



Denton Calvary Academy

Athletic Handbook

2011-12

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PURPOSE AND GOAL

Calvary athletics helps to fulfill the mission of the school by teaching the Christian way of competing expressed through our core vision in athletics:

- Play for God's glory
- Be leaders on campus and in our community
- Have fun, play smart, play hard
- Overcome adversity with Christ likeness
- Relentlessly pursue righteousness
- Develop a love and desire to please God
- Work hard
- Serve others
- Respect authority

The Calvary Athletic Department acknowledges that God is the priority in our school, followed by family, academics, and finally athletics. When this order is followed, it will result in student-athletes who are balanced spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Because Calvary athletes are representatives of their team, their school, their community and more importantly, God, Calvary athletics is committed to developing each individual's character and self-esteem. In addition, a proper perspective on winning and losing consistent with glorifying God is maintained. Calvary athletes will be humble in victory, and courageous in defeat. Winning is defined as reaching the maximum potential by giving great effort as an individual, and as a team.

Individually, the DCA athletic department wants the athletes to have the mindset of constant improvement of their game and be mentally tough. As a result, maximum effort is given to training and preparation that leads to as much individual accomplishment as God will allow.

Calvary Athletics strives for excellence through programs that are well respected and considered among peers and college coaches as one of the best in TAPPS.

SPORTS OFFERED

Girls —volleyball, basketball, track, softball, tennis, golf, cheerleading
Future (as numbers, facilities, and interest dictate)—cross country, soccer and swimming

Boys —six-man football, basketball, track, baseball, tennis, and golf
Future (as numbers, facilities, and interest dictate)—cross country, soccer, hockey and swimming

ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATHLETIC PERSONNEL

Athletic Director

- Under the authority of the Head Administrator, the Director of Athletics is responsible for the oversight of all athletic programs and events at DCA;
- Develops and supports coaching staff and student-athletes;
- Fosters and maintains good working relationship with DCA faculty, administrative staff, coaching staff, and parents;
- Maintains healthy and direct relationships with TAPPS, organizations with whom DCA contracts for facility rentals, schools with whom DCA competes and vendors;
- Is familiar with and abides by the current year's TAPPS Constitution, By-Laws, and Contest Rules handbook;
- Oversees pertinent and effective communication to DCA families and student-athletes regarding all athletic programs and events;
- Makes recommendations to the Administrator for the hiring and firing of all full-time and seasonal coaches.
- Responsible for record-keeping, communications, and day-to-day administrative support of the Athletics Program;
- Oversee all TAPPS athletic forms to ensure that they are properly completed and filed on time;
- Confirms all athletic schedules and locations, making directions to the event available for parents and visitors;
- Assists with updating of the Athletics section of the DCA website;
- Acts as a liaison between parents, schools, coaches, DCA staff and students;
- Coordinates athletics events with the DCA master school calendar.

Head Coaches

- Under the authority of the Athletics Director, the Head Coach is responsible for the oversight and successful implementation of the athletic program(s) for which he/she is given charge;
- Maintains an organizationally submissive role to the Athletic Director;
- Attend meetings called by the Athletic Director;
- Develops and supports assistant coaching staff and student-athletes;
- Maintains athletic equipment in good working order;
- Fosters and maintains good working relationship with DCA faculty, administrative staff, coaching staff, and parents;
- Is familiar with and abides by the current year's TAPPS Constitution, By-Laws, and Contest Rules handbook;
- Manages pertinent and effective communication to Athletics Administrator for all athletic programs and events under his/her authority;
- Makes recommendations to the Athletic Director for the hiring and firing of all full-time and seasonal coaches.

- Communicate expectations to parents prior to start of the season (collect appropriate emergency contact and TAPPS forms, contact information, typical practice schedule, playing time in games, appropriate spectator conduct, general rules & regulations listed below)

Assistant/Seasonal Coaches

- Under the authority of the Head Coach, the assistant or seasonal coach is responsible for all areas specified by the Head Coach for the successful implementation of the athletic program(s) in which he/she is serving;
- Maintains an organizationally submissive role to the Head Coach and Athletic Director;
- Attend meetings called by the Head Coach or Athletic Director;
- Develops and supports student-athletes;
- Maintains athletic equipment in good working order;
- Fosters and maintains good working relationship with DCA faculty, administrative staff, coaching staff, and parents;
- Is familiar with and abides by the current year's TAPPS Constitution, By-Laws, and Contest Rules handbook;
- Assists Head Coach in providing pertinent and effective communication to Athletic Administrator for all athletic programs and events within his/her area of responsibility.

CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETIC PERSONNEL

As leaders in the lives of children, it is imperative that all DCA Athletic personnel to model Christ in everything they do, reflecting the fruit of the Spirit and providing an example of godliness to students. Our Directors and Coaches should always conduct themselves in the following ways:

Spirituality—Directors and Coaches must possess and cultivate a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ and bring that relationship into every aspect of their leadership and coaching.

Speech—Directors and Coaches should use wholesome words that are meant to build up rather than tear down. They should refrain from language that is demeaning, sarcastic, or accusatory toward players, officials, other coaches, and fans. Coaches are to be reminded that they are a leader in front of young minds; they are not here to be friends.

Physicality—All students should be treated with the utmost respect; therefore, all athletic staff will refrain from any physical touch that would clearly indicate abusiveness. Male directors and coaches are to take great care in how and where they offer physical support to female athletes. No coach should be alone with a student-athlete of the opposite sex at any time.

Community—The fostering of community among the DCA staff, parents, and students should be central to all athletic personnel. Athletics must never be viewed as separate from the academic and spiritual life of DCA but rather as an opportunity for community spirit to be shared and developed.

Discipline—Every facet of discipline is the coach's responsibility. Individually, the coach becomes a model of all that the program represents, both home and away. Desire to do well, to win well, to lose well, should be emphasized.

Leadership—Diligence, enthusiasm, honesty and a love for the game are all part of a professional pride that should be exhibited by all coaches. Personal appearance, dress and physical condition should be exemplary. Dressing appropriately for practice, following practice schedules and building positive attitudes are very important.

CONDUCT AND EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

A student-athlete is a representative of Jesus Christ, a family, a community, a school and a team. Participation in athletics at DCA means more than just competition between individuals and teams. Each athlete will demonstrate the following attributes:

Coachability—the DCA athlete will be coachable and willing to accept constructive criticism. They will look to improve and be willing to submit to the leadership and expertise of the coach.

Commitment—the DCA athlete will recognize the need to place others ahead of themselves in order to achieve team concepts. They must be willing to make sacrifices to be conditioned in training for their sport.

Desire to Improve—the DCA athlete will have an ardent desire to improve and a willingness to concentrate on the development of skills for their sport.

Respectfulness—the DCA athlete will demonstrate love and respect for themselves, their teammates, and their opponents, even in the midst of competition, appreciating his or her God-given talents and abilities. This respect is also demonstrated toward game officials and any other authority figures.

CONDUCT OF SPECTATORS

Families' attendance and a show of team enthusiasm at DCA sporting events is encouraged in support of our teams. DCA athletes are expected to conduct themselves with honor, dignity, and sportsmanship on the field or court; so too

should the supporters of the DCA athletes. This includes interaction with all coaches and referees. Parents are to treat coaches with respect and not approach them with complaints before, during or after games. Please set up a meeting with the AD and the coach if a major problem needs to be addressed. Parents are restricted from yelling instruction during a game or delaying a player entering the locker room at half time with the rest of the team.

FINANCES

All purchases and expenses to be paid by DCA must be cleared by the Athletic Director. Purchases made without this approval will be the sole responsibility of the person ordering the item(s).

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All DCA athletes and personnel must be familiar with and abide by the policies and procedures detailed in the DCA Parent/Student Handbook.
2. All DCA athletics personnel, whether paid or volunteer, who work with DCA students in any capacity on or off the field/court during the regular course of an athletics season, including off-season or in-season practices, must fill out an employment application and clear a background check performed by the Administration—No Exceptions.
3. The only personnel allowed courtside, on the sidelines, in the dugout, or any other location typically designated to coaches or players are DCA approved coaches and student-athletes, or volunteers appointed by the Head Coach for the purpose of keeping stats, play-by-play announcing, etc. Our liability insurance precludes parents, visitors, or students not on the team roster to be in these areas—No Exceptions.
4. In accordance with DCA and TAPPS policies, all DCA student-athletes must be full-time students at Denton Calvary Academy and fulfill all academic requirements of the school before being allowed to participate in athletics.
5. There may be times when DCA teams will practice during academic calendar breaks—coaches will notify parents and student-athletes of these schedules.
6. Student-athletes are expected to be at all practices and games, on-time and ready to practice. The only acceptable reasons for missing practices or games are: (a) illness, (b) school-sponsored activities, or (c) family emergencies.

7. If a student-athlete is absent from school due to an unexcused absence, he/she is not allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities that same day.
8. If a student-athlete is going to be absent from or late to a practice or game, he/she must notify the coach as soon as possible and no later than noon of the day of the absence.
9. For team unity, support and instruction, an injured student-athlete is expected to be at all practices and games, whether or not they are able to participate. The only exception to this policy is if an arrangement has been made with the coach and/or athletic director.
10. Student-athletes that participate in outdoor sports will meet even if the weather does not permit—practices will move indoors, or classroom meetings held for instruction. The coaches will communicate with student-athletes when such changes in practice occur.
11. Student-athletes are expected to follow DCA guidelines for proper attire and personal grooming at all practices and games, including overnight travel to distant locations.
12. Student-athletes are expected to attend all classes and turn in all academic work due on time.
13. Student-athletes are accountable for the uniforms and equipment provided by DCA. If uniforms or equipment are not turned in when requested by the coach, or by the end of that sports season, or if uniforms are damaged such that they cannot be reused, the student-athlete will be required to pay for the cost of replacing that uniform.
14. To participate in sports at DCA, student-athletes must have a physical exam each year using the form provided by TAPPS (available from the main office). High school athletes are also required to sign and have on file an Acknowledgment of Rules form (also available from the main office). No student will be allowed to practice or participate in a game without these forms on file in the school office.
15. If, at the end of a quarterly grading period, a student is making less than a 70% in any class, he will be suspended from participation in practice, games, performances, or contests for a minimum of two calendar weeks from the day grades are due in the office. At the end of the two week period, administration will re-evaluate and determine if the student may be re-instated. If no grades have been recorded in that 2 week Student will not be allowed to participate until re-instated by administration. If due effort is not made to improve grades at two weeks, eligibility cannot be

regained until progress reports at mid quarter. A conference may be required if a student's grades fall below a 70% on any progress report or report card.

INJURIES AND POTENTIAL RISKS

Parents and student-athletes should fully understand the risk of injury associated with participation in sports programs provided by DCA. While reducing injuries to a minimum is a goal of our coaching staff and administration, the possible dangers must not be overlooked. If a parent or student-athlete is unsure of the risk(s) associated with any sport, they should contact the head coach or athletic director for more information.

All injuries must be brought to the attention of the athlete's coach so proper assessment can be made. An official injury report will be filled out and signed by the coach and Athletic Director and turned in to the Business Administrator.

It is the responsibility of parents to carry proper insurance coverage for their student-athlete. DCA does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital, or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a voluntary program in which students participate at their own risk. **Student insurance is not provided by DCA.** For parents interested in purchasing student accident or health insurance should contact the athletic director or head coach for more information. This coverage is considered secondary insurance.

SCHEDULING OF GAMES

The Athletic Director and Assistant Athletic Director are responsible for scheduling games for all sports in coordination with the Head Coach and Academic School calendar. All game schedules and changes must be communicated to the Administration or office staff in a timely manner for inclusion on the DCA website.

TEAM PARTIES/BANQUETS

Each sport at the high school level is expected to provide student-athletes and parents with a team party or banquet at the conclusion of a season. The purpose of this event is to show appreciation to the student-athletes, parents, and coaches. The date of such an event must be established as soon as possible and cleared through the Athletics Director in coordination with the DCA Master and Athletics Department calendars.

TEAM PRACTICES AND OFF-SEASON

Head Coaches are responsible to provide student-athletes with proper training and practice in the sport over which they have authority, including but not limited to: (a) a practice schedule and plan, (b) providing proper communication with student-athletes and parents regarding this schedule and plan, (c) fostering Christ-centered motivation and attitudes among players and coaches, and (d) regular team prayer and Bible study.

It is recommended that all DCA student-athletes participate in year-round off-season programs in their chosen sport(s), and attend athletic off-season workouts unless they are competing or practicing with a DCA team (except where detailed in the General Rules and Regulations section). Coaches are responsible for communicating the off-season schedule and particular sport requirements to the student-athletes, parents and Athletics Administrator for inclusion on the DCA website. Because of the unique nature of our school schedule, and to remain competitive with other schools, DCA recommends student-athletes participate in off-season programs and competitions as determined by the Athletics calendar. Family plans that preclude a student-athlete's participation in off-season or DCA athletic competition should be communicated by the parents to the coach as soon as possible.

TRANSPORTATION

DCA will make every effort to provide transportation for student-athletes to all away games, with a van or bus leaving the DCA campus before the game and returning to the school at the conclusion of the event. Coaches are responsible for communicating transportation needs to the Athletic Director at least one week in advance of the event. On Friday of each week a practice and game transportation schedule will be posted on the website for parents.

It is the responsibility of the coach to see that all DCA student-athletes are transported safely to athletic events, except in the case of a student-athlete riding with a parent or another DCA family to or from an event. Student-athletes must communicate any change in transportation directly to the coach.

DCA Parent Athletics Code of Conduct

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Jesus’ final command to His disciples, “...*you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...*” is our command today! We are to be His witnesses everywhere in everything we do. All parents of Denton Calvary Academy are expected to hold themselves to this command and all other standards consistent with the beliefs, mission, and vision of DCA. Parents are to treat others with grace, respect, and love, extending honesty and care to all those around them. All DCA parents, are expected to:

- Cheer enthusiastically for the Lions, not in hostility toward the opposition.
- Refrain from making demeaning and/or negative comments about teammates, coaches, AD, Principal.
- Extend kindness to visiting student-athletes, coaches, and fans, making them feel welcome as friendly rivals.
- Behave as an honored guest when you visit another school.
- Refrain from taunting opposing players, coaches, fans (Taunting includes any actions or comments that are intended to anger, embarrass, or degrade another person.)
- Be gracious in victory and defeat.
- Treat officials as professionals at their job, and welcome guests.
- Show grace, respect, and love to all officials at all times and in all situations. No exceptions.
- Accept absolutely and without quarrel the final decision of any official.
- Refrain from taunting officials.
- Required to work at least one event (i.e. concessions) per sport for Booster Club
- Contact coaches with concerns on non-game days (i.e. not before, during, or after a game)
- Respect the coaches’ authority to coach the game. Refrain from “coaching your athlete from the stands.” All comments or yelling from the stands should be positive in nature.

Remember that your words and actions on or off the field, and in the stands reflect on you, your personal witness, your family, and your school.

Consequences of Poor Sportsmanship

Any demeaning actions directed towards other student athletes, coaches, officials, or fans will not be tolerated and could result in removal from the site of athletic competition, followed by a meeting with school officials. DCA understands emotions run high during athletic competition. Repeat offenses of negative behavior and non adherence to this policy will result in revoking parent attendance privileges.

DCA Student Athlete Code of Conduct

Colossians 3:23-24 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, Knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [and not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [real] reward. [The One Whom] you are actually serving [is] the Lord Christ (the Messiah).

Paul is encouraging his brothers and sisters to strive for excellence in everything they do. Why? Because it is from the Lord Jesus Christ that they receive their inheritance, not man! This timeless truth still holds true today. DCA athletes are to strive for excellence in everything they do. Not for the cheer of the crowd or praises from coaches. But because of the real reward that awaits each of us in heaven given to us by the One we serve, Jesus Christ.

Think of excellence as a destination. Excellence is a life long process that we learn, and seek to continually improve. You don't just sit there. It becomes a continual ongoing movement further up and higher in toward greater and greater excellence, "*Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily, as for the Lord and not for man...*" DCA Student-athletes are expected to:

- Get an education. Be leaders in the classroom, honorable to God with all words and actions.
- Grow in your knowledge and devotion to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Give your total effort, to make the most of your God given talent.
- Practice to the best of your ability and give maximum energy and effort.
- Give maximum energy and effort at every game.
- Have a humble Christ-like attitude. Be gracious in victory and defeat.
- Refrain from making demeaning and/or negative comments about teammates, coaches, AD, Principal.
- Extend kindness to visiting student-athletes, coaches, and fans, making them feel welcome as friendly rivals.
- Behave as an honored guest when you visit another school.
- Refrain from taunting opposing players, coaches, fans, officials (Taunting includes any actions or comments that are intended to anger, embarrass, or degrade another person.)
- Treat officials as professionals at their job, and welcome guests.
- Show grace, respect, and love to all officials at all times and in all situations. No exceptions.
- Accept absolutely and without quarrel the final decision of any official.
- Required to volunteer once a month at Talbot facilities for facility maintenance

Remember that your words and actions on or off the field, and in the stands reflect on you, your personal witness, your family, and your school.

Any demeaning actions directed towards other student athletes, coaches, officials, DCA staff, or fans will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of athletic competition by DCA's or opponent's supervising personnel.

Consequences of Poor Sportsmanship

- **1st offense – Meeting with Coach, AD and Principal on the next school day or as soon as possible.**
- **2nd offense – Suspended from any participation with team for one week.**
- **3rd offense – Suspended from the team for the remainder of the season.**

Participation privileges can be regained after attending a meeting with Coach, AD, Principal and Parent.

Parent/Student-Athlete Code of Conduct Agreement

This Page must be signed by both the student athlete and the student athlete's parents or guardians and returned to the athletic office before a student can represent DCA in athletics.

Parent/Guardian Agreement—I/We have read the entire Denton Calvary Academy "Athletics Code of Conduct." I/We agree with the standard of conduct and support the enforcement of its guidelines. I/We agree to support the athletic department and coaching staff in their decisions, as they are delegated authority in my/our student's participation in DCA athletics. I will do my best to uphold my responsibility as a parent representative of Denton Calvary Academy.

Father or Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Mother or Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____