

DIS

Athletic Handbook



TRADITION

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Dear Parents and Student-Athletes,

Welcome to the Dallas International School's Athletic Program! We believe that participation in our sports program will enrich the educational experience and contribute to the overall development of each student in numerous ways.

As the Athletics Director, I am committed to ensuring that our staff and coaches provide a challenging, supportive, and caring environment. This is essential for our student-athletes to reach their academic, athletic, and personal potential. We aim to create a fun, positive, and informative program that continues to promote our school's core values.

The Athletics Department's role is to establish rules governing interscholastic competition. To be fully effective, these rules require broad-based community support. This is best achieved through open communication between the Athletics Department, student-athletes, and their parents. We have developed this athletic handbook for students, parents, and coaches to facilitate this objective.

The most important reason for our department's existence is to ensure that students can enjoy sports during their time at Dallas International School. Our primary focus and objective will always be to act in the best interest of the student-athlete and their team. This approach will ensure a promising and prosperous future for Dallas International School Athletics.

Thank you for taking the time to read the athletics' handbook. It will help you become familiar with our policies and procedures and ensure a smooth transition as a new or continuing member of the Dallas International School's athletics program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the Dallas International School Athletics Department.

ALLEZ LES TIGRES!

Sincerely,

Sergio Franklin
Director of Athletics



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Philosophy:

The Athletics Department at Dallas International School is essential to our school's educational program. We aim to ensure that our student-athletes reach their maximum potential. Specifically, the Athletics Department seeks to provide interested students with the opportunity to participate in its program of interscholastic athletics and is committed to the following:

- To offer a well-balanced and varied program of interscholastic athletics (based on numbers and the best interest of our student-athletes).
- To teach the value of competition.
- To foster the development of athletic skills.
- To encourage the development of a strong work ethic.
- To teach the value of commitment, teamwork, and cooperation.
- To encourage the development of judgment, character, and leadership.
- To teach the value of ethical conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play.

Expectations of Participants

The Athletics Department expects the following of each participant in the school athletic program:

- To be a worthy representative of teammates, coaches, and the school community, abiding by the school and community expectations.
- To maintain health and fitness levels by following the training rules prescribed by the coach.
- To learn to deal with adversity in an honorable way and to capitalize on growth opportunities.
- To express feelings intelligently and appropriately.
- To accept the responsibilities of team membership: support of teammates, cooperation, positive interaction, and mutual respect.
- To help student-athletes learn how to balance a demanding academic schedule with a strenuous athletic training schedule.



Roles

Athletics Director:

The Athletics Director administers the Athletic Program at Dallas International School.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Hiring and training coaches
- Coordinating the athletic budget
- Scheduling games and coordinating practice schedules with the head coach of each sport
- Approving and scheduling transportation and officials
- Conflict resolution
- Overseeing all aspects of the Department of Athletics

The Athletics Director will advise the Administration, staff, teams, coaches, and parents of any changes, and communicate the needs of the Athletics Department to the administration, booster club, and Board of Dallas International School. They must provide appropriate instruction and support to all part-time and full-time coaches and positively represent Dallas International School and the Athletics Department.

Coaches:

Coaches are responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which student-athletes receive high-quality instruction and competition. Responsibilities include:

- Confirming game and bus schedules
- Submitting a roster before the season
- Distributing and collecting uniforms and equipment
- Completing game, injury, and/or incident reports
- Communicating with parents
- Ensuring student-athletes exhibit good behavior on and off the court

Coaches are expected to represent Dallas International School and the Athletics Department positively, making decisions based on the team's collective interest while developing each student-athlete to their fullest potential. Coaches must maintain high personal standards,



motivate players, and always promote sportsmanship. Any coach ejected from a game will be automatically suspended for the next athletic contest and must pay the TAPPS ejection fee (between \$50-\$250).

Student-Athlete:

Student-athletes are expected to be positive additions to the Dallas International School Athletics Department. They must communicate respectfully with coaches to resolve issues and, if necessary, seek assistance from the Athletics Director. Student-athletes represent Dallas International School on and off the playing court/field and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the program and school. They must exhibit respect and good behavior in class, practice, games, and the community. Failure to do so may result in penalties, including game suspensions, ineligibility, or dismissal from the team. Any player ejected from a game will be automatically suspended for the next athletic contest and required to pay the TAPPS ejection fee (between \$50-\$250).

Parents:

Parents play an essential role in the Dallas International School Athletics Program. They model attitudes and behavior for their children and are invited to attend home and away games, support the team, and encourage their children to practice and play hard. We appreciate the assistance parents provide, whether driving to events, volunteering with the Booster Club, or accommodating athletic schedules. Support for coaches is also valued as they create a valuable athletic experience for all participants. Parents must avoid interference or public criticism, especially in front of children, teammates, or community members.

Parents are expected to conduct themselves honorably and respectfully at games. Inappropriate behavior toward officials, coaches, administrators, or student-athletes is unacceptable. Disruptive behavior from any spectator or parent may cause a game to be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator is removed.

This section outlines the roles and expectations of the Athletics Director, coaches, student-athletes, and parents within the Dallas International School Athletics Program, emphasizing the importance of respect, sportsmanship, and positive representation of the school.



Athletic Opportunities:

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL SEASON

High School Sports	Grades	Middle School Sports	Grades
Archery	9th-12th COED	Archery	6th-8th COED
Cheerleading	9th-12th COED	Cheer Squad	5th-8th COED
Golf	9th-12th COED	Cross Country (IAA)	5th-8th COED
Soccer (TAPPS)	9th-12th COED	Golf	6th-8th COED
Swim	9th-12th COED	Soccer (IAA)	5th-8th COED
Volleyball	9th-12th Girls	Swim	6th-8th COED
X-Country	9th-12th COED	Volleyball (IAA)	6th-8th Girls

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER SEASON

High School Sports	Grades	Middle School Sports	Grades
Archery	9th-12th COED	Archery	6th-8th COED
Cheerleading	9th-12th COED	Basketball Boys (5th)	5th Boys
Basketball Boys (TAPPS)	9th-12th Boys	Basketball Boys (IAA)	6th-8th Boys
Basketball Girls (TAPPS)	9th-12th Girls	Basketball Girls (IAA)	6th-8th Girls
Swim	9th-12th COED	Cheer Squad	5th-8th COED
Track & Field (Pre-Season)	9th-12th COED	Swim	6th-8th COED
Volleyball (Pre-Season)	9th-12th COED	Track & Field (Pre-Season)	5th-8th COED



HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING SEASON

High School Sports	Grades	Middle School Sports	Grades
Archery	9th-12th COED	Archery	6th-8th COED
Cheerleading	5th-8th COED	Cheer Squad	5th-8th COED
Futsal Soccer	9th-12th COED	Flag Football	6th-8th Boys
Golf	9th-12th COED	Futsal Soccer	6th-8th COED
Swim	9th-12th COED	Golf	6th-8th COED
Tennis	9th-12th COED	Swim	6th-8th COED
Track & Field	9th-12th COED	Tennis	5th-8th COED
Volleyball (Boys)	9th-12th Boys	Track & Field	5th-8th COED

***High School teams can separate into Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams depending on the number of participants in each sport.**

***Middle School Teams can separate into two teams, A & B. "A" (Typically 7-8 Grade) and "B" (Typically 6-7 Grade) Teams, depending on the number of participants in each sport.**

***(5th grade is still considered to be elementary)**

***All High school & Middle school sports teams are subject to "Try-outs" or selection process. This selection or decision is made by the Coaching staff.**

***Fall Sports (HS Soccer, HS Volleyball, HS Swim, MS Swim & CM2 Swim) - will hold its try-outs before the official start date of school. Try-out dates will be posted on the DIS web page.**



Conference Affiliations:

High School (TAPPS):

The High School Athletics Program competes in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). The purpose of TAPPS is to organize, stimulate, encourage, and to promote the academic, athletic, and fine arts programs to foster a spirit of fair play, good fellowship, true sportsmanship, and healthy competition for boys and girls. Dallas International School competes as a 2-A division school based on its enrollment. Dallas International School is part of TAPPS-2A/District 1:

Middle School (IAA & JIAA):

The Middle School teams compete in the Interscholastic Athletic Administration (IAA), and also spans all three sporting seasons. Junior Independent Athletic Association (JIAA). We are proud of these affiliations and will respect their direction. All administrators, coaches, parents, student-athletes, and spectators must be familiar with and abide by the rules set forth by their respective conferences. For further information about TAPPS (please visit the TAPPS website at <http://www.tapps.net>) or CSAC, contact Sergio Franklin, Athletics Director.

TIGRES Athletic Booster Club:

The Tigres Athletic Booster Club is a volunteer organization of dedicated parents committed to offering their time and energy to promote school and athletic spirit, support DIS sports teams, and ensure every athletic event succeeds. In addition to volunteering time, the Booster Club also provides funding to enhance all DIS sports teams. The Dallas International School student-athletes and coaches directly benefit from the volunteer and financial support of the Booster Club, and we encourage ALL parents of Dallas International School student-athletes to join. If you would like to join or would like more information on the Tigres Booster Club, please contact Sergio Franklin, sfranklin@dallasinternationalschool.org



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Middle School

Dallas International Schools is committed to allowing all middle school students interested in competitive athletics to participate. Failure to attend tryouts or abusing the privilege of participation can lead to disqualification from the team. Recognizing that middle school athletics introduces competitive sports, our program emphasizes developing skills and habits. Success in high school athletics is directly related to the skills developed through the middle school program.

High School

Student-athletes will not be cut from high school sports unless they abuse the privilege of participation or cannot meet the financial obligations of the sport or tuition. Teams may have player limits set by the Athletics Director and/or Head Coach. Attend tryouts to avoid disqualification from the selection process if tryouts are held.

Team Selection (Try-outs)/Playing Time

Our goal in team selection is to find opportunities for participation and, more importantly, for success. Placing each student-athlete at the level where they can contribute physically and gain positive feelings from their efforts is vital. Disappointments are inevitable when teams are selected, and student-athletes must feel supported by teammates, parents, and coaches.

We trust our coaches to manage and direct their sports. Their responsibilities include evaluating and selecting students for teams and determining the degree to which each student-athlete will participate, done with considerable thought and sensitivity. Coaches evaluate skill level, athleticism, physical conditioning, positional play, trainability, punctuality, and other attributes.

Student-athletes must learn the value of being on a team and the contribution each must make. Team members are responsible to themselves, their teammates, and their coaches to learn and perform their roles. Teamwork requires developing interpersonal skills such as listening, following directions, accepting constructive criticism, being respectful, and supporting teammates



and coaches. Student-athletes must participate in practice sessions and games with total commitment and enthusiasm.

Playing time in competition is earned in practice and is not an entitlement. The coach is the only one in a position to make team selections and decisions about playing time. Coaches will not discuss playing time with parents. Varsity team members are not guaranteed playing time. By joining a team, student-athletes accept the pleasures and benefits of participation and the responsibility and commitment to that team.

Eligibility

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Students earn the privilege through hard work, dedication, desire, and self-discipline. All students currently enrolled in grades 6-12 and attending Dallas International School are eligible to participate in athletics. Middle school students (6th-8th grade) are eligible for middle school sports, and high school students (9th-12th grade) are eligible for high school sports. Per TAPPS rules, no middle school student will be eligible to participate in high school sports.

Academic Eligibility

Student-athletes are expected to maintain passing grades in all classes. A student-athlete receiving a grade average below passing will be placed on academic probation for three weeks or until they raise their grade to a passing level. While on academic probation, student-athletes may practice but not play in games, potentially affecting varsity lettering. They are expected to seek tutoring from the appropriate teacher. If a student-athlete maintains failing grades, the Athletics Director may declare them ineligible for competition. Ineligibility includes not practicing or traveling with the team. Continued failure to improve grades after the probationary period may result in removal from the team.

Conduct Eligibility

Student-athletes must maintain satisfactory conduct in all settings. As ambassadors of DIS, they will represent the school to the highest standard during competitions and at all away venues. Unsatisfactory conduct in the classroom, on the field, or court will result in behavioral probation following the same three-week guidelines as academic probation. Failure to improve conduct after probation may result in removal from the team.



Club/Select Teams

Dallas International School Athletics will take precedence over club or league competitions and practice sessions. Student-athletes will not be excused from DIS athletic practices or games to attend club or league team activities. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to communicate their participation in club or league teams before the season to avoid conflicts. Failure to do so may result in removal from the team.

Required Forms for Participation:

Before the start of each season, all parents and student-athletes must complete the following

- Rank One Sport enrollment
- TAPPS Acknowledgement of Rules Form
- TAPPS Steroid Use Agreement
- Athletic Identification/Medical Release Form
- TAPPS Physical Examination Form (must be completed by Physician)
- TAPPS Transfer Form (if a student is transferring from another school and plans to participate in athletics)
- TAPPS Foreign Exchange Student Packet (if the student is a foreign exchange student and is planning to participate in athletics)
- Failure to complete all forms required for participation will result in the student-athlete being declared ineligible.

Financial Obligation

Although the school covers most of the costs associated with the athletic program, certain sports require specialized equipment or uniforms, necessitating a cost-sharing arrangement between the school and the parents of student-athletes. The school endeavors to minimize these expenses and provides financial assistance to ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate.



Practice Times

The coach of each sport, along with the Athletics Director, will determine the team practice schedule. Weekend practices should be expected and will be determined and communicated by the coach. There may be circumstances where the practice times require adjustment. Parents and student-athletes will be notified of the change in day and/or times in those cases. Practices will be held rain or shine unless the coach and/or Athletics Director cancel the practice or game.

Non-religious, early dismissal school days will follow the same regular practice schedule. For example, if track practice is held at 4:00 pm each regular school day, then track will continue to practice at 4:00 pm on a 12:30 pm or 2:15 pm early dismissal school day. The coach will notify the parents and student-athletes in advance if there is a change to the practice schedule on these days. Track, Golf, and Tennis will have particular practice schedules due to the nature of the sport and/or practice facility availability. The coach will communicate these schedules to student-athletes and parents before the season.

Attendance

Attendance at all games and practice sessions is mandatory for all team members. If a student-athlete is unable to attend a practice, meeting, or athletic contest, the coach must be notified at least one day in advance of the event. Any student-athlete with more than three absences (excused or unexcused) may face consequences such as limited playing time or removal from the team, at the discretion of the coaching staff.

Practices are held rain or shine unless otherwise noted by the coach. If a student-athlete is absent from school or arrives after 10:00 am, they may not be eligible to practice or participate in a game scheduled for that day. It is expected that any player who misses practice (excused or unexcused) will make up any missed work as determined by the coach.

Leaving an athletic event without permission from the Head Coach is considered a serious offense. Any student-athlete who does so will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension from the team.

Religious Commitments:

Dallas International School recognizes and respects the religious diversity of its student-athletes. We understand that students may occasionally need to miss practice or games to fulfill religious



obligations. It is important for student-athletes to communicate their religious commitments with their coach prior to the season to ensure mutual understanding and accommodation.

While every effort is made to accommodate religious observances, student-athletes are expected to adhere to team schedules and commitments to the fullest extent possible. Any absence due to religious reasons will be handled with sensitivity and understanding, and student-athletes will remain accountable to the team's standards and expectations.

Holidays:

To maintain team cohesion and competitive readiness, student-athletes may be scheduled for practices or games during non-religious holidays (e.g., Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer Break, Labor Day, etc.). Coaches will communicate these schedules well in advance to allow families to plan accordingly. Any inquiries regarding scheduling should be directed to the coach or Athletics Director. Student-athletes will not be required to participate in practices or games on days of religious observance.

Illness & Injury

All injuries must be promptly reported to the coach and/or Athletics Director to ensure appropriate action can be taken to prevent further harm. When injured, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Notify the coach and/or Athletics Director of your injury before leaving the field, court, or floor.
2. Seek treatment for any injury, regardless of its severity.
3. No student-athlete should miss practice without prior permission from a doctor.
4. Attendance at team practices is mandatory for all student-athletes.
5. A follow-up notice from the doctor is required to lift any physical restrictions imposed.
6. If feeling sick, nauseous, dizzy, or overheated, inform the coach and/or Athletics Director immediately.

Classwork:

Student-athletes are responsible for completing and submitting classwork due on days they miss for scheduled athletic events. They must also promptly make up any missed assignments. If a student-athlete returns late from a contest or misses a class before a test due to athletics, rescheduling the test is at the teacher's discretion. If a student-athlete needs to leave early on a



testing day, they must arrange a makeup test with the teacher.

Practice Gear:

Student-athletes are required to wear sport-specific or school-specific practice gear as communicated by the coach before each season. All mandatory game safety equipment must be worn during practices and games. Failure to bring necessary equipment may result in non-participation. The use of mouthguards during contact sports practices and contests is strongly recommended.

Uniforms / Warm-ups:

Athletic uniforms or warm-ups may only be worn during interscholastic competitions, practices, and on approved home game days with school administration approval. Uniform care should involve laundering in warm water without bleach. Ironing and very hot dryers may damage uniforms. Student-athletes are accountable for all issued items and must replace lost or damaged items.

Dropping/Dismissal from a Sport:

While discouraged, student-athletes may choose to leave a sport at any time during or after the season. The process includes discussing the decision with the coach and possibly involving a conference with parents, the athlete, coach, and Athletics Director. Proper checkout procedures and equipment return are mandatory. Participation in the next season's sport may be restricted if a student-athlete leaves the previous season's team.

Travel:

Dallas International School typically provides transportation to away contests. Student-athletes must travel with their team unless alternative arrangements are approved by the coach with parental consent. Varsity teams may have overnight trips during postseason tournaments, with arrangements overseen by the Athletics Director and adherence to school rules.

STUDENT-ATHLETES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE GROUP WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN A PARENT UNLESS PARENTAL PERMISSION IS RECEIVED.

Whether in or out of town, on or off the field/court, DIS student-athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of decorum.



Season Awards Banquet:

Coaches determine season-ending awards based on performance and contribution to the team. Team-specific and TAPPS/DIS awards are distributed at the end-of-year sports banquet, celebrating each team's achievements and overall program success.

Practice / Game Cancellation:

Coaches notify teams and parents of practice cancellations promptly. Game cancellations are typically decided by the host school, with alternative arrangements communicated as needed. When a game is canceled, the coach may choose to hold a practice in its place. If the coach chooses to hold a practice in place of the canceled game, he/she will communicate this information to the parents and student-athletes as soon as possible.

Substance Abuse:

Violations of the school's substance abuse policy result in immediate suspension from team activities pending review by the coach, Athletics Director, and school administrators. Disciplinary actions may include season suspension or expulsion from the athletic program.

Hazing:

Dallas International School strictly prohibits hazing in any form, with severe consequences for violations. This policy applies regardless of consent and encompasses initiation into or affiliation with any school-affiliated organization.

Communication between Parents & Coaches:

Each sports season begins with a parent meeting to meet the coach, ask questions, and receive season information. Coaches communicate regularly through in-person meetings, email, and designated communication apps. Parental concerns are addressed through a structured conflict resolution process involving direct communication with coaches,



escalation to the Athletics Director if needed, and, if necessary, further administrative review.

Communication Tools:

Coaches will maintain regular communication with parents and student-athletes through in-person meetings, email, The Band App, or TeamSnap. For emergencies, coaches will provide a dedicated contact number.

Concerns or Issues:

Step 1: One of the most significant opportunities for student-athletes is learning skills for effective conflict resolution. Student-athletes are encouraged to address concerns directly with their coach. It is rewarding for all parties involved when student-athletes and coaches can collaboratively find agreeable solutions to preempt issues from escalating.

Step 2: If a student-athlete and coach cannot resolve an issue, parents may then contact the coach. Parents should arrange discussions at a mutually convenient time. It's advised that upset parents wait at least 24 hours after an event before initiating contact. Parents should refrain from approaching coaches or other parents immediately before, during, or after practices or games. Taking time to reflect and communicate respectfully ensures more productive dialogue and enhances the overall experience for everyone.

It is not appropriate for parents to request feedback from coaches regarding team strategy, playing time, or other student-athletes. However, it is appropriate for parents to contact coaches concerning their child's behavior, skill development, and physical well-being.

Step 3: If the issue remains unresolved after discussion with the coach, parents and coaches may escalate the matter to the Athletics Director.

Step 4: If the Athletics Director is unable to provide a satisfactory resolution, parents may then contact the appropriate administrator, Patty de Villiers, Head of Secondary School.



2024-2025 Athletic Season Start Dates

Fall: Aug. 26, 2024 / Winter: Nov. 1, 2024 / Spring: Mar. 1, 2025

To be cleared for each sport, complete the following five steps:

1. Complete all medical forms & physical exams in the Athletics Forms Folder.

Link to all required forms: [DIS "Athletic Forms" Folder](#)

A parent and doctor must complete the Athletic Pre-Participation Forms before the start date of your sport.

All athletic medical forms should be submitted to the Athletics Director.

2. Register online via Smart Tuition/ Blackbaud

Registration for all seasons is open and will be done through Smart Tuition. Parents and their student-athletes must visit the site, create an account and register for each sport they intend to play. *IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do not register for all sports — only for those you plan to play. You can log back into your account to add a sport later.*

3. Mandatory Parent and Player Meetings. For all High School Fall season student-athletes playing Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Swimming, and Golf, your mandatory parent, the player's meeting is **TBD** in the MPR. For all other high school and middle school student-athletes, your meeting will be Monday, **TBD**, in the MPR. *You will only be required to attend once a year.*

4. Register through Rank One Sport

www.rankonesport.com This is a new requirement from TAPPS. Any student-athlete that is not registered or if a student-athlete has an incomplete profile will **NOT** be eligible to participate in any sport. This will require some paperwork to be signed by parents.

All Dallas International High School student-athletes are required to register through Rankone.



DIS WV Athletics Handbook

Signature of Acknowledgement 2024-2025

We have read the information provided on the DIS Athletic Website under Handbook regarding Dallas International School's Athletic Handbook Information. We agree to abide by the policies and regulations as stated in the Handbook. We understand that failure to comply with the policies and regulations set forth by the school and athletics program may result in the loss of participation time and/or removal from the athletics program.

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

STUDENT-ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE
