

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS for DCHS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

*The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship here at DCHS.*

### **1. KEEP ATHLETICS IN PERSPECTIVE**

- Emphasize the right priorities: Family, Academics, and Athletics
- Place value in participation and giving your best effort, not the winning or losing of a contest. (*We play for Championships here at DCHS, and we want to win, but making sure a player gives his best effort is our primary focus.*)
- Remember you as a parent at DCHS represent the school, the staff, and alumni. Be involved, be vocal, but do your best to be positive. At the end of the day, it's still just a game, and a high school game at that.
- Do not publicly demean participants in an athletic contest (*Players, officials, coaches, other parents or spectators, etc.*)

### **2. SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETE**

- Talk to your child about how things are going with his/her sport
- Come to as many of your child's games as possible
- Stress the importance of a healthy lifestyle free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol
- Do not support "quitting" as the best way to solve problems, but rather perseverance, and how to deal with adversity

### **3. SUPPORT THE PROGRAM**

- Be supportive of the coaching staff and respect their professional judgment, they are here to help your child grow as an athlete and as a person. (*We're not always right, we will make mistakes, but we are doing OUR BEST to make decisions with THE TEAM'S best interest in mind*)
- Follow the communication procedure with coaches as outlined in this packet
- Understand the time commitment and needs of the particular sports as many of them involve significant commitments of time and resources
- Be willing to help in fundraising efforts, or work events that will benefit the athletes within the DCHS Program.

### **Communication with Coaches**

The entire coaching staff is encouraged to keep the lines of communication open with our athletes and their families. We will always do our best to supply you with all of the essential information that you will need to manage your time and commitment to the DCHS Program successfully. Many times, parents will have questions and feel the need to meet with their child's coach. Our coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what is best for the entire team, taking into account every member of the team. The coaches work extremely hard. They coach because they love working with kids and realize the positive benefit of participation in athletics. The following are some guidelines and policies to help facilitate the most productive and efficient relationship with the coaching staff.

### **Parents are encouraged to discuss:**

- Their child's progress and ways to help their student improve
- Concerns regarding their child's behavior
- The philosophy of the coach
- The expectations of coaches and role for their child on the team
- Team rules and policies
- Disciplinary action incurred by their child
- The college recruiting process
- Ways in which they can help the team (team parent, concessions, etc.)

**Parents are NOT encouraged to discuss:**

- Placement on teams
- Playing time
- Coaching strategies used during practice or contests
- Other student-athletes

**Communication Procedure**

If a problem should arise please make every effort to follow the steps below for a productive resolution:

1. Student-athlete contacts the coach to discuss the issue
2. If a resolution is not reached, the student-athlete should contact an athletic director to discuss the issue
3. If a resolution is not reached, the parent should contact the coach and arrange for a meeting
4. In the rare instance that there is still no resolution, the parent should contact an athletic director and arrange for a meeting.

**Problem Resolution**

Communication with coaches is most productive when an appointment can be made to talk about the issue. **Parents should never try to talk to a coach before or after a contest on a game day.** This is the most emotional time for all parties involved and is not the time for a meeting about specific issues with your student-athlete. Please respect the coaches and their need to be focused on the task at hand.

Thank you for taking the time to read through our preseason parent's packet. We hope it was informative and also lets you know what we as coaches expect from the players. Parents are always the backbone of any high school athletic program, and we appreciate any and all support you provide.

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_