

Drumheller Valley Secondary
School



Athletic Handbook
2018 - 2019

Contents

Philosophy	3
Athletic Department	3
Programs	3
Seasons of Play	4
Participation Fees	4
Fundraising	5
Uniforms and Equipment	6
Transportation	6
School Bus	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Volunteer (Parent/Private) Vehicle	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Practice and Game Times	6
Guidelines for Student Athletes	7
Eligibility	7
Conduct	8
Injury	8
Commitment	9
Hazing	9
Guidelines for Coaches	9
Team Selection	10
Practices	11
Playing Time/Expectations	11
Communication	12
Sanctioned Absences and Early Dismissals	12
Professional Development	13
The Role of the Parent	13

Philosophy

Drumheller Valley Secondary School recognizes that extracurricular athletics promotes **sportsmanship, team building, good citizenship, high academic standards, and community responsibility**. Extracurricular athletics provide an opportunity for students to explore their unique talents outside of the classroom setting. These activities demand a high level of commitment, excellence, and self motivation, which will help prepare students for the challenges they will meet outside the school community.

It is a **privilege** for students to participate in extracurricular athletics. Participation is voluntary and is not a requirement, nor an entitlement. Therefore, extra time and effort are required of those who participate. Since the reputation of the school is often judged by its extra-curricular programs, high standards must be maintained. Those who earn the privilege of representing DVSS in extracurricular athletics are expected to accept greater responsibilities as school citizens.

Participation in extracurricular athletics is open to all students provided they meet the general requirements as outlined in this handbook, and any requirements specific to the activity of their choice.

Athletic Department

- o Athletic Director Jeff Messom
- o Principal Curtis LaPierre
- o Associate Principal Brad Teske
- o Associate Principal Dana Yemen

Programs

Students can participate at the Junior High, Junior Varsity (Jr), and Senior Varsity (Sr) levels.

Junior High teams are open to students in Grades 7 to 9 and possible Grade 6 students if needed.

Junior Varsity teams are open to students in Grade 9, 10 and Grade 11.

Badminton, x-country, and track and field eligibility is determined by birth date

Senior Varsity teams compete in the most competitive leagues, and are comprised of the most accomplished players in Grade 10, 11, and 12.

Drumheller Valley Secondary School sponsors the following athletic activities:

Sport	Boys				Girls				Mixed			
	Gr 9	Jr	Int	Sr	Gr 9	Jr	Int	Sr	Gr 9	Jr	Int	Sr
Golf				•				•				
Football				•								
Cross Country	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Volleyball	•	•		•	•	•		•				
Basketball	•	•		•	•	•		•				
Curling				•				•				•
Badminton	•				•				•			
Track & Field	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Rugby					•	•	•	*				
Cheer Team	*	*	*	*	•	•	•	*				

Seasons of Play

The seasons of play have been established to protect the student athlete from being placed in a position of having sports seasons overlap. It is not desirable for a student athlete to have to attend practices and games for two or more sports on the same days. Therefore,

- Each activity may hold practices according to the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) seasons of play.
- The preceding activity has priority for practice times and games.
- The trailing activity may hold practices according to the ASAA seasons of play; however, players in the preceding activity may be exempt from practices until the preceding activity has completed its season.

Participation Fees

It is necessary for the athletic program to charge a participation fee for each activity that an athlete participates in. The following applies to participation fees;

- All participation fees will be determined by the Athletic Director and school Administration.
- An effort will be made to keep the fees consistent from one activity to the next, respective of the level of the team.
- Fees are paid to **Drumheller Valley Secondary School**. Players must pay fees in full, or make arrangements with the Athletic Director, before they will be permitted to participate in league games or tournaments.
- The following chart shows the participation fee for each activity and specified what costs are covered by the participation fee.

Activity	Fees	League Play		Zones		Provincials			Invitational Tournaments		Other
		League Fees	Transportation*	Entry Fees	Transportation*	Entry Fees	Transportation*	Accommodation	Entry Fees	Transportation*	
Junior High Cross Country	\$ 25.00**			•	•						
Senior High Cross Country	\$ 25.00**			•	•	•	•				
Golf	\$ 25.00**			•	•	•	•	•			
Junior B Volleyball	\$125.00	*	*						4	*	
Junior A Volleyball	\$ 175.00	•	•	•	•				4	•	
Junior Varsity Volleyball	\$ 275.00	•	•						5	•	
Senior Volleyball	\$ 275.00	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	6	•	
Junior B Basketball	\$ 125.00	•	•	•	•				4	•	
Junior A Basketball	\$ 175.00	•	•						4	•	
Junior Varsity Basketball	\$275.00								5	*	
Senior Basketball	\$ 275.00	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	6	*	
Badminton	\$ 25.00										
Curling	\$ 200.00			•	•	•	•	•			
Track and Field	\$ 25.00			•	•	•	•	•			
Rugby	\$200.00	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Cheer Team	\$200.00										

*** There will be no refunds after the season as started.

All sport fees from the previous season or year must be paid in full before a student can register for a sport/Activity. This includes participation fees and any other sports cost incurred during the previous years.

Fundraising

DVSS Athletics Organization conducts a fundraising project. Money raised through this fundraising allows us to maintain lower participation fees.

No team/activity shall participate in, or organize any other fundraising event without the consent of the Athletic Department and school Administration.

Uniforms and Equipment

All uniforms will be provided by Drumheller Valley Secondary School.

Uniforms will be distributed by the coach or Athletic Director, whichever is the most practical.

Players will be responsible for the care and maintenance of uniforms while they are in their possession.

Players will be responsible for the cost of replacement of any uniform damaged or lost while in their possession.

All uniforms are to be cold water washed and hang dried. The exception shall be football uniforms which shall be distributed before, and collected after each game. Washing and maintenance shall be the responsibility of the athletic department or designate.

Teams may be provided equipment, specific to their activity. This equipment is owned by the school. The care and supervision of this equipment shall be the responsibility of the coach or their designate. This equipment is provided for team use, and not for use by the Physical Education department or public use.

Transportation

At DVSS we will do all that we can to provide transportation to and from league games. Junior High teams will leave right after school and Senior High teams usually leave around 4:00. More specific times will be determined by the coach.

Transportation to **tournaments** is the responsibility of the parents. The coach will pre-arrange parent drivers for your tournaments.

Drivers must also complete a **Volunteer Driver Application**, a **Child welfare Check**, a **Criminal Check** if you have not done so in the last 3 years at our school

There may be times when it becomes necessary for a parent to drive or pick up their child from a game or venue. This must be cleared with the coach and communication must be made with the coach before the athlete leaves.

Practice and Game Times

All gym usage shall be booked through the Athletic Director.

League games and home tournaments have booking priority over practices.

Any activity under way shall have priority over the following season of play (e.g.

volleyball over basketball)

There must be a coach or teacher present at all practices and games.

Coaches may request specific practice times. While all efforts will be made to accommodate requests, it shall be the priority of the Athletic Director to provide a practice schedule which is equitable to all teams in accordance with priorities (ie. Junior B teams shall be guaranteed only one practice a week, and when possible this shall be in the 4:00 or 5:30 time slots).

The Athletic Director will create a practice schedule. In some instances where seasons overlap it may be appropriate to develop a schedule on a weekly basis.

Coaches are encouraged to provide players and parents with individual copies of these schedules as they are available, and the Athletic Director shall place copies on his/her office door, as well as the respective locker rooms.

Guidelines for Student Athletes

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate, Junior High student athletes must meet eligibility requirements as outlined by the South Central Zone Athletics Association.

To be eligible to participate, Grade 10, 11, and 12 students must meet eligibility requirements as set out by the ASAA.

Students must be in attendance for the day of a practice or game in order to participate in that practice or game. Legitimate reasons for an absence, which would allow a student to participate on the same day as the absence, are;

- o School Sanctioned Activities
- o Appointments with health professionals
- o Emergency Situations
- o Planned absence for personal or educational purposes that have been approved by the school administration.

Students who are absent from classes for a portion of the day due to illness may not be eligible to participate by simply making it to the remaining portion of their classes. It may be considered unethical for a coach to practice or play a athlete who was ill earlier in the day. The effects of that illness may linger and present a potential health risk to the athlete, their teammates, and their opponents if the athlete practices or plays that same day.

An athlete under suspension from school is also suspended from participation in extracurricular activities, until such time as the student has been reinstated to classes.

Academic Policy:

The primary function of the school is to provide each student with a basic education. The purpose of this academic policy is to ensure that any

student's involvement in athletics does not detract from the main objective of academic achievement. Our academic policy is as follows:

- Teachers will come forward to the Athletic Director at any point during the athletic season and identify athletes who are having academic difficulties. Those athletes not working up to their academic potential will be reviewed by the Athletic Director and school administration. At this time the player's eligibility will be discussed with a goal to restoring academic success as the primary focus. Should the athlete not show any improvement, the student may be removed from the team.

Conduct

Student athletes are representatives and ambassadors of DVSS, the community of Drumheller and the Goldenhills School Division

Student athletes are expected to provide strong examples of leadership and citizenship both on and off the court/field of play, and both in and out of the classroom.

Team Before Self - Most sports are team games and although it is proper and even necessary to have personal objectives, it is paramount that each member of a DVSS team possesses an unselfish attitude where team objectives are primary.

Regardless of when or where an athletic event occurs, it is a school sponsored activity. The use of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol is prohibited and shall be strictly enforced.

If a student athlete does not conduct himself or herself in a manner that reflects favorably on the school, the privilege of participation may be suspended or revoked by a coach/supervisor, the Athletic Director, or Principal.

Injury

All student athletes should carry some form of medical insurance. If an athlete is injured while participating on behalf of Drumheller Valley Secondary School, the school will not cover medical costs (e.g. Ambulance costs). It is suggested that any student athlete not having medical coverage, subscribe to the student insurance package which is offered at the beginning of each year.

Any student injured on or off the field of play, and requiring medical attention, must present a note from a physician before being eligible to practice or play again.

Commitment

Being a member of any school team is a privilege, which each athlete must earn. A key to earning that privilege is commitment to the team. Team success can only be achieved if all participants are committed. This type of commitment includes;

- o Attendance at all practices, games and team events.
- o Providing the coach with advance notice of absences from practices or games, and an explanation of that absence.

While it is acceptable for a student athlete to have a job, it is not reasonable to expect the coach to accept working as a legitimate reason for missing practice or a game.

Hazing

Hazing or negative initiation activities are prohibited by DVSS. The planning, initiation of, or participation in such activities shall be dealt with under the behavioral expectation of Dynos athletics, and may lead to suspension or removal from a team and or school.

Guidelines for Coaches

The following guidelines are to be considered a code of conduct for DVSS coaching staff.

A coach who is not a member of the DVSS Staff must have a criminal check and Child welfare Check completed every three years.

The Coach is foremost a teacher. The chief objectives of school athletics are to build leaders and to develop athletic skills. Winning games is secondary to these objectives. Coaches who do not make a positive contribution to the total educational process are not meeting their obligations.

The Coach should always be regular and prompt in meeting assignments – practices, games and meetings.

The Coach should be diligent in attention to routine details. This includes getting in all reports when due, keeping necessary records, phoning in results, and forwarding any receipts when required.

The Coach should instill in the team an attitude of sportsmanship on and off the court, during the game and afterwards, in school and out.

The Coach should use acceptable language at all times. Vulgarity and profanity have no place on the athletic field or court, in the gym or in the classroom.

The Coach shall not use alcohol or non-prescription drugs in any form while with the team.

The Coach should, when faced with unpredicted disciplinary situations, let the common law prevail. Situations are to be assessed on a rational basis.

The Coach should accept the responsibility as a counselor to the athletes under her/his direction. The coach is in a unique position among all teaching staff in the relationship with the students. Many students complete their high school program because of, on part, of their interest in athletic participation and the influence of the coach. In this way, the coach can play a major role in the problems now confronting high schools in drop-out rates and related issues.

The Coach should be mindful of their position of guardianship entrusted by the athletes and their parents. While acting as a counselor to the athletes, there must also be a necessary social separation, so that over-familiarity or impropriety does not occur or is not perceived to have occurred.

The Coach should work to instill with their players respect for the officials, and establish that they alone shall discuss aspects of the game with the officials.

The Coach will respect the rights and feelings of other coaches and will never use tactics that take unfair advantage of others. The coach should be friendly and courteous at all times and never argue with an opposing coach in front of the team or spectators.

The Coach should teach the team to be respectful of and friendly towards opponents.

Team Selection

Participation in DVSS Athletics is privilege, and all attempts will be made to accommodate as many student athletes as logistically possible. All activities are open to all students of DVSS who meet the requirements of grade, gender, and general eligibility.

Students must make every attempt to attend the tryouts of the activity to be considered for selection on the Junior B and A teams at the Junior high Level, and the Varsity and JV teams at the High School level. However, In some cases a coach may allow a player to tryout for a team at a later date if they have room on the roster.

Depending on the number of students participating in tryouts and the available slots on the team, many of the people trying out may have some skills and yet may not make the team. Usually these hopefuls may be either put on a "red Shirt list" (Practice Squad), the possibility of being placed on a B team at the Junior high level, or invited to try out again the following season. Either way, the skills learned in the 2 day Try out will hopefully serve them well in future tryouts at the high school level if they so desire.

At the Senior High level attempts to develop JV teams will take place under the following criteria. First, there is enough committed interest in the activity that

does not negatively impact the participation on the Varsity team. Second, a qualified individual can be found to coach.

Coaches will conduct an open tryout, and may not make final cuts until after the second practice, unless there are time constraints or special considerations to take into consideration.

Final selections should be based on attitude, coachability, and skill.

Once the team has been selected, the coach must promptly submit a roster to the Athletic Director.

Practices

All practices will be scheduled by the coaches with the help of the Athletic Director.

Coaches should distribute a practice schedule to players and parents.

Coaches should do their utmost to adhere to the practice and game schedule, and any changes should go through the Athletic Director.

A change, addition, or cancellation to a game or practice should be made with as much advance notice as possible. Such changes may affect player and parent commitments and may have an effect on other teams.

The general guidelines for scheduling shall be as follows:

Team	Practices	League Play	Tournaments
Junior B Volleyball	1 per week 2 when scheduling permits	1 or 2 per week	4 per season
Jr. A Volleyball	2 per week 3 when scheduling permits	1 per week 2 when required	4 per season
Jr. Varsity Volleyball	2 per week 3 when scheduling permits	1 per week 2 when required	5 per season
Sr. Volleyball	2 per week 3 when scheduling permits	1 per week 2 when required	6 per season
Junior B Basketball	1 per week 2 when scheduling permits	1 or 2 per week	4 per season
Jr. A Basketball	2 per week 3 when scheduling permits	1 per week 2 when required	4 per season
Jr. Varsity Basketball	2 per week 3 when scheduling permits	1 per week 2 when required	5 per season
Sr. Basketball	2 per week 3 when scheduling permits	1 per week 2 when required	6 per season
Badminton/Track and field/Cross Country	2 per week	Zone Championship	1 per season

Playing Time/Expectations

Drumheller Valley Secondary School participates in competitive leagues. As such, there will be few, if any instances where playing time for each player on

the team will be equal. The amount of playing time may vary from game to game, or from week to week. Neither the player's grade nor prior years of playing experience with DVSS teams, will be a factor in determining playing time.

During the regular season, coaches are encouraged to consider the following recommendations for minimum playing time for athletes, but ultimately decisions regarding playing time shall be at the discretion of the coach.

Junior B.....	approximately 50%
Junior A	approximately 30%
Junior Varsity.....	approximately 30%
Senior Varsity.	approximately 10%

For league, zone, and provincial playoffs there are no recommendations.

Communication

Clear communication between coach and player, player and parent, parent and coach, and between players is critical to avoid misunderstanding. This communication can be initiated and maintained in a number of ways:

- o At the beginning of tryouts Coaches should provide a written statement of their philosophy, team goals, fees, and player expectations.
- o Coaches should outline the process for communication. This process to apply to all parties, and can be outlined for all the Parent/Participant/Coach Communication Pamphlet.
- o Coaches should hold a pre-season meeting once the team is selected.

Sanctioned Absences and Early Dismissals

It is at times necessary for student athletes to be absent from classes, or to be released from the last class of the day prior to the end of the class. In these instances coaches are required to provide notice to all school staff.

Teacher-coaches or teacher-liaisons may do so at their own initiative, or request the Athletic Director to execute this task. Community based coaches shall inform the Athletic Director of the dates and times, and the Athletic Director shall be responsible to execute this task.

The notice may take the form of a hard copy to be distributed to all staff members or an e-mail to all staff members. The notice should be provided as early as possible, and must contain the following;

- o A list of all students involved
- o The date of the Sanctioned Absence
- o Periods involved
- o When appropriate, time of departure
- o The event.

Professional Development

It is in the best interests of the student athletes to have coaches who are well trained. In support of this, coaches will be reimbursed for registration in approved professional development activities that are directly related to their coaching assignment. Approval will be made by the Athletic Director, and must be supported by receipts.

Guidelines for Parents

Support the team, the players, and the coaches.

Help your child to follow and uphold the DVSS athletes' guidelines for participation.

Support the goals of sportsmanship and help bring pride and respect to your child and DVSS.

Support your child's role on the team, even if you don't understand his/her position on the depth chart.