

Dutchman Creek

Athletic Handbook



Dutchman Creek Middle School

WHERE CHAMPIONS PLAY

COACHING PHILOSOPHY AT DUTCHMAN CREEK

The coaches at Dutchman Creek work to develop the physical, scholastic, and social potential of our student-athletes. We view interscholastic athletics as an extension of the educational process where lessons on teamwork, work ethic, sportsmanship, and other life lessons are learned. We employ sound fundamental coaching strategies developed by attending coaching clinics, observing high school and college practices, and talking with colleagues about the coaching profession. We believe each Dutchman Creek athlete has a role on the team; from a front line player to a back-up role each person is important to the total team concept and we coach that concept to our athletes. We also believe in winning and will play every game to win, but will not compromise our belief in sportsmanship or do anything which might embarrass Dutchman Creek Middle School in order to win.

ATHLETIC TEAMS

Dutchman Creek will be a member of the York County Middle School Athletic Conference (YCMSAC) and the SC High School League (SCHSL) and will field teams in all conference sports which include: 7th and 8th grade girls volleyball, 7th and 8th grade football, 7th and 8th grade girls basketball, 7th and 8th grade boys basketball, wrestling, boys track, girls track, and softball. We will also have Fall and Winter cheerleading.

ATHLETIC AWARDS/ GPA AWARDS

We believe that an athlete's effort should be rewarded. Certificates of participation will be given to all players who complete the season on a team. We discourage any award that is a most valuable type of award, but hustle awards, all conference, or sportsmanship type of awards are encouraged. The most important awards that will be given are 3.0 + GPA certificates and all coaches should stress the student athlete concept to his/her players. Each team will hold an awards ceremony at the conclusion of their season to which parents are invited.

WALL OF FAME AWARD

At Dutchman Creek we stress becoming the complete package for our student athletes meaning academics, athletics, and citizenship. Therefore, any athlete who competes on two of our teams at DCMS for two years, maintains at least a 3.75 GPA, and has zero office referrals will be enshrined into our Wall of Fame and will have their name displayed permanently on a sign to hang in our gym. If an athlete plays a sport for one of our high schools that we don't offer at DCMS for two years and one sport here for two years they are eligible provided the other criteria are met. For example, basketball here and soccer at the high school. In the event of a transfer the athlete's transfer records will be included.

TOP GATOR AWARD

Each year the athletic department and administration will choose a top male and top female athlete whose name will be displayed permanently on a sign in our gym. The qualifications will be: first meet the requirements of the Wall of Fame (EXCEPTION 3.0 GPA and secondly outstanding athletic performance by the person throughout their career at Dutchman Creek. If no one meets the qualifications the award won't be given that year.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES (FCA)

Dutchman Creek will have a huddle group for the FCA. The huddle group is voluntary for athletes, students, coaches, teachers, administrators, and staff. The FCA will meet regularly one day a week before the school day begins. The day and place will be decided once the school year begins. The group is student led with an advisor to help. Everyone is welcomed.

RAISING REVENUE

It is our goal to have an athletic program so attractive and entertaining to the student body and community that we will raise a substantial amount just by gate receipts. However, gate receipts alone will not cover our needs. We will sell concessions at all home games as well as DCMS athletic apparel. We, as a coaching staff, will also solicit corporate sponsors whose company logo will be placed on signs on our outdoor fields and in our gyms. Any and all ideas for raising money are welcomed: examples, hosting jamborees and tournaments, hosting coaching clinics, having a summer day camp and anything else a coach can dream up.

PURCHASING EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES

All purchases for athletic equipment/supplies must go through the Athletic Director. At the conclusion of each season, the head coach will determine the needs for his/her program and send them to the Athletic Director.

TEAM TRAVEL/SCHEDULES

1. Game schedules are created by our conference president to coordinate with all schools in the conference and meet SCHSL rules. The SCHSL limits the number of contests, number of days a week teams are allowed to play, season dates, number of tournaments allowed, etc. See www.schsl.org for more information.
2. Changes to any schedule should be made through the athletic director.
3. Buses/drivers are scheduled by the athletic director.
4. Officials are scheduled by the conference president. Coaches should have in hand a travel list prior to your first away contest. The list should include the following information for everyone on the trip—name, parent/emergency contact and phone number(s). A generic form is located at the end of this handbook. Only players, student managers and coaches may ride the bus. Athletes are expected to ride the team bus back to the school unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach for the student athlete to leave the event with a parent. In this event, a written request from the parent

should be submitted the head coach for his/her approval and signature at least 24 hrs. prior to the event.

5. Whether at home or away, coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players on and off the court. Coaches should remain with their team while sitting in the stands. *Players should remain seated at all times and should not ever yell out of the window or place or throw objects out of the window while on the bus.*

COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES (SOME OF THEM)

1. Turn kids on to athletics. We will do our fair share of winning but we also want our student-athletes to enjoy it. Work their tails off at practice but make it fun!!
2. Email scores to the webmaster of the conference and make announcements at school to recognize our athletes. Steve Laval is the webmaster this year.
3. Teaching is a very demanding profession on its own. When you add coaching responsibilities to that, it becomes even more demanding. Do not get overwhelmed. Organize and plan both in the classroom and in your sport. Be a great teacher and a great coach. Never go to practice unprepared.
4. KNOW YOUR SPORT! .Communicate with Northwestern/South Pointe/RHHS coaches as much as possible and go observe high school practices within your sport. Plan for and provide a safe practice environment for your athletes.
5. Act professionally at all times. Profanity and/or other inappropriate language are forbidden. Coaches should always dress and act in a professional manner when dealing with other school personnel, student-athletes and parents.
6. Coaches are expected to meet with all parents as soon as possible. Coaches should make clear to parents/student-athletes all expectations and policies associated with membership on the team.
7. Check with teachers regularly about kids on your team. Do not be surprised at report card time. Demand excellence from your student-athletes both on the court and in the classroom.
8. Do not speak negatively towards/or about other coaches, schools, teams, etc. The only program we can do anything about is ours. We are interested in building Dutchman Creek up and not tearing down someone else.
9. Any and all ideas to make us a better athletic program are always welcomed. Please share ideas and any problems/issues regarding the athletic programs at DCMS with the athletic directors before discussing with others.

10. Take care of our facilities, equipment, uniforms, etc. We are fortunate to have the necessary equipment needed to do our jobs. Equipment and uniforms are expensive and not easily replaced, so take care of it. We want them to get worn out from use, not abuse or neglect. Athletes will not take any equipment home. NO uniforms will be worn during the school day and NO uniforms will be taken home with athletes.
11. Always remember you are a representative of Dutchman Creek Middle School and the Rock Hill school district. Any fines issued by the SCHSL will be paid by the coach.

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE (SCHSL)

The SCHSL is the governing body of interscholastic sports at DCMS and most other public school facilities in South Carolina. All coaches need to be familiar with the SCHSL rules which are available at www.schsl.org. Many, not all, of these rules will be highlighted in this handbook. Please be sure to visit this website and familiarize yourself with these rules.

PARTICIPATION/ELIGIBILITY

Coaches, in collaboration with the athletic administration, are responsible for ensuring that all athletes meet eligibility requirements within each sport.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

As a member of the SC High School League we must follow the rule of only 7th and 8th grade students being eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics. Students must have been promoted to their current grade. RHSD guidelines require that middle school students pass all four of their core courses to be promoted. Students who have been retained or seated in the current grade are not eligible during first semester. A student who failed either 7th or 8th grade is eligible during second semester if he/she has satisfactorily passed first semester work. Athletes who are not meeting promotion requirements at the end of first semester are not eligible for participation in spring sports offered during second semester. A student who becomes 15 years of age prior to July 1 of the current school year will not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletic programs at the middle school. Grade level counselors can give you a list of those who were retained, seated, etc. *Coaches should check with grade level counselors before submitting eligibility to the SCHSL to ensure every athlete's eligibility.*

FORMS REQUIRED TO TRY-OUT AND PARTICIPATE

For every school year moving forward student-athletes and their parents/ guardians must submit all athletic eligibility paperwork online at www.planeths.com. Hard copies will not be accepted. See the instructions at the end of this handbook for further instructions if needed. These forms are located on our School Website on the school's Athletics Home page.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS BY TEAM MEMBERS

Athletes are expected to attend practice everyday unless absent from school. If an athlete gets sick and need to leave school they are expected to tell their coach before leaving. If a player is injured, he/she is expected to attend practice unless other arrangements have been made with the coach. Unexcused absences or tardiness should result in some form of punishment determined by the head coach. After **2** unexcused absences, a player will be removed from the team. Players who have an excused absence from school are permitted to practice if physically able. On game days, according to the SCHSL, players must be present half the day in order to be eligible to play. A half day of school is by 11:45. Coaches should keep a record of absences and tardiness.

PLAYER CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

Despite the negative examples set by many professional and collegiate athletes we expect our student-athletes to behave appropriately in the classroom as well as on the field. For most of our athletes behavior will not be an issue. However, for some, problems may arise that need addressing. We believe that kicking an athlete off a team is a last resort because we are in the business of helping kids. It's easy to kick one off. Instead, we want to go the extra mile to help a problem athlete. Remember, these kids are not on scholarship where they are properly fed, housed, and clothed. They come to us with a host of problems and we need to try to "fix" it. However, we are not going to excuse misbehavior either. We believe in extra work after practice, suspension for a game or more, reassignment to a manager, or any creative means to keep kids involved. After such measures have been taken then a coach may be left with no option but dismiss a kid which would be permissible. Below are consequences for serious misbehavior:

DCMS ATHLETIC CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

If a student has a suspension (Behavior Intervention assigned by an administrator or OSS), they may not participate in the game or attend a school function that afternoon/evening. They must attend practice for Behavior Intervention. Students may not attend practice during OSS.

1. We expect that all students will behave appropriately while they are representing DCMS. Students must abide by all school regulations when participating in sporting activities as a member of the team. Students who fail to do this are subject to disciplinary action from the administrators and/or coaches.
2. An athlete with a Work Detail assignment will be handled at the coach's discretion
3. An athlete who has been assigned BIC by an administrator on a game day may not participate in the game.
4. An athlete who receives OSS will serve a one game suspension but must practice after the suspension has been served.
5. An athlete who receives 2 OSS infractions in one season may not play for the rest of that season.

6. An athlete that has been assigned to BIC on three separate occasions for three separate infractions are removed from the team.
7. Academic standards for participation on athletic teams sanctioned by the SCHSL will be administered in accordance to league regulations.

During the school year, grade level administrators should communicate to coaches in regard to a student's behavioral problem each time a consequence is administered during school. (Team rosters should be given to administrators by coaches.) After each infraction, the possibility of removal from a team should be made clear to the student by both the grade level administrator and the coach, either separately or together. No student is to be removed from a team until the grade level administrator and coach meet privately and reach that decision. Upon reaching such a decision the parents should be notified by the coach. The coach has total control of dismissal for situations such as missing too many practices, disrespect to coaches, etc. All BIC assignments are based on a student being assigned by an administrator.

SOCIAL MEDIA/PLAYER INTERACTIONS

At Dutchman Creek Middle School, our athletic program strives to provide a safe and positive environment for our student athletes. For this reason, our athletic program has a NO tolerance policy for any negative social media posts from student athletes or other members of their family. Failure to comply, will result in the disciplinary actions described above. However, we welcome the opportunities to post positive and encouraging statements about our athletes, coaches, and parents. Our school's athletic Instagram account is [dcmsathleticsrh](#).

SUPERVISING ATHLETES

1. Middle school athletes must be supervised at all times. All coaches should report directly to your player's area immediately after school and remain there until all athletes are out of this area. Athletes must be supervised in the locker rooms. *This may require you to go back to your classroom after your practice or game.*
2. Athletes should be instructed by coaches to report immediately to a designated area after school. There should be no loitering in the hallways by athletes. Athletes who are caught loitering in the hallways face the possibility of disciplinary actions.
3. Designate an area for your players to meet their rides. Be sure the area is safe and does not disrupt the practice of another team. **COACHES ARE NOT TO LEAVE UNTIL ALL ATHLETES HAVE BEEN PICKED UP !!!!!!!!!!!**
4. Student athletes MAY NOT leave school grounds before, during or after athletic practices/contests to go anywhere. Parents are to pick up athletes on school grounds in the designated area.
5. In the extreme event that a coach must be absent from practice, only a Rock Hill School District Three employee may cover practice or coach a game. Athletes may not be supervised by volunteer coaches or parents.

6. Volunteer coaches must be approved by district, school and athletic administration before working with athletes at DCMS.
7. All coaches should be the first to arrive and the last one to leave a practice or game. Be sure all equipment is properly stored and outside doors are locked before leaving.

EQUIPMENT

Athletic equipment is very expensive and we must do everything humanly possible to keep it in good working order and to never loose any equipment or uniforms.

1. Coaches are responsible for maintaining all school issued uniforms and equipment. Student athletes will be provided all equipment needed except shoes, socks, jocks and sports bra.
2. Equipment should be numbered (if not already done) before it is assigned to student-athletes. Do not assign equipment to athletes who do not have a current physical and parent's permission slip on file.
3. Athletes should be assigned a locker. Make sure that they understand not to tell anyone their locker combination.
4. No school issued equipment is to be taken home by the athletes for any reason.
5. Game uniforms, and equipment should be issued on game days only and collected at the games conclusion. Be sure to check in all game uniforms, warm-ups, etc. So that you are accountable for them. Do not allow managers to check in these items with out you supervising them closely.
6. At the conclusion of the season, all school issued equipment, practice uniforms, etc. should be collected, laundered and properly stored. This should be done immediately following the season. Locks should be collected and lockers cleaned out completely. Students are responsible for paying for lost uniforms, locks, etc. An inventory sheet of all equipment must be turned in to the athletic director.

LAUNDRY

1. Coaches are responsible for washing, drying, folding and storing all practice and game uniforms. Managers are not to be given these responsibilities. Clean uniforms should be stored properly. Do not leave uniforms sitting around in the locker room or coaches' offices.
2. All uniforms should be washed in cold water and dried on air only settings.
3. Practice uniforms should be washed regularly for proper hygiene. Game uniforms should be laundered completely by the conclusion of the next school day. This may require you to come in early, before school or stay later, after school.

4. Remember that others need to use the washers and dryers too. Be courteous!! If you are the first to the washer, you should be the first to the dryer and the first to fold. Coaches should be willing to help each other as far as moving uniforms from the washer to the dryer, but do not always depend on others to fold and put away your uniforms.

SHOES

Student athletes are responsible for providing their own shoes. However, if an athlete is unable to provide his/her own shoes we will create a way for them to get what they need. We do not want shoes or any equipment to keep someone from participating in athletics. Players/coaches that choose to buy shoes as a group will be responsible for paying for those shoes. The athletic department cannot afford to purchase shoes for athletes and will not accept any responsibility for paying for shoes ordered by coaches/players. Coaches should be sure that players have paid for shoes prior to ordering the shoes. Cleats are not to be worn into any area of the buildings.

GAME DAY PROCEDURES

1. On game days, playing areas should be set up during planning if possible, or immediately after school. Coaches should supervise and monitor all set up so that there are no student injuries or damage to equipment.
2. The football field should be lined off prior to game day. Down markers, pylon, cones marking off team areas by 4:00 on game days. We will usually line off the game field on Tuesday and practice field on Thursday.
3. Game day the field needs to be set up before the end of school (planning periods)
At the games conclusion the field shall be immediately taken down.
4. Basketball, volleyball and wrestling set up should be complete by 4:15 on game days and includes:
 - a. Sweeping the floor with a dust mop.
 - b. Putting up appropriate goals.
 - c. Put in the bleachers on one side of the gym. Setting up chairs for teams, table and chairs for score keepers and gate keepers and setting up the scoreboard, shot clock, etc.
 - d. Setting up the volleyball net and wrestling mats. (Both should be closely supervised by coaches.)
 - e. Unlocking restrooms to be used by spectators.
 - f. Basketball only-setting up two chairs with two towels, and water for referees.
4. The cleanup after a game includes:
 - a. Putting all chairs back onto the chair rack neatly and returning the cart to the closet
 - b. Empty coolers with water in them and returning them on the carts to the girls athletic dressing room side.
 - c. Putting down any basketball goals that were rolled up.
 - d. Pushing in all bleachers. (Remove trash from bleachers before pushing in.
 - e. Disconnecting and storing the scoreboard, possession arrow, etc.

- f. Storing any other equipment left in the gym after the game.
 - g. Locking all doors that lead outside the gym. Coaches should walk through all locker rooms and check for lost items etc. before leaving.
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- 5. Basketball, volleyball, and wrestling-On game days, all coaches should be in the gym with their team immediately after school to help supervise the area. Coaches should also be available to greet opposing teams when they arrive and show them their dressing and restroom facilities.
 - 6. Coaches, who do not have a game that day, may be needed to help supervise games.
 - 7. Locker rooms should be locked at all times when not in use. DCMS will use athletic locker rooms and visiting teams will use the PE locker rooms
 - 8. After games coaches should go the locker room with their team to be sure there are no problems with their team or with the opposing team.
 - 9. After a game or match, coaches are to make sure that the referees are escorted to their cars to prevent spectators from harassing or physically harming them. Oftentimes, this will be handled by the assigned administrator or athletic director.

PRACTICE TIMES

Coaches should keep regular practice times (as best as possible) and should practice each school day. Per SCHSL rules, no middle school practice should go longer than 2 hours. It is permissible to give the athletes a Friday off if you deem they have earned it after a hard week of work. Don't call off practices in the middle of the day. There are plenty of worthwhile things you can do inside in case of inclement weather. Coaches should not schedule personal activities during practice time. Naturally, from time to time something will occur where we may have to cover for a coach who needs to miss, which is fine. However, don't take classes, etc. during the season if it causes you to be away from your coaching responsibilities. Girls' basketball teams will practice from 4:00-5:30. Boys basketball teams will report to study hall at 3:45 and then to the gym with their coach at the appropriate time to practice.

Hard work BEATS talent

When talent doesn't work HARD!!!

GO GATORS!!!



Player Contact Information

Player Name _____

Address _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Contact Numbers

Home _____

Cell # _____

Players Cell # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Dutchman Creek

I have read and understand the player/parent contract.

Player Signature

Parent Signature

ArbiterAthlete.Com

STUDENT-ATHLETE ONLINE ELIGIBILITY REGISTRATION PROCESS

For the 2018-2019 school year student-athletes and their parents/guardians must submit all athletic eligibility paperwork online at www.arbiterathlete.com. Hard copies will not be accepted.

To complete this process the student-athlete & parent/guardian should follow these steps:

If you already have a PlanetHS account your account is still on Arbiterathlete.com

- Login into your student or parent account.
- Scroll to the bottom of the screen and click on:
 1. Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation—History Form: Update digitally or upload new form.
 - * Must be digitally signed by logging into student account and parent account
 2. Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation—Physical Examination Form: Upload your physical form that has been signed by a licensed medical professional.
 - * Physicals for the 2018-2019 school year must be dated on or after April 1, 2018
 - * Must be digitally signed by logging into student account and parent account
 3. Parent's Permission & Acknowledgement: Must be digitally signed by logging into student account and parent account.
 4. Birth certificate: Will remain uploaded from previous year
 5. Concussion and Student Athletes: Must be digitally signed by logging into student account and parent account.

Student account profile information must be entered as presented on the birth certificate.

To set-up an Arbiterathlete account:

1. Go to www.arbiterathlete.com
2. Click on the SIGN UP button
3. Select account type—
 - STUDENT select STUDENT
 - PARENT/GUARDIAN select PARENT

Fill-In all fields/information

- Parent/Student School = School that will be attended for the 2018-2019 school year

Both student and parent/guardian must create an account.

4. Once STUDENT and PARENT both have created an arbiter athlete account:
 - Login to PARENT account
 - Click Athletic Forms
 - Click Athletic Participation
 - Scroll down and click LINK ACCOUNTS and enter the students email address.
 - Login to STUDENT account
 - Click Athletic Forms
 - Click Athletic Participation
 - Scroll down and click LINK ACCOUNTS and enter the PARENT email address.
5. Both the PARENT and STUDENT must accept the invite to link accounts by clicking APPROVE.
6. On the PRE-PARTICIPATION PAGE—CLICK ALL sports that the student plans to be a participant for the school year.
7. Complete the PARENT PERMISSION form.
8. Complete the CONCUSSION acknowledgement form. NOTE both parent and student must read and initial. This occurs under each login.
9. Upload a digital copy of state issued BIRTH CERTIFICATE. Ensure file is clear and readable.
10. Complete PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION-HISTORY form.
11. Upload digital copy of PHYSICAL FORM. Ensure the file is clear and readable. The physician's signature & date must be visible.

NOTE: Middle school students that participate in High School Athletics should put DCMS and the high school under schools

PLAYING FOR ONE TEAM (FOOTBALL ONLY)

The rules and by-laws that are put in place by the South Carolina High School League are for the safety and well-being of every student athlete. Pertaining to football, no student athlete is allowed to participate on two different teams in the same season. In Article 3: Section 7, Letter F of the SCHSL by-laws it states “A student whose name appears on a member school's football certificate of eligibility shall not practice with nor participate on another football team for which he has been certified. This restriction includes tryouts. Violation of this regulation will render the student ineligible in football for the remainder of the present school year. Any student in the uniform of and permitted in the bench area of a competing team is participating within the meaning of this section. **If a student athlete is found in violation of the Article listed above, the legal guardian(s) of the student athlete will be financially responsible for any fine/fees issued by the SCHSL.**

***By signing below, I understand and will adhere to Article 3: Section 7, Letter F of the SCHSL. I also understand I will be held financially responsible of any fines/fees if a violation is discovered.**

Parent's First & Last Name (PRINT)

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's First & Last Name (PRINT)

Date

Student's Signature

Date