

Discovery Christian School Student -Athlete Handbook



It is the mission of Discovery Christian School to provide a Christ-centered education which enables students to discover and glorify God, to pursue excellence in education with the Bible and Jesus Christ as our focus, and to equip students for daily living and eternal life.

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I. Introduction

An athlete at DCS draws the focus of public attention as a representative of DCS. Athletes are expected to display behavior that exemplifies what DCS stands for in all areas including in the gymnasium, on the field, in the classroom, at home, and in public to display behavior. DCS is very proud of the opportunities for athletic participation. These opportunities are believed to be a part of a student's total development as they assist in the building of positive Christian character and leadership traits.

Participation in any extracurricular activity is regarded as a privilege rather than a right. The following eligibility requirements are required of any student wishing to participate in any extracurricular activity:

- The student's behavior must be compatible with the school's Student Conduct/Discipline Policy. Any discipline infraction that warrants being sent to the administrator's office or contacting parents can result in a suspension of the student from the next game/event.
- A student who is ineligible due to low grades or behavior infractions will be suspended from participating in games/events until conditions are improved. He/she is required to participate in all preliminary activities (i.e, practices and preparation times) and is expected to attend games/events.
- A student must be present for one half of the school day in order to participate in any athletic event (practice or game).

II. Academic Standards

All student participants in Athletic/ Extracurricular activities at Discovery Christian School must be exemplary members of the student body. Therefore, minimum standards of academic achievement have been adopted in order for student athletes to establish and maintain eligibility. These standards acknowledge that academic achievement takes precedence over athletic and/or extracurricular participation.

- GPA: Students must maintain a minimum average of 2.0 GPA in the core classes. (Math, Science, History and English).
- If GPA falls below the minimum required the student will be rendered ineligible for participation and be placed on athletic probation.
- Previous nine weeks averages will be used to determine eligibility for all activities.

III. Probation Policy

Athletic probation occurs when the student fails to comply with athletic standards stated in this handbook. Students placed on probation are ineligible to participate in competitions during their probation period.

- Any student with a GPA that falls below the minimum average 2.0 in the 4 core classes will be placed on probation.
- Once a student is placed on probation due to academic shortcomings, the probation period will last 3 ½ weeks. At that time, the academic record of the ineligible student will be re-evaluated to determine if the probation period can be suspended.
- To regain eligibility the student must meet the minimum 2.0 GPA requirement.
- After the grades have been re-computed for the progress report update, any ineligible student regaining eligibility status will be immediately allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.
- If a student remains on probation for two consecutive nine-week grading periods, that student will no longer be allowed to participate in the current activity and must meet the standard for re-entry upon the next school year.
- Students on probation must continue to participate in all scheduled practices.]
- Any student placed on school suspension will be automatically placed on probation during the suspension period.

*In the event a student has met all academic standards but drops significantly in academic performance during a time period when he/she is in no immediate danger of being declared ineligible, the coach has the authority to institute measures of accountability to help the student athlete get back on track.

IV. Attendance Policy

Coaches as well as the Athletic Director will monitor the attendance and eligibility of their students in coordination with classroom teachers.

School Attendance

- In order to be eligible to participate in any athletic event (practice or a game), the student must be present in school for at least one half of the school day.
- Any student tardy after 10:45 a.m. without a valid excuse and documentation prior to that day will be excluded from participation on that day.

Team Attendance

- When selected for a specific athletic team, it is expected that the student athlete attend all practices and games pertinent to that team. Failure to make practices will result in extra conditioning as seen fit by the coach. Excessive absences from practice may result in the removal of the student from the sport.
- In the event that an absence is unavoidable the coach must be notified prior to scheduled practice.

Off Season Practice

- Summer practices vary by sport and should be expected.
- If there is any conflict concerning off season practices, it should be communicated to the coach prior to the scheduled event.

V. Code of Conduct

Expectation of Student Conduct:

It is a privilege to represent DCS while participating in interscholastic athletics. Our first priority is to glorify God in all that we do.

- All student athletes shall adhere to the DCS Student Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics.
- Student athletes are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors and characteristics:
 - Integrity in the keeping of one's word, speaking the truth, carrying out responsibility and respecting authority.
 - Respect for self, Discovery Christian School, coaches, officials, fans and the property of others
 - Courtesy extended in all relationships – athlete to athlete or athlete to coach
 - Good stewardship of the property, supplies, and equipment of DCS
 - Reconciliation through Biblical and appropriate repentance and forgiveness when offenses have been committed or received.
 - Follow the social media policies set forth in the Parent/Student Handbook

Student athletes are expected to refrain from the following behaviors and characteristics:

- Tardiness to practices or competitions
- Careless and/or reckless behavior, including illegal activity.
- Inappropriate use of cellular phones, cameras and other electronic devices
- Profanity and vulgar or offensive speech and/or gesture
- Inappropriate use of social networks or media outlets (ie: Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, Instagram, Snapchat, etc...)
- Profanity and vulgar or offensive speech and/or gestures in any form, including lying, theft, or cheating
- Rebellious or disrespectful attitude
- Flagrant disrespect and disobedience
- The possession and/or distribution of pornographic material
- Harassment in any form, both physical and/or sexual in nature
- Hazing in any form (see additional Hazing information below)
- Use or possession of any weapon or tobacco product on school property or at any athletic event.

Team Captain Standards

A team captain should:

- Be a student in good academic standing
- Combine solid ability and a great attitude
- Be a positive leader who sets a good example both on and off the court/field.
- Communicate effectively with coaches and teammates.
- Have good discipline and work habits.
- Be committed to do everything within his/her power to make his/her respective sport a successful example of Christian sportsmanship.

Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing in any form is neither tolerated nor consistent with any spiritual, educational or athletic goal at DCS and will result in disciplinary action.

"Hazing" refers to any activity expected of someone joining a student organization that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

Any activity that causes the student to perform a task that is in violation of state and federal law or DCS policies is considered hazing.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Bullying in any form is neither tolerated nor consistent with any spiritual, educational or athletic goal at DCS. Bullying in any form will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary actions.

Expectations of Conduct for Spectators and Guests

DCS expects all parties present at a contest to display the highest possible level of sportsmanship that is respectful of others and brings honor to God at all times. Players, coaches, and spectators should treat opponents, game officials and visiting spectators with respect at all times. DCS 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 DCS. Spectators who do not adhere to standards of good sportsmanship may be asked to leave the contest and/or be prohibited from future contests. Taunting or intimidating participants, officials or coaches is disrespectful, unfriendly and not Christ-like. This type of behavior will NOT be tolerated.

Guidelines for Spectators and Guests

1. Parents are not to approach coaches, players, or other parents during games or practices in a threatening or hostile manner. In the event this occurs the parent will be asked to leave the event and the authorities will be notified, if necessary. Repeated offensive behavior will result in being banned from future events.
2. If a parent wishes to have a discussion with the coach over an issue, a conference needs to be scheduled. These conferences will take place 24 hours after the sporting event.

3. Other team players, coaches and fans are not to be viewed as the enemy, but opponents in a competitive event.
4. Cheer for your own team, but do not belittle opposing teams and officials.
5. Respect decisions made by contest officials.
6. Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
7. Respect fans, coaches and participants.
8. Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing field.

Refrain from unacceptable behavior including but not limited to:

- Yelling or negative chanting or gestures toward opponent
- Booing or heckling an official's decision
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call
- Taunting or trash talk
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches, or participants
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game
- "Coaching" the student athletes during a competition from the stands

VI. Social Media

Social Media Standards for Students

Students will be reprimanded for any inappropriate behavior or action as defined by school guidelines. This applies to personal websites, blogs, or social media directories including but not limited to Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Users who engage in behavior unbecoming of a member of the DCS community through the use of a website will be subject to penalties which may include suspension or expulsion. Any communication to or about any other member of the school will be considered to be subject to the school's regulations and code of conduct. In addition, DCS, in its sole discretion, believes that information on a website, or in an email or text message is obscene or constitutes a threat, defamation, copyright infringement, or other illegal activity, whether directed at DCS, faculty, staff, students, or other, DCS may be compelled to contact the appropriate authorities.

Social Media Standards for Parents

Inappropriate behavior or actions by parents or guardians posted on any social network site that portrays DCS, any student of DCS, or any staff member of DCS in a manner that may cause harm or distress, including bullying, threats, harassment, defamation, or similar actions is prohibited. Parents or guardians who commit any of these violations may be banned from DCS events and programs. A second violation may result in their child(ren) being suspended or expelled. This also applies to GroupMe.

VII. Athletic Equipment Policy

- Students are responsible for and expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them.
- All uniforms are property of the school, not the individual.
- Students will be assigned uniforms/equipment for the season.
- 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.
- Students must return all assigned uniform/equipment to their coach within 5 school days after the close of the season.
- Grades will be withheld for those who do not return or pay for lost/damaged equipment.
- Student athletes who do not return equipment/uniform 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.
- Senior jerseys are not awarded to a senior unless the cost of the jersey is paid to the athletic department.

VIII. Transportation Policy

To game:

Student athletes are required to ride the DCS bus to all away games/ events unless otherwise determined by the head coach. All other exceptions must be submitted in writing and approved before the event.

From Game:

Student athletes are required to return to DCS by school bus or be signed out by a parent or legal guardian. Students who wish to ride home with someone other than a parent or legal guardian must submit a written note to the coach before the game/event.

IX. Student Account Information

Athletic Fees

Fees will be determined on an annual basis and are due by the end of each season.

Sponsorship

- All sponsorship donations will apply directly to the student account that acquired the sponsorship.
- All sponsorship money over the designated amount cannot be designated to another student account.
- Sponsorships and payments cannot be carried over from one year to the next. Overage is applied to the Athletics general account.

Fundraising

- All fundraisers must be approved by the Athletic Director and/or the Head of School.

X. Required Documentation

- Physical Examination Form: Each student athlete must pass a physical exam before they can practice or participate in a school-sponsored sport. They must submit a physical form signed by a physician/nurse practitioner before participation of any kind is permitted. Physical examinations are valid for one calendar year. No athlete will be permitted to engage in conditioning, practice, or competition unless the athlete has a valid physical on file. Any physical forms should be given to the head coach or athletic director.
- Concussion Form: All athletes and their parents must complete this form and submit it to the head coach or athletic director.
- Any medical conditions an athlete has should be reported in writing to the school nurse.

XI. Parent Participation Policy

It is mandatory that each family (at least one member) who has an athlete work at least one shift at the admission gate and/or concession stand of any DCS sport. Failure to sign up for at least one shift will result in a fine of \$100.

XII. Athletic Department Contact Information

Dave Herbert	Athletic Director	dherbert@dcslions.com	601-891-0608
Terry King	Assistant AD/Head Baseball	tking@dcslions.com	601-891-0608
Dennis Adams	Archery	dadams@dcslions.com	601-891-0608
Corey Herrington	Head Girls Basketball Head JV Baseball	cherrington@dcslions.com	601-891-0608
Jennifer Hosey	Head Girls Soccer	jhosey@dcslions.com	601-891-0608
Josh Lang	Tennis	jlang@dcslions.com	601-891-0608
Christian Macoy	Head JV Boys Basketball	cmacoy@dcslions.com	601-891-0608
Stephanie McCrory	Cheer	smccrory@dcslions.com	601-891-0608

Darrell Tucker	Head Boys Basketball	dtucker@dclions.com	601-891-0608
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Calvin Wilson	Head Football	cwilson@dclions.com	601-891-0608