

Students who represent Diablo Valley College in athletic competition are expected to:

- Acknowledge that participation in intercollegiate athletics is a privilege, not a right;
- Demonstrate good citizenship, sportsmanship, honesty and integrity on the field or court, on the campus, in the classroom and in the community;
- Attend class regularly;
- Develop and follow an academic plan to obtain a certificate, an Associate degree, attain transfer status, etc.;
- Demonstrate and understand that participation in athletics is contingent upon adherence to all Commission on Athletics (COA), BIG 7/Northern California Football Association (NCFA) and DVC athletic department regulations;
- Acknowledge that compliance with the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct is required for participation in athletics at Diablo Valley College; and
- Acknowledge that any violation of the code will result in appropriate progressive discipline as determined by the head coach, Athletic Director, Dean of Student Life and/or the Student Discipline Committee.

#### Citizenship Responsibilities

In addition to academic responsibilities, the athletic department takes a leadership role in requiring that student-athletes display good citizenship. Therefore, each student-athlete is expected to:

- Show respect for all members of the DVC community;
- Demonstrate good citizenship and sportsmanship with fellow students;
- Present a positive public demeanor at all times, on and off campus; and
- Act as a role model for young people and other student-athletes.

#### Discrimination/Harassment

Discrimination or harassment in any form is a violation of this Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. Discrimination is defined as any act, be it written, verbal or physical, which is based on prejudice or bias. Harassment is the creation of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive situation through verbal, written, or physical conduct. Both discrimination and harassment can be manifested in many different ways. It can, for example, be directed at gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, national origin, religion, disability or physical characteristics.

Student-athletes at DVC should experience an environment free of discrimination and harassment. Student-athletes who believe they are the target or victim of such acts by someone in the DVC community should talk to one of the college EEOC compliance officers (the VP Student Services at ext. 2232, or the Dean of Student Life at ext. 2445), their coach, the athletic director, or the athletic counselor. Options are available and these people stand ready to help.

## Good Sportsmanship

Our student-athletes are ambassadors for DVC and enjoy certain privileges with such status. They also bear the responsibility of behaving with dignity and good sportsmanship. Student-athletes will conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship during practices, games and competition. Behavior must at all times reflect the high standards of honor and dignity that should characterize participation in competitive sports. The student-athletes will conduct themselves in a manner reflecting positively on the reputation of DVC both on and off the “field of play” and when traveling and participating at other institutions. Our objective is for student-athletes to always maintain an attitude of respect toward opponents. As models of good sportsmanship, student-athletes should look for ways to encourage and appreciate quality play and effort, regardless of whether it is exhibited by a teammate or an opponent.

While intense and emotional game action and conduct is certainly a reasonable part of intercollegiate sports contests, the intent of our student-athletes should never be to demean the dignity and individuality of the opponent, the official or of the athletic contest. To that end, our student-athletes are expressly prohibited from engaging in the following behavior at any intercollegiate sporting events:

- Fighting opponents, fans or officials;
- Taunting opponents or their fans;
- Inappropriate “celebrations” with the intent to demean opponents;
- Disrespectful attitude toward opponents;
- Inciting crowd hostility in an unsportsmanlike manner; or
- Profane and vulgar language and/or gestures.

## Health and Medical Responsibilities

Student-athletes are expected to keep themselves in top physical condition and are responsible for continuing training programs prescribed by medical and coaching staffs.

Alcohol consumption is highly discouraged at all times. California state law sets minimum age for purchase and drinking of alcoholic beverages at 21 years of age. Under age drinking is a violation of the Code of Conduct, as well as California law. Even students who are of the legal drinking age must abide by Commission On Athletics and Student Code rules and regulations relating to alcohol and drug use. The use of illegal and/or “performance enhancing” drugs is totally inconsistent with the purpose of intercollegiate athletics and creates a danger to the health and safety of student-athletes and their teammates.

Student-athletes are specifically cautioned against illegal or unauthorized use of alcohol, drugs and other intoxicants

The use of any form of tobacco, alcohol, and/or other controlled substances by any participant (student, faculty, staff, or official) during California community college-sponsored athletic activities is prohibited. (COA Constitution & Bylaws)

The State Athletic Constitution prohibits the above-mentioned actions, and the athletic department will not tolerate any violations. Student-athletes who violate of this policy are subject

to suspension or dismissal from the team, at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director or the Student Discipline Committee.

### Travel Expectations

When traveling as official representatives of DVC to athletic competitions (including travel time to away contests), events and appearances, and any other event affiliated with the athletic department or DVC, student-athletes' actions should reflect favorably on the College, their team, and themselves. Student-athletes are expected to adhere to their particular team's dress code, nutritional needs, team rules and curfew.

### College and Team Policies/State and Conference Rules

Compliance with individual sport team rules, as established by the head coach and/or athletic administration, is required of each student-athlete, as is compliance with the DVC Student Code of Conduct (available on the web at: [www.dvc.edu/policies/conduct-code](http://www.dvc.edu/policies/conduct-code) <http://www.dvc.edu/union/CodeAll.htm> ).

All student-athletes are required to adhere to applicable Commission On Athletics rules and policies as addressed in the COA Form 1 which is administered annually prior to eligibility certification. Additionally, all conference rules and policies must be followed explicitly.

### Procedures for Handling Violations of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

1) Verifying an Allegation of a Code Violation - The Athletic Director is primarily responsible for reviewing the allegation of violation. The head coach is responsible for assisting in the gathering of information and facts (evidence) to determine whether a violation has occurred. The Athletic Director is responsible for keeping the student-athlete(s) informed of the ongoing investigation.

2) Penalty – If the Athletic Director determines that, in fact, a violation has occurred, in a timely manner the head coach will recommend appropriate discipline. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to: mandated counseling sessions, ineligibility to practice, ineligibility to start in contests, sitting out contests or portions of contests, suspension and/or continued suspension from the team and dismissal from the team. The penalty for any violation must be approved by the Athletic Director.

In those cases involving Commission On Athletics (COA) and BIG 7/Northern California Football Association (NCFA) violations, once it has been determined that a violation has occurred, the student-athlete must be suspended from all team activities pending resolution of the issues. Suspension may not be removed until the penalty has been applied and completed as approved by the Athletic Director or other authority.

3) Right of Appeal – In violations that result in suspension or dismissal from an athletic team, the student-athlete may request a hearing with the Student Discipline Committee to examine the nature of the violation and the subsequent disciplinary action. This hearing must be held in a timely manner.

### Definitions:

- Suspension – removal from all team activities for a period of time not to exceed the season of sport

- Dismissal – permanent removal from all team affiliations and activities

NOTE: It is incumbent on the coaches to abide by and enforce the various rules and procedures set forth in this Student-Athlete Code of Conduct.

#### Procedures for Dealing with Criminal Violations of Local, State and Federal Laws

- 1) Charge of Misdemeanor – If charged with a misdemeanor, a student-athlete may be suspended from athletic participation by the head coach or Athletic Director, pending the Athletic Director's investigation. Suspension may or may not be continued at the discretion of the Athletic Director pending legal disposition of the charges.
- 2) Conviction of Misdemeanor – Once a student-athlete has been convicted of a misdemeanor, the student-athlete will be suspended from his or her team until the Athletic Director determines the disciplinary action to be taken. Appropriate disciplinary action may include such progressive discipline as mandated counseling sessions, ineligibility to practice, ineligibility to start in contests, sitting out contests, or continued suspension from the team. The Athletic Director or designee may elect to confer with the Dean of Student Life or other college officials.
- 3) Charge of Felony – If charged with a felony, a student-athlete will be automatically suspended from athletics participation by the head coach or Athletic Director, pending the Athletic Director's investigation. Suspension may or may not be continued at the discretion of the Athletic Director pending legal disposition of the charges.
- 4) Conviction of Felony – If convicted of a felony, a student-athlete will be immediately dismissed from his or her athletic team. Any appeals of this action will be addressed by the Student Discipline Committee.

#### Student Discipline Committee

The Student Discipline Committee is assigned by the president to conduct disciplinary appeal hearings at the college. The Committee consists of one faculty member (appointed by the DVC Faculty Senate), one student (appointed by the Associated Students of DVC) and one administrator or manager, appointed by the president and acting as committee chair. One uninvolved member of the athletic coaching staff will also attend all appeal hearings, serving in a non-voting, advisory capacity.

For additional information about the appeal hearing procedures, see the DVC Student Code of Conduct, Sections X, XI, XII and XIII, available on the web at: [www.dvc.edu/policies/conduct-code](http://www.dvc.edu/policies/conduct-code) <http://www.dvc.edu/union/CodeAll.htm> or in print at the Student Life office in the Lesher Student Union building.