

**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 JV2) 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. In addition, it is our goal to allow as many students as possible to participate and share the experience and benefits derived from team membership, and 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 practice 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
Cheerleading (Football) – V, JV (G)	Basketball – V, JV, F (B/G)	Baseball – V, JV, F (B)
Cross-Country – V, JV (B/G)	Gymnastics – V (G)	Lacrosse – V, JV (B)
Field Hockey – V, JV	Ice Hockey – V, JV (B)	Lacrosse – V, JV (G)
Football – V, JV, JV2 (B)	Ice Hockey Co-op – V (G)	Outdoor Track – V, JV (B/G)
Soccer – V, JV, JV2 (B)	Indoor Track – V, JV (B/G)	Softball – V, V, JV2 (G)
Soccer – V, JV, JV2 (G)	Wrestling – V (B)	Tennis – V, JV (B/G)
Golf – V, JV (B/G)	Swimming (Coed) – V	
Volleyball – V, JV (G)	Cheerleading (Hockey, BBall) – V (G)	
Unified Basketball - V (B/G)		

**STARTING DATES**

Fall Season: Monday, August 23, 2021 (*Football begins Friday, August 20th, 2021*)

Winter Season: Monday, November 29th, 2021

Spring Season: Monday, March 21st, 2022

*\*The conclusion of the season is defined to include participation through the last MIAA sponsored tournament (if applicable) or event.*

**PRE-SEASON RESPONSIBILITIES**

All candidates for athletic teams must meet the following obligations **at least two weeks prior** to the start date for a specific sport in order to be “cleared” for participation in tryouts or practices. Late registrations will cause a significant delay in the clearance process, likely resulting in missed tryout/practice time for the student-athlete.

Required components:

1. Completed online athletic registration in its entirety
2. Updated physical
3. Activity fee

***Students will not be cleared for participation until all 3 components are satisfied.***

In addition, all student-athletes must:

1. Be less than 19 years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year. For Grade 9, he/she must be 16 years of age on or after September 1 of the current school year.
2. Be academically eligible.
3. Have fulfilled all financial obligations for equipment issued the previous season.
4. Notify the Athletic Office if transferring from another school.

**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/she can fulfill these expectations. If a student is not selected for a team, he/she 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.

### ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WARNING

Although most athletic injuries are usually minor, serious injury, including permanent paralysis or death, may occur. If an injury should occur during a practice or competition, be sure to notify the Athletic Trainer.

### 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

**In order to be eligible for the fall interscholastic sports season, upperclassmen are required to have satisfied the following:**

1. **Previous Academic Year-End Grades:** You must have earned passing credits in each of the five (5) major subject areas for the previous academic year, as assessed by year-end grades\*. Summer school can be utilized to earn up to five (5) credits (the equivalent of one (1) full-year course) toward fall eligibility only for a subject that was pursued and failed during the immediately preceding academic year.
2. **Previous Year 4-Quarter Grades:** You must also have secured a seventy (70) or above during the fourth quarter of the preceding academic year in two (2) of the five (5) major subject areas\*. All remaining classes must be passing grades of sixty-five (65) or higher for the fourth quarter grade.

**All incoming freshmen are automatically eligible for all co-curricular activities and interscholastic sports for the fall.**

**To maintain eligibility thereafter,** the student must secure a seventy (70) or above during the last marking period preceding the contest (i.e. second quarter marks and not semester grades determine eligibility for third quarter) in two (2) of the five (5) major subject areas. (Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and Foreign Language\*). All remaining classes must all be passing grades of sixty-five (65) or higher. A student cannot at any time represent Danvers High School unless that student is taking yearlong courses in each of the five (5) major subject areas\*. Core content courses include English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language. The academic eligibility of all students shall be considered as official and determined only on the date when the report cards for that ranking period have been issued to the parents of all students. Incomplete grades may not be counted toward eligibility until they are made up following school policy. Once the principal, assistant principal(s), and/or athletic director has reviewed the report cards of students participating in activities, he/she will notify the advisor/coach of any student who is academically ineligible. The advisor/coach will be required to notify individual students of their status.

\*A student who has met his/her graduation requirement of two (2) years of World Language must be enrolled in yearlong courses in Math, English, Science and Social Studies to be academically eligible, and does not need to be enrolled in a World Language course to be academically eligible.

### CHEMICAL HEALTH ELIGIBILITY

**From the earliest fall practice/meeting date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic/co-curricular event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product (including e-cigarettes, VAPE pens, and all similar devices); marijuana (including synthetic); steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as "NA or Near Beer", inhalants (defined as any substance that produces a mind-altering effect when inhaled), and misuse of over-the-counter medications, and substances used for the purpose of altering one's mental state. 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 he/she 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 may 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 he/she 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.

### COVID DISCLAIMER AND RESTRICTIONS

We will follow DESE, MIAA, School and local Board of Health recommendations. They are subject to change at any point based on the latest guidance at any given time.

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