**Dunwoody High School**

**Tennis Parent/Player**

**Code of Conduct (2019)**

**Introduction**

Dunwoody Tennis is pleased to welcome you to a new high school tennis season! We anticipate another fantastic experience. Along the way, we have to ensure that everyone – Coaches, Players & Parents – have a common understanding of written expectations both on and off the court. Our goal is to have an incident-free season in which we represent DHS with pride. Please do not hesitate to ask your Coach or a Board member if you have any questions about any of this information.

**Athlete and Parent Code of Conduct at Matches and Practices**

It is the intent of Dunwoody High School to be a leader in the community. To do this, we need both athletes and the parents of the athlete to lead by example. These guidelines are set forth to protect the safety and integrity of the players, parents and coaches. Please be aware that all circumstances are not accounted for and in the event of an undue circumstance, the Athletic Director and/or Principal will enforce appropriate action.

**NOTE: All policies listed here, where appropriate are for players and parents.**

1. PLAYING TIME IS NOT GUARANTEED. Coaches evaluate athletes during practice on a weekly basis. Playing time at matches is earned in practice. If the player has a question about playing time or overall strategy, set up a meeting with your coach to discuss the situation per the policies listed below.
2. “Conduct unbecoming of an athlete” will not be tolerated. This covers a wide variety of circumstances, for example, the use of foul language or rude gestures towards other athletes, coaches, parents or opponents[[1]](#footnote-1).It also includes poor court demeanor such as throwing racquets, badgering an opponent, excessive arguing about line calls, purposely delaying a game, or displaying negative body language.
3. No parent is to talk to with any other athlete, parent or coach in an argumentative or disparaging manner. Yelling during play, especially during the serve, is unacceptable.
4. Parents are to be supportive of their athletes and the entire team during matches and not question them or their teammates regarding their play.
5. Parents should not “coach” during matches. According to division rules, players and parents must stay at least 5 feet away from the fence/court.
6. Proper nutrition is required. Practices and matches will be demanding on your physical abilities. It is very important to stay well hydrated at all times.
7. Players are to support their teammates at all times whether they are playing in a particular match or not. Poor bench behavior includes not expressing verbal or vocal support for teammates, putting a teammate down, playing games on cellphones during matches, conducting side conversations taking other’s attention off the match, disrupting the match with inappropriate discussions with the coaching staff or questioning playing time or status during the match.
8. Players are student athletes and are required to turn in a copy of all progress reports issued during the season. All players are required to maintain a 2.5 grade point average to be eligible to play.
9. In order to show team unity and take pride in representing our school, athletes are required to be in team uniform for all matches. The boy’s uniform includes a team shirt (long or short sleeved) and shorts. The girl’s uniform includes team top and skirt.

**Attendance Policies**

All practices and matches are mandatory. The player may, with prior approval from the coach, be late or excused from practice. It is the responsibility of the athlete to notify the coach of any scheduling conflicts as soon as they are known, as tardiness or absence can affect playing time or result in consequences as directed by the coach. Unexcused absences may count towards the three strike rule (see below).

**Practice**

* Occasional exceptions for missing a practice may include :
* a contagious illness
* a mandatory graded school event
* tutorial help for academics
* tennis related programs, drills and/or lessons (with approval)
* family emergencies
* In the event a player cannot attend practice, please make every effort to contact the coach in advance.
* Missing more than half a practice counts as one absence.

**Matches**

* Missing any part of a match counts as one absence.

**Expulsions and Suspensions**

Suspensions have been identified where appropriate in this document. The Coach and Athletic Director will evaluate all situations. Fairness to all is the objective: use your common sense in all situations.

**Automatic** suspensions will result for the following offenses:

* Any player with a grade of less than a 74% must attend tutorial until the grade is improved.  Failure to participate in tutorial time can result in suspension from teampractices and/or competitions until the grade improves.
* Any player who skips school.

**Automatic** expulsions will result for the following offenses:

* Smoking at any high school function.
* Using alcohol or drugs at any time during a high school function.
* Leaving the lodging premises without notifying the head coach and without a chaperone.

**Three strike rule**

* If an athlete has 3 unexcused absences during the season, the coach can conduct a review to determine if the athlete should remain on the team.
* A combination of absences and/or court and behavior violations may also result in a 3 strike suspension or expulsion depending on the circumstances.

**Grievance/Escalation Procedure**

The procedure outlined below is designed to help athletes and parents with questions, concerns or problems that may occur during course of the season. It ensures open and honest communication between all parties involved.

1. The athlete must first ask for a meeting between the coach and him/herself to discuss the issue at hand.
2. If the issue is unresolved, the parent then may ask for a meeting between themselves and the coach to discuss the issue. The meeting should take place at a location considered adequate for a private discussion agreed upon by both the parent and coach – **coaches are not to address these issues at a match and are told to advise the Athletic Director in the event that any of these conversations are started at a match.**
3. If the issue is unresolved then the parent should ask for the involvement of the Athletic Director. A meeting can take place between the Athletic Director, parent, athlete and coach. A scheduled time away from practice or a match is appropriate.
4. If the issue is unresolved, the parent may then ask for a meeting with the Principal. A scheduled time away from practice or a match is appropriate. The decision of the Principal at this point is FINAL.

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Print Player Name Player Signature Date

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Print Parent #1 Name Parent #1 Signature Date

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Print Parent #2 Name Parent #2 Signature Date

1. According to the official rule on Code violation in the USTA on abusive language during a match: One offensive/abusive word is a point penalty, two words is a game penalty, and three or more is a default. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)