

STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK

Welcome to Dakota County Technical College Blue Knights Athletics. Athletics is one of many student life activities made available to DCTC students. Completing the enclosed forms is required for any current student to be considered for participation in the athletics program.

**Eligibility**

Eligibility requirements for Blue Knights Athletics are established by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and Dakota County Technical College (DCTC). The following requirements must be met for a student athlete to be eligible for intercollegiate athletics:

1. Complete the admission steps for acceptance to DCTC.
2. Complete financial aid paperwork, (FAFSA.gov) and/ or National Letter of Intent/Scholarship, if applicable.
3. Meet all NJCAA requirements for freshman and/or transfer eligibility, or if a second season player must have completed a minimum of 24 credits with a 2.0 or higher grade point average (GPA). See the athletic department if you have questions on your eligibility.
4. **Insurance -** As per Minnesota State College and Universities (MnSCU) Board Policy, **students participating in intercollegiate athletics** **are required to maintain health insurance** through a plan or rider that includes coverage for participation in intercollegiate athletics. If you do not have health insurance, you will be responsible for obtaining coverage.
5. **Contact an athletics staff member or the college health office if you need to obtain insurance for the athletic season**
6. **Physicals –** Each student athlete is required to have an annual physical examination. Physical exams will be provided to athletes as part of preseason required meetings and clearance. If you choose to gain your own physical, you will be required to use forms for your medical doctor to sign. You will be informed by the athletics department once you are cleared to participate.
7. Read, understand, and submit the required information enclosed.

**In addition to eligibility requirements, IF YOU DROP BELOW 12 CREDITS DURING THE SEASON OF COMPETITION YOU ARE IMMEDIATELY INELIGIBLE. Therefore, do not drop any classes before discussing it with your coach, athletic director, or advisor.**

**Equipment**

Equipment issued to you is your responsibility. You are required to take care of all issued athletic equipment and return it at the conclusion of the season. You will be charged for lost or damaged equipment due to negligence or abuse. A hold in the amount of no less than $200 will be placed on your academic record and registration ability until all equipment has been returned.

**Athletic privilege contingent on Student-Athlete Conduct**

Any violation of the NJCAA or DCTC policies may result in disciplinary action from these specific organizations. Team rules are established by each individual sport’s head coach within the parameters set by the director of athletics.

Participation in intercollegiate athletics at Dakota County Technical College is a privilege and not guaranteed by any rights. Becoming a member of one of our athletic teams brings responsibility to which you are held at a higher standard than students who are not involved in co-curricular activities. Your actions are a direct reflection on the athletic program and DCTC. When on trips, you are representing the athletic program, the college, and the community. Exemplary behavior is expected at all times and in all situations both on and off campus. Any actions which could be deemed as inappropriate or reflects negatively on the college and/or the athletics program will be considered a violation of the athletic program policy. Such behavior can result in disciplinary actions and may include dismissal from the team.

**Athletic privilege contingent on proper use of On-Line Electronic, Personal, and Public Web Sites**

Internet sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others provide individuals with an opportunity to interact with an extraordinary expansive universe of people and connect with current friends. However, postings on personal profiles, groups, and chat rooms are in the public domain and easily accessible by anyone including reporters, parents, coaches, groupies, predators and current or future employers. Once information is posted, it can be retrieved by computer savvy individuals even after it has been deleted. Internet web sites on which people socialize and exchange information have proven many times to contain information or pictures that demonstrate a violation of the DCTC Athletic Department’s Code of Conduct. For example, student athletes have been found to have written disparaging remarks about fellow athletes or department personnel, have demonstrated poor sportsmanship with comments about other schools or other school athletes, or have added pictures of themselves or teammates reflecting underage drinking or other inappropriate behavior. Student athletes are public figures and need to represent the college in the most positive manner.

**Athletic privilege contingent on proper use of Internet and Social Network**

It is the policy of the DCTC Athletic Department to prohibit the posting on any internet web site any remarks that can be considered as inflammatory, degrading, or in poor taste toward any other DCTC student, student athlete, coach, faculty, or staff member. Remarks that can be considered as inflammatory, degrading or in poor taste toward student athletes from any other institution or any other institution’s team or coaching staff or any other type of remarks or pictures that would indicate a violation of the DCTC Code of Conduct are also prohibited. Any student athlete who is found to have engaged in any of these activities will be in violation of the DCTC Athletic Code of Conduct and subject to disciplinary action.

**Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco Policy**

In compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989 (Public Law 101-226) Dakota County Technical College has adopted and implemented a program to prevent the illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees.

Dakota County Technical College prohibits students from possessing, using, and/or distributing illegal drugs and using alcohol on the college grounds or in college vehicles. Possession, use, and distribution of illegal drugs and the illegal use and distribution of alcohol are also prohibited at all college-sponsored activities which occur on or off campus.

Dakota County Technical College is committed to providing its employees, students, and visitors with a healthy environment in which to work and study. Dakota County Technical College has adopted a tobacco-free policy that prohibits the use of all tobacco products within the college buildings, and extends into any and all athletic setting, fields, bus, hotel, and team travel functions, etc. In compliance with the Minnesota Statutes for public buildings, all smoking is prohibited in the facilities and college vehicles. All classrooms, labs, hallways, entry ways, restrooms, college vehicles, etc. are tobacco-free areas.

The use of tobacco and alcohol products is prohibited on all athletic fields or during any athletic event as per NJCAA and DCTC rules and regulations.

In addition, DCTC has adopted an Athletic Department Drub/Banned Substance Awareness, Education, and Screening policy effective August 1, 2012. A copy of the policy is enclosed.

**Travel Policy**

1. Student athletes and an approved coach must travel with the team to all competitions.
2. Personal cars may only be driven if students are to report to a location considered local.
3. When lodging is involved, DCTC shall provide accommodations only. Any additional charges or damages are the financial responsibility of the occupants of the room.

Any violations to policies shall result in disciplinary action. DCTC will impose sanctions on student and employees who violate college policies. Disciplinary action may include written reprimand, suspension or dismissal and referral for prosecution under local, state, and federal law.

This document compliments the Dakota County Technical College Student Code of Conduct and is superseded by any and all additional policies, rules and regulations of DCTC, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU), and the NJCAA.

**Physical Education Course Requirement**

Student-Athletes are required to register for a one (1) credit physical education “Intercollegiate Athletics” course which does apply to registration and counts towards full-time status, as well as degree work and transfer. This credit has a fee associated with it to support personal equipment and items each athlete is given. The credit may be paid for with Financial Aid and/or Scholarship, but is required before practice begins. Once on the team, no refunds are allowed for dropping the course.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Student ATHLETE HANDBOOK

I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the Student Athlete Handbook and agree to comply with the policies, procedures, and eligibility requirements set forth. Failure to do so may jeopardize my eligibility as a Dakota County Technical College student athlete.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date