

**DANVERS HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
RULES, REGULATIONS & POLICIES**

**ATHLETE AND PARENT GUIDE**

The material outlined in this guide defines the interscholastic athletic policies and procedures for all students participating in our High School Program. The information is intended to provide you with a better understanding of the Athletic Department's philosophy, goals and policies. Participation on an athletic team can be a rewarding educational experience. It is important that students realize the time demands, responsibility, dedication and sacrifices required when making this commitment.

**PROGRAM GOALS**

Emphasis is on the development of basic skills, appropriate attitudes, values and team concepts. Participation at the varsity level is generally limited to the most highly skilled players and those with the ability to interact with other players for team success. Assessments will be made by the coach relative to the level of play, (V, JV, or Freshman) most beneficial to the development and progress of each player. It should be understood that playing time could be limited by the strategy of the game and certain conditions. To allow as many students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership. To compete successfully with Northeastern Conference and non-league opponents and with teams or individuals of a similar division in state competition.

**GAMES/PRACTICE SESSIONS**

Student athletes have made a commitment to be at all practicing sessions, contests and team meetings. Any team member who must be late, or miss practice, games or meetings must confer with their coach. Absences may jeopardize retaining a position on a team. This includes extended trips during vacation. Practices are held daily for approximately 2 1/2 hours, or as appropriate to the activity. Some practices may be held on weekends. No official practice may be held without a DHS coaching staff member present.

**PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES**

FALL SEASON	WINTER SEASON	SPRING SEASON
Cross-Country – V (B/G)	Basketball – V, JV, F (B/G)	Baseball – V, JV, F (B)
Field Hockey – V, SUB-V I, II	Gymnastics – V (G)	Lacrosse – V, SUB-V I, II (B)
Football – V, JV, F (B)	Ice Hockey – V, JV (B)	Lacrosse – V, SUB-V I, II (G)
Soccer – V, SUB-V I, II (B)	Ice Hockey Co-op – V (G)	Outdoor Track – V, JV (B/G)
Soccer – V, SUB-V I, II (G)	Indoor Track – V, JV (B/G)	Softball – V, SUB-V I, II (G)
Golf – V, JV (B/G)	Wrestling Co-op – V (B)	Tennis – V, JV (B/G)
Cheerleading (Football) – V, JV (G)	Swimming (Coed) – V	
	Cheerleading (Ice Hockey, Basketball) – V (G)	

**STARTING DATES**

Fall Season: August 22, 2011 is the earliest date schools may begin practice. Schools may begin later than that date at their option, but under no circumstance may any team exceed ten single sessions of practice (exception - football allowed 3 additional days.)

Winter Season: the Monday after Thanksgiving

Spring Season: the third Monday in March

The conclusion of the season is defined to include participation through the last MIAA sponsored tournament or event.

**PRE-SEASON RESPONSIBILITIES**

All candidates for athletic teams must meet the following obligations the two weeks prior to attending any tryouts or practice sessions to receive "clearance" from the Athletic Department:

1. Have evidence of a passed physical examination the year of participation on the required MIAA physical form.  
A duly registered physician must perform examination.
2. Have submitted a signed parental permission form.
3. Be less than 19 years of age on or after September 1 of the year.  
For grade 9: 16 years of age on or before September 1 of that year.
4. Be academically eligible.
5. If a transfer student, must notify the Athletic Director.
6. Must have fulfilled all financial obligations for equipment issued the previous season.
7. Must have paid activity fee.
8. Must take a free on-line course regarding the state law for sports-related head injuries & concussion.

**TEAM TRYOUTS/SELECTION**

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

The coaching staff of each sport has the sole responsibility for selecting the members of the team, determining the level of play most beneficial to the development of each player and the amount of playing time. Player concerns should be addressed first between the player and coach. If a significant resolution is not resolved, parents plan a meeting with the coach. If a resolution is not reached between athlete, parent and coach, the matter may be presented to the Athletic Director.

**NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP**

Title II of the American With Disabilities Act of 1992 requires that no qualified individual with a disability shall, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by individuals with disabilities, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, and activities of the District or be subject to discrimination. Nor shall the District exclude or otherwise deny services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of a person with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association.

### **SCHOOL INSURANCE/INJURIES**

The school provides secondary health insurance coverage for all student/athletes injured during the season. The insurance plan takes up where the family insurance, if any, leaves off. All claim forms must be picked up and filed with the Athletic Director within 90 days of injury. This is a policy provision – DO NOT FORFEIT BY INCOMPLETE INFORMATION OR DELAY.

### **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WARNING**

Although most athletic injuries are usually minor, serious injury, including permanent paralysis or death, may occur.

### **THE FOLLOWING ARE THE DANVERS PUBLIC SCHOOL POLICIES & REGULATIONS AND RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (MIAA) WHICH GOVERNS ALL HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION**

#### **CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Any student/athlete absent from school the day of a scheduled game or practice session will not be allowed to participate in that game or practice. **No student will be eligible to participate in the day's co-curricular activities if the student is tardy without medical documentation or verified extenuating circumstances.** Except for extenuating circumstances, students dismissed would not be considered in attendance that day.

#### **SCHOOL EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students are responsible for, and are expected to maintain proper care of all equipment issued to them. Students are responsible for payment of any items lost, stolen or damaged. Each item not returned will be assessed at a rate comparable to the current replacement cost. All equipment is to be returned within three days of the completion of the season. Student/athletes are not to wear uniforms-practice or game-at any time other than those allowed by the specified team regulations.

#### **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

A student must secure, during the last marking period preceding the contest, a passing grade in the equivalent of four major subjects. To satisfy this requirement, a student must have passed sufficient courses so as to be earning for that marking period credits totaling the equivalent of four one year major English courses. To be eligible for the fall marking period, students are required to have earned credits for the previous academic year equivalent to four one year major English courses. The academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determined only on the date when report cards for that ranking period have been issued to the parents of all students. Incomplete grades may not be counted toward eligibility. (Second quarter marks and not semester grades determine third quarter eligibility.)

#### **CHEMICAL HEALTH ELIGIBILITY**

From the first allowable day of fall practice, through the end of the academic year or final athletic competition of the year, whichever is later, a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as "NA or near beer". It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

If a student is at a party in the presence of alcohol, the constructive possession policy will be in effect. That is, the student will be considered to be under the influence of alcohol.

If a student in violation of this rule is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury, academics, or otherwise, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

If a student violates the Chemical Health Eligibility Policy they will be placed on probation for a period of eighteen months from the date of the infraction. During the probationary period the student in violation will be required to complete alcohol and/or drug counseling, and may be required to participate in community service and/or an educational project.

If the student is involved in no further violation of the Chemical Health Eligibility Policy during the eighteen months probationary period and has completed the approved program they will be deemed to be a student-in-good-standing and will be removed from probation.

Once a student is elected a team captain and he/she violates the MIAA or their own school drug and alcohol policy at any time during the year, they will lose the privilege of being a team captain.

#### **MINIMUM PENALTIES**

**First violation:** When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contest totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, these penalties will be determined by the season the violation occurs. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

**Second and subsequent violations:** When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contest totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, these penalties will be determined by the season the violation occurs. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.

If the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events. The director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center must issue such certification. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.

#### **BONA FIDE TEAM MEMBERS: LOYALTY TO THE HIGH SCHOOL TEAM**

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for, and actively participates in, all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona Fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. The first offense of the bona fide team rule will result in only a suspension for 25% of the season. The second offense will result in a suspension for 25% of the season, and ineligibility for tournament participation.

Information concerning Danvers High School Athletics can be found on the following web site: [www.danvers.mec.edu](http://www.danvers.mec.edu). Click on "Athletics" for forms, cancellations and daily information or Sports Schedules or Sports Sites for directions to conference schools.

**SUBJECT TO FOLLOW ADDITIONAL SCHOOL POLICIES, MAY BE FOUND IN THE D.H.S. HANDBOOK**

**Produced by Athletic Programs, Inc. 800-845-4531**