



ATHLETICS HANDBOOK 2024-2025



Divine Savior Academy
— DELRAY BEACH —

handbook

ATHLETIC OVERVIEW

Athletic Department Philosophy

The foundation of all interscholastic athletic programs and school activities at Divine Savior Academy is the Word of God. All programs are offered as an opportunity to grow as Christians outside of the academic school setting. All coaches and participants strive to model Christian behaviors and attitudes.

Athletic Department Mission

The mission of our athletic and activity programs is to develop and strengthen our participants' talents and abilities through unique learning opportunities difficult to duplicate in other areas of school life. The purpose of our programs is to develop Christ-like character qualities in our participants such as teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship, humility, and living faith in all situations.

Athletic Department Policies

All policies contained in this handbook have been revised and adopted by the school's executive council in accordance with the rules and regulations of the NIAAA (National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association) and the school's administration.

Athletic Department Objectives

1. Spiritual Development
 - a. Provide a Christian environment where student-athletes can grow in faith.
 - b. Encourage student-athletes to let their light shine through great effort and good sportsmanship, properly representing their Savior and doing all to God's glory.
2. Intellectual Development
 - a. Student-athletes learn to put schoolwork before their athletic involvement.
 - b. Student-athletes learn exercises, skills, and rules specific to their sport.
3. Physical Development
 - a. Student-athletes learn to respect their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Student-athletes discipline and train themselves according to the physical needs of their sport.
 - c. Student-athletes develop strength, stamina, skills, and abilities.
4. Social Development
 - a. Provide an environment where team play, cooperation, and respect for teammates and opponents is a priority.
 - b. Learn self-discipline, service, and humility as attitudes of team play that carry over into life.
 - c. Encourage friendships between teammates as they strive to reach their athletic potential.

- d. Instill in student-athletes the fact that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege with accompanying responsibilities.
 - e. Foster in student-athletes an attitude that they faithfully commit themselves to all training rules.
5. Emotional Development
- a. Student-athletes learn to cope in a Christian manner with feelings they experience in competition such as winning, losing, anger, trust, jealousy, frustration, etc.
 - b. Student-athletes understand that winning is doing their best with their God-given talents, both individually and collectively.
 - c. Develop in the student-athlete the sense of satisfaction and joy that comes from using their God-given talents to their fullest.

Athletic Programs

Girls' Sports

Cross Country (Fall)

Volleyball (Fall)

Basketball (Winter)

Track and Field (Spring)

Boys' Sports

Cross Country (Fall)

Basketball (Winter)

Track and Field (Spring)

Co-ed Sports

Soccer (Fall)

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATION PROPER PROCEDURES

Athletic achievement requires a sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, and administrators. For all of us to be successful, effective communication must occur. Divine Savior Academy's athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supporting the coaching staff. We are continually attempting to improve communication with the students and parents. For our programs to be successful, everyone must understand the focus and direction of the programs.

Your Expectations

- A. It is reasonable to expect your child's coach to inform you:
 - 1. The time and place practices.

2. About expectations he/she has for all athletes on the team.
3. The requirements to be a member of the team.
4. If your child is injured during a practice or contest participation.
5. Whenever any disciplinary action results in your son/daughter being denied participation in practice or contest.

B. It is reasonable for you to expect that your child will receive:

1. Coaching that will focus on the improvement of skills.
2. Instruction in being a member of a team.
3. Guidance in positive Christian values.
4. Loving discipline when necessary.
5. Open communication on any topic.
6. Care and Christian concern.

C. Typical concerns that are appropriate to discuss with a coach are:

1. Any unhealthy mental or physical strain you detect in your child at home.
2. How you can contribute to your child's skill improvement and development.
3. Any dramatic changes you detect in your child's behavior.

Our Expectations

A. It is inappropriate to discuss with a coach:

1. Other student-athletes.
2. Team strategy or play calling.

B. Coaches often need parents to tell them:

1. Any specific health concerns about your son/daughter expressed directly and informally to the coach at a mutually convenient time.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Your commitment to the program, and how you contribute to the program's success. For example, one way is to be sure your son/daughter is at practice each day on time and to supervise your child's nutrition and rest.

4. Strategies that have worked for you in dealing with your son/daughter being successful in the past.
- C. What procedure should you follow if you have a concern to discuss with a coach?
1. Make an appointment with the coach at a mutually convenient time.
 2. If the meeting with the coach does not result in a resolution to the problem, contact the athletic director to discuss the situation.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STAFF

Cross Country Coach- Erick Schalo

Volleyball Coach- Matthew Miskowski

Soccer Coaches- Jen Chojnacki & Jonah Kroll

Girls Basketball Coach- Ally Platzer

Boys Basketball Coach- Dayne Kopfer

Track and Field Coaches- Erick Schalo, Matthew Miskowski, Dan Haar

Athletic Director- Dayne Kopfer

ATHLETIC EXPECTATIONS

Practice Attendance

It should be the goal of every member of a team to be at all practices. If an athlete must miss practice for a valid reason, then he/she should inform the coach in advance of the missed practice. Unexcused misses should never happen and could result in dismissal from the team. Injured players are still part of the team and should be in attendance for all practices unless told otherwise by the coaching staff.

Students must attend school, arriving no later than 10:00 am to participate in a practice that day. Exceptions to this policy may occur for doctor's appointments and other related situations. Please check with the athletic director regarding any possible exceptions.

Game Attendance

Every member of a team is also expected to be at every scheduled contest. Every athlete is considered an integral part of the team. Everyone contributes to the unified team effort and success. This commitment is necessary for the progress of DSA teams and the consistency of the athletic program. Whenever an absence may occur, the coach should be contacted as far in advance as

possible. This communication is important to make sure every situation can be handled in the best interest of the athlete, family, team, and athletic department. Unexcused absences from games could result in dismissal from the team.

Students must attend school, arriving no later than 8:15 am to participate in an athletic contest that day. Exceptions to this policy may occur for doctor's visits and other related absences. Please check with the athletic director regarding any and all possible exceptions.

School Attendance

According to Florida Law and Palm Beach County requirements, 20 full-day absences during a school year will result in a mandatory review by the Administration, Guidance Counselor, and classroom teacher to determine possible repetition of the class or the grade.

Exceptions to the 10 absence rule may be given for non-school-sponsored events or educational enrichment activities that are requested from and approved by the Principal. To be considered for an exception, the student must:

- Have a 2.67 or higher GPA.
- Provide a written request detailing 1) the reason for the absence and 2) the dates of the absence.
- Present the request along with documentation of the event well in advance of the requested time off.
- Receive written permission from the Principal before the date of absence.

Failure to follow these steps will result in the absence accruing towards the 10 absences that result in loss of credit.

Equipment

Divine Savior will provide all teams and athletes with the proper equipment to be successful. It is the responsibility of the coach and the team members to take care of all school equipment, especially uniforms. Athletes will be held responsible for irresponsibly damaged equipment and lost equipment.

All uniforms are to be properly washed and cared for by each participant and his or her parents or guardians. Improper care and damage to the uniform will result in a uniform replacement fee charged.

Practice Gear and Apparel

Practice wear should be comfortable, allow for movement, and be in good condition. Clothing must be appropriate for a Christian school setting. If an athlete's practice apparel is unacceptable, the coach will ask them to change and the athlete will not be allowed back into practice until the apparel is appropriate. If practice gear is issued to team members, they are required to wear that practice gear for all practices. All school-issued practice gear must be returned at the end of the season.

Transportation

Families are expected to provide transportation to each event or game.

Team Placement (JV/V)

Teams that will be participating in JV and Varsity will be split accordingly:

JV team - Students from 4th-6th Grade

Varsity team - Students from 6th-8th Grade

Students will be evaluated based on a year-to-year basis on a team depending on numbers.

Playing Time

Coaches evaluate athletes daily to make playing-time decisions based on an athlete's ability, effort, and attitude. These decisions are not debatable. If you have concerns regarding your child's playing time, schedule a private meeting with your child's coach (see COMMUNICATION). Our coaches try to get everyone into a game at JV and Varsity levels, however, playing time equality for players lessens as the level of the sport increases in competitiveness and grade level.

Sportsmanship

Coaches, spectators, and athletes will show respect at all times to officials, opponents, and spectators of the opposing team. Each one of us has a great opportunity to represent our Savior, our school, and ourselves, especially in an emotional setting like an athletic contest. Though this may be difficult at times, it is vital to let people see us as the Christians we are, showing love and respect to all. It is one of our goals to reflect the love of Christ in our words and actions for all to see.

The decisions of game officials are always final and our athletes, parents, and fans should respect their judgments and decisions. Any concerns with the officials will be communicated by the coach. Parents and players should never argue the decisions of game officials.

If a player, or a parent, is the cause of a sportsmanship issue, Divine Savior Academy administration may not allow the player to be a part of the team, or may not allow the parent to attend sporting events.

Team Awards

Coaches at all levels may give team awards. Team awards and recipients will be determined by the coach. Team Captains may be chosen by coaches and/or other team members.

Dress and Grooming

A neat appearance goes a long way in representing our school. School grooming rules as stated in the school handbook will be strictly enforced by coaches. School uniforms or game uniforms should be worn to and from all games. The coach will determine if athletes will wear school uniforms while traveling to an away game or if athletes will wear game uniforms while traveling to an away game.

Athletic Fees

Each sport will require a general fee for Divine Savior Academy Jerseys and any other required sports equipment.

ELIGIBILITY

The following eligibility requirements apply to members of athletic teams, student clubs, and student organizations.

ACADEMIC INELIGIBILITY

To assist students in focusing on their academics and to ensure that they use their gifts to their fullest, the following process is put into place:

- Students will remain eligible as long as their grades do not fall below the following requirements. The grades will be checked four times per semester.
- **Students who have any F's or fall below a 2.0 GPA in the first three reporting times (other than the semester's end) will be ineligible until the next progress report.** Students may make an appeal two weeks after the initial ineligibility time if they have raised their grades. Their appeal will be made to the Principal and the teacher(s) in whose class(es) the low grade(s) were. They also must not have any F's in any other class when the appeal is made.
- Students who are ineligible may not participate in practices, meetings, or competitions of extracurricular clubs or sports. The students may not join the team or club on the bench nor ride with them to any of the activities. The students are encouraged to use this extra time to work to raise their grades so they may join their clubs or teams in the near future.

This policy is not instituted to punish but to help students keep their academic work as a high priority and not neglect it while participating in sports. Behavioral reasons may require suspension or expulsion from extracurricular activities as determined by school administration. The administration also reserves the right to assess eligibility for Athletic activities based on the timing of activity schedules or other extenuating circumstances.

ATHLETICS PROBATION: The school reserves the right to place students on disciplinary probation from extra-curricular activities for a period of time deemed necessary by the coach, sponsor, and/or the administration. This probation period may include more than one sport or activity and may keep students on probation from participating in the activity.

Physical Participation Requirements

Students will not be eligible to participate in any sport-related activities until the following forms have been submitted to the Athletic Director:

- Pre-participation Physical Evaluation (Form EL2)*
- Consent and Release From Liability Certificate(Form EL3)

*Only necessary for new 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students.

MAKE AN IMPRESSION

As athletes, fans, and coaches we must always be mindful of the fact that we are representing our Savior and Divine Savior Academy in all co-curricular activities. As ambassadors who publicly represent Divine Savior Academy, we will be identified by the light we let shine. Many times, the only contact that other schools and communities have with DSA is through athletic events and activities. Our appearance, conduct, sportsmanship, and play will leave an impression everywhere we go. This is one way we can show our love for our Savior and let others know why Divine Savior Academy exists.

