their role is to provide supplemental financial, logistical, and moral support while respecting the authority of the coaching staff, Athletic Department, school administration, and Board of Education.

SUPPORT, NOT DIRECT

Booster Clubs do not have a role in playing time, team strategy, play calling, team selection, staff decisions, or other technical coaching matters. Booster leadership should not be used as an alternate route to influence coaching decisions.

Questions about booster fees, financial assistance, team dinners, banquets, Senior Night support, apparel, fundraising, or other booster activities should follow the procedures in the Daniel Hand Booster Club Handbook that head coaches will give to the leaders of their Booster Club Leadership Group.

PART EIGHT — SPORTSMANSHIP, CONTESTS, AND TRAVEL

46. Daniel Hand as a CIAC Class Act School

Daniel Hand High School is proud to be a CIAC Class Act School. This designation reflects a school-wide commitment to sportsmanship, respect, positive school climate, student leadership, and the educational values of interscholastic athletics.

Being a Class Act School is more than a designation. It is an expectation for how Daniel Hand student-athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, students, and spectators conduct themselves before, during, and after competition. We take our responsibility to represent Daniel Hand High School and the Madison community with class, respect, and integrity seriously.

At Daniel Hand, sportsmanship and respect are part of the standard. Competitive excellence and sportsmanship are not competing ideals. Our programs are expected to pursue individual and team success while demonstrating respect for opponents, officials, coaches, teammates, event personnel, and spectators.

Student-athletes and spectators should understand that how we compete matters. Taunting, disrespect toward officials, abusive language, humiliating opponents, inappropriate celebrations, negative behavior from the stands, or conduct that damages the educational environment is inconsistent with Daniel Hand Athletics' expectations and the CIAC Class Act philosophy.

Our expectation is simple: compete with intensity, respond with composure, treat people the right way, and represent Daniel Hand with class. This commitment reflects our BE A TIGER values of Respect and Set the Standard.

47. Student-Athlete Responsibilities During Competition

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Accept the privilege and responsibility of representing Daniel Hand and the Madison community.
- Compete hard while maintaining self-control and sportsmanship.
- Respect coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, event staff, and spectators.
- Respond responsibly during adverse or emotional situations.
- Win with humility and lose with grace.
- Cheer for Daniel Hand rather than against an opponent.
- Refrain from taunting, fighting, abusive language, or conduct that escalates conflict.
- Follow bench, sideline, locker-room, facility, and travel expectations.

Sportsmanship is not separate from individual and team success. It is part of the Daniel Hand standard.

48. Parent and Spectator Expectations — CIAC Class Act

Daniel Hand High School is a designated CIAC Class Act School. Parents, students, alumni, and community members are expected to create a positive environment at home and away contests.

Spectators are expected to:

- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Refrain from taunting, booing, heckling, profanity, abusive language, or threatening conduct.
- Cheer positively for Daniel Hand rather than negatively against an opponent.
- Respect athletes, coaches, officials, event staff, and other spectators.
- Follow host-school rules regarding seating, signs, noisemakers, dress, re-entry, and facility use.
- Follow all directions from game-management personnel.

Admission to an athletic event does not permit a spectator to interfere with the educational environment or verbally abuse others. Spectators who violate expectations may be removed and may lose the privilege of attending future events.

Game Admission Fees & Digital Ticketing

Daniel Hand Athletics charges admission for select home varsity contests. Admission is charged for all varsity contests scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. or later, with the exception of Field Hockey, Fencing, and Gymnastics.

Digital Ticketing with GoFan

Daniel Hand Athletics has partnered with GoFan to provide a convenient digital ticketing option. Cash will continue to be accepted at home events at this time; however, GoFan provides fans and families with a faster, cash-free option and helps make game-day operations more efficient.

Tiger School Year Pass Options - Biggest Savings

Student Yearly Pass — \$40 Available to Daniel Hand students.

- Provides admission to more than 50 regular-season home varsity games.
- Transferable one time.
- Screenshots are not accepted; the ticket must be redeemed at the gate.

Adult Yearly Pass — \$80

- Provides admission to more than 50 regular-season home varsity games.
- Screenshots are not accepted; the ticket must be redeemed at the gate.

Single-Game Ticket Prices

- Adults — \$6.00
- Students — \$3.00
- Children under 12 — Free
- Senior Citizens — Free

[Link to Purchase Tickets at GOFan](#)

SCC & CIAC Tournament Admission

SCC and CIAC tournament contests are separate from Daniel Hand regular-season home events and are controlled by the Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC) and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), respectively. The SCC and CIAC establish their own admission prices and ticketing procedures, and tournament admission is digital only.

When a Daniel Hand team qualifies for an SCC or CIAC tournament contest, the Athletic Department will send that specific team and its families the applicable game-admission information, including ticket prices, purchasing instructions, and any other event-specific details.

Sportsmanship Reminder

All spectators are expected to cheer respectfully for Daniel Hand student-athletes and coaches. Please refrain from negative comments directed toward officials, visiting spectators, or opposing teams. Together, we will continue to represent Madison with pride. Thank you in advance for your support.

49. Ejections and Serious Sportsmanship Incidents

A student-athlete ejected from a contest remains under coach supervision and may not participate for the remainder of that day. The student must also serve all applicable CIAC and SCC penalties, including the required next-contest consequence when applicable. Ejection rules remain in effect during postseason competition.

Additional school, SCC, or CIAC consequences may apply depending on the incident. Fighting, gross misconduct, or serious sportsmanship incidents are reported immediately to the Director of Athletics.

Student-athletes are expected to walk away from escalating situations, follow adult directions, and protect the team from consequences that can result from loss of emotional control.

50. Transportation and Travel Release

Team travel is an important part of the Daniel Hand athletic experience. Student-athletes are expected to use transportation arranged by the Athletic Department to and from contests, scrimmages, and events.

When an exception is necessary, Daniel Hand uses a digital travel-release procedure:

- The parent/guardian must submit the request before the end of the school day on the date of the contest. They must visit the Daniel Hand Athletics website and complete the digital Travel Release Form. Email and phone-call requests will not be accepted.
- The Director of Athletics may decline late requests.
- Under the standard procedure, the approved release is to the parent/guardian who will transport the student.
- Coaches may not independently approve alternate transportation.
- In an extreme circumstance, the Director of Athletics or Principal may authorize another family member consistent with district requirements.
- The person picking up the student must match the approved release information.

TRAVEL RELEASE QUICK GUIDE

NEED TO TAKE YOUR STUDENT HOME FROM AN AWAY CONTEST?

1. Visit the Daniel Hand Athletics website and complete the digital Travel Release Form.
2. Submit the form before the end of the school day on the date of the contest. Late requests may be declined.
3. Email and phone-call requests are not accepted in place of the digital form.
4. Under the standard procedure, the approved parent/guardian must transport the student.
5. Coaches cannot independently approve alternate transportation. In an extreme circumstance, the Director of Athletics or Principal may authorize another family member consistent with district requirements.

School bus rules remain in effect during team travel. Only water is permitted on the bus under the current athletic procedure; food should be consumed before boarding or in approved designated areas.

51. Schedules, Postponements, and Game-Day Changes

The Athletic Department controls official schedules, transportation, and facility assignments. Weather, opponent availability, facility conditions, tournament scheduling, and other circumstances may require changes.

Families should rely on official Athletic Department and team communication for updates. Coaches will communicate changes through approved channels as soon as practical.

Conference and postseason schedules can change quickly. Families should avoid making plans based only on projected dates or unofficial information. Safety decisions, postponements, and rescheduling are made by the appropriate school, conference, and/or tournament authorities.

PART NINE — EQUIPMENT, RECOGNITION, AND PROGRAM TRADITIONS

52. Uniforms and Equipment

Athletic uniforms and equipment issued by Daniel Hand are property of Madison Public Schools. Student-athletes are responsible for the care and timely return of all items issued to them.

Students should report lost, damaged, or unsafe equipment immediately. Uniforms and equipment must be returned through the process established by the coach and Athletic Department. Items should not be left unsecured or dropped at the Athletic Office unless specifically directed.

Outstanding school property may result in a school obligation, replacement charge, and restrictions consistent with school procedures. Students should not alter, discard, donate, or give away district-owned uniforms or equipment.

53. Varsity Letters

Each sport/program has specific requirements for earning a varsity letter. Student-athletes must also demonstrate appropriate conduct, effort, dedication, citizenship, and commitment to the program. Meeting the participation requirement alone does not guarantee a varsity letter.

Sport / Program	Varsity Letter Requirement
Alpine Skiing	Participate in at least 50% of varsity races.
Baseball	Participate in at least 50% of varsity games; pitchers may qualify at 25%.
Basketball — Boys and Girls	Participate in at least 50% of total varsity quarters.
Cheerleading — Fall	Cheer in at least 80% of scheduled contests, meet practice requirements, and fulfill school-spirit obligations.
Cheerleading — Winter	Compete in scheduled varsity competitions and meet program participation requirements.
Cross Country — Boys and Girls	Record one of the team's top seven times in seven or more meets and attend applicable league and state championship meets.
Fencing	Compete in at least 50% of varsity competition.
Field Hockey	Participate in at least 50% of varsity games.
Football	Participate in at least 50% of varsity quarters.
Golf — Boys and Girls	Participate in at least 50% of completed varsity matches.
Gymnastics	Compete in at least four varsity meets and/or applicable state or regional championship competition.
Ice Hockey — Boys and Girls	Participate in at least 50% of varsity games.
Indoor Track — Boys and Girls	Score in the Eastern Sectional and/or qualify for the state championship and fulfill practice requirements.
Lacrosse — Boys and Girls	Participate in at least 50% of total varsity minutes.
Sailing	Participate in at least 50% of varsity races.
Soccer — Boys and Girls	Participate in at least 50% of varsity games.
Softball	Appear in at least 50% of varsity games.
Swimming and Diving — Boys and Girls	Score at least 30 points during the dual-meet season.
Tennis — Boys and Girls	Participate in at least 50% of team matches.
Outdoor Track — Boys	Earn at least 15 points, qualify for the state meet, and fulfill practice requirements through the state-meet period.
Outdoor Track — Girls	Earn at least 25 points and qualify for and compete in

	the applicable divisional championship.
Volleyball — Boys and Girls	Participate in varsity competition in at least 50% of the team's contests.
Wrestling	Compete in at least 10 varsity matches.

Additional considerations include conduct, dedication, effort, citizenship, representation of Daniel Hand on and off the competitive surface, and years of commitment to the program. Injuries, shortened seasons, senior circumstances, or other unusual situations may be reviewed by the head coach and Director of Athletics. Team managers may also be considered when they meet established program expectations.

54. Senior Night, Awards, and Postseason Honors

Senior Night is intended to honor senior student-athletes and their families with a pregame ceremony and post game celebration. It is normally held in connection with the final regular-season home contest, subject to Athletic Department and SCC scheduling requirements.

Senior recognition does not guarantee a starting position or increased playing time. Coaches make contest decisions based on legitimate competitive needs. Head coaches are expected to communicate with seniors before Senior Night so each student understands their role and participation expectations.

Daniel Hand Athletics recognizes student-athletes through varsity letters, team and school awards, SCC/CIAC honors, and other annual recognition opportunities. Conference and postseason honors must follow official release timelines.

PART TEN — QUICK REFERENCE AND RESOURCES

55. Who Do I Contact?

Question / Concern	First Contact
Registration / FinalForms / roster clearance	Athletic Office
Physical examination / school medical clearance	School Health Office
Injury evaluation / rehabilitation / return to play	Athletic Trainer
Team schedule / practice / team rules	Coach or Head Coach
Playing time / earning a larger role	Student-Athlete → Coach only
Eligibility / transfer / CIAC interpretation	Director of Athletics
Transportation / travel release	Athletic Office
Health, safety, welfare, or serious program concern	Head Coach and/or Director of Athletics
Booster Fee hardship	Director of Athletics
Booster Club operations	Booster leadership → Head Coach → Director of Athletics

56. Student-Athlete & Parent Quick Reference and Resource Center

CAN I PARTICIPATE TODAY?

Before participating in a practice or contest, confirm each item below:

- ☐ Registered in FinalForms.
- ☐ Officially cleared.
- ☐ Current physical on file.
- ☐ ImPACT baseline complete when required (9th and 11th Graders or any new student).
- ☐ Academically eligible.
- ☐ Meets school-attendance requirements.
- ☐ Meets any required minimum practice days.
- ☐ Not restricted by school discipline or medical limitations.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION QUICK CHECK

Before contacting a coach:

- ☐ Has the student-athlete appropriately spoken with the coach?
- ☐ Is the concern about the student's treatment, development, academics, expectations, health, or safety?
- ☐ Am I requesting a scheduled conversation rather than approaching immediately before/after competition?
- ☐ Am I keeping the discussion focused on my own student rather than other athletes?
- ☐ Do I understand that playing time, strategy, lineups, and evaluation are coaching decisions?

REFERENCES

Families should use the current version of:

- Madison Public Schools Board of Education policies and regulations.
- Daniel Hand High School Student & Parent Handbook.
- Madison Public Schools / Daniel Hand Code of Conduct.
- Daniel Hand Student-Athlete & Parent Handbook.
- FinalForms.
- CIAC Handbook and current sport-specific tournament packets.
- CIAC Medical Handbook and current student/parent safety resources.
- Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC) Athletic Policies and Regulations.
- NFHS sport rules and education resources.
- Daniel Hand Athletics website and current department communications.

Because CIAC, SCC, medical, district, and school requirements may be updated, the Athletic Department may issue supplemental procedures during the school year. Current controlling rules and official Athletic Department communication supersede outdated saved copies.

BE A TIGER — Every day. Everywhere.