

SPARTANS FOOTBALL GENERAL GUIDELINES

Introduction:

The DasCHE Spartan Football Program was established in January of 2014 to provide homeschooled boys ages 13 to 18 in the South Dallas-Ellis county Metro area and surrounding counties with the opportunity to participate in competitive football. The program is established as part of the Dallas Christian Home Educators (DasCHE) Spartans Sports Organization, which is a support group consisting of approximately 200 families. DasCHE provides helpful information and various opportunities that relate to the education of children and the support of homeschooling families, especially in and around the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex.

Mission:

To partner with parents as they disciple their children ages 13 to 18 through participation in competitive homeschool football, to the glory of God. We will endeavor to train players enrolled in this program to put Christ first, to endure hardship, and to live as Christ lived.

Statement of Beliefs

DasCHE Spartan Sports is a Christian organization. All coaches, administrators and other individuals in leadership positions shall agree to and sign the statement of beliefs and are expected to follow Biblical guidelines for personal behavior.

A full list of the Biblical principles adhered to by DasCHE may be found online at the following link:

www.daschespartans.org

Player Eligibility:

A homeschooled male athlete that is not older than 18 years of age on September 1st is eligible to play football during the upcoming regular season. All participating players and parents must agree and sign our Parent/Player Agreement, Medical Authorization, and Uniform Agreement. For complete eligibility requirements, please visit the National Christian Homeschool Championship (NCHC) website at:

www.nchclive.com

What We Expect Of Parents:

Practices and Games:

Please see to it that your player is present and on time to every practice and every game. Plan on arriving a few minutes early before practice so that your player has time to put on their pads and get ready, rather than rushing in after practice has begun. Arrival time for games will generally be 60-90 minutes before the game, or as announced. It is very important for the safety of your athlete that they have time to warm up and stretch and to focus on their goals and strategy as directed by the coach. The success of the team and the safety of your player are at stake when they are late for games.

During the games:

Encourage all players with clapping and cheering from the bleachers. Please stay off the field, and refrain from coaching from the stands. It is very distracting to your player to receive coaching instructions from multiple sources, while they are attempting to contend with their opponents. It demonstrates confidence in the coaching staff and the players when you let them do their part. Avoid any contact with game officials. If we do not agree with a call, the coach has recourse according to the rules and we must content ourselves with that. We want our players to know the proper way to respect those in authority.

Family Service Requirements:

Thank you all in advance for volunteering and investing in the Spartan Football Team. We appreciate your time and commitment in helping the team be successful. It will take all of our football families' participation to help the season run smoothly. The backbone of homeschool football is family help and support. A few of the required duties include: stats, game filming, scoreboard keeping, game announcing, gate sales and spirit wear sales at home games, and helping with fundraisers such as homecoming dance. More information will follow on the volunteer requirements as well as the signup process, including a Spartan volunteer website link.

Fees:

We have deliberately established fees at a minimum to enable the participation of all interested players. Please note that even when all fees are paid, **WE WILL STILL NEED TO RAISE FUNDS TO MEET ALL OUR OBLIGATIONS.** Therefore, please be diligent about fees due and their due dates. Thank you for your consideration.

Code of Conduct for Players:

Attendance

Players are expected to attend all practices and games. In addition, all players are expected to be on time for all practices and games. If a player must miss or be late for a game or practice, the player or parent should update Team Snap and the reason they are not going to be there **no later than 3pm**. While there will be no immediate consequences for excused late or missed attendance, game playing time may be affected at the coach's discretion.

Parents are responsible for transportation of players to and from practices and games.

Practices and Games

Players should demonstrate a 110% effort, a teachable attitude, good sportsmanship, and respect to authority of coaches and officials. Each player should remember they are part of a TEAM and be willing to serve in any role to build TEAM success. Avoid the use of profanity or demeaning speech on all occasions, even in the "heat of competition."

Suspensions, Fouls, Cautions, Ejections, and Dismissals

Any athlete receiving a personal foul or a verbal caution due to conduct or lack of self-control may be removed for the remainder of the game. Any athlete who displays a negative response to an official or to a coach may be removed for the remainder of the game. Any athlete receiving an ejection from the game due to inappropriate and/or flagrant conduct may be suspended from the next game and may also be required to attend a coaches/parent and/or committee meeting. A subsequent ejection may result in removal from the team for the remainder of the season. We do not want our athletes doing anything that would cause them to be ejected from a game. Such behavior does not show Christ-likeness, nor does it show respect for the sport, the officials, the coaches, or self.

An athlete's response to a corrected offense is more important than the offense itself. The athlete's response defines and reveals character in a more obvious way. We as Christians are not permitted to respond in a disrespectful way. It is therefore necessary for us to be accountable so that we might mature in our responses and in the character and humility of Christ. Therefore, if an athlete continues to display unwillingness to change, blatant disrespect for authority, or an attitude/action that is contrary to the Christian philosophy, the athlete may be removed from the team at that time.

An athlete may be dismissed from a team due to:

1) an unteachable or uncooperative attitude

2) an act or deed that harms the testimony of the team and/or the Spartan organization; such acts include but are not limited to: inappropriate posts on social media or use of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs. . .

Our unchanging goal is to accurately reflect the character of Christ in our attitudes and sportsmanship in an ever-increasing way. Coaches will look for and encourage this character; any athlete who does not desire to pursue Godly character will not play for Spartans Football.

Appearance

All athletes and coaches shall make a positive statement with their appearance at all DasCHE events and contests by being well groomed, appropriately dressed before, during, and after competition, no visible undergarments. Arrive at the athletic venue and warm up in the appropriate, properly laundered uniform. The DasCHE standard is to be morally upright and exhibit good taste in our appearance so as to represent the DasCHE organization and team well, and glorify the Lord in all that we do.

Games:

Upon arrival at games, players must wear: their assigned uniform: proper colored jersey and game pants, helmets and pads, as well as socks, cleats, and mouthguards.

Practices:

Practice jerseys, under laid with T-shirts, and padded practice pants, shorts or sweatpants, must be worn to practices.

What it means to be a Spartan

Spartans were the ancient people of Sparta whose warriors were renowned for being **warlike, brave, stoical, severe, frugal, and highly disciplined**. It can also mean austere or plain. We can readily embrace this identity based on 2 Timothy 2:3-5 which states:

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. NKJV

Being A Spartan Means:

- We are warriors
- We are focused and disentangled from the affairs of this life
- We live a purposeful life to please our Lord Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith.
- We compete according to the rules on the football field and according to the written rules of God's word on and off the field.
- We are teachable and obedient.
- We expect our reward from the Lord Jesus alone; and our greatest reward is His pleasure.

Spartans Expectation Of Coaches:

- Abide by the guidelines of the DasCHE Spartan Football Organization.
- Agree and sign the statement of Beliefs of DasCHE Football.
- To be a role model and be Christ like in all activities and at all times.
- Be responsible for their own behavior and also the behavior of their team members, their parents, and fans.
- To be respectful of other players, coaches, fans, and officials at all times.
- To provide a sports environment for their team that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and abusive language at all events.
- Place the emotional and physical well being of their players ahead of personal desire, or external pressure to win.
- Never publicly demean a player, official, opposing coach, or parent.

- Ensure that their players are supervised by a coach, or another designated adult at all times.
- To never allow their players to be left unattended or unsupervised at a game or practice.
- Never knowingly permit an injured player to practice, play or return to the game.
- To ensure that practice facilities and equipment are safe and up to standard.
- Take the initiative in resolving any known or suspected conflict relating to a player or family using the principles found in Matthew 18.
- Accept positive and negative feedback graciously as from the Lord.

Conflict Resolution

Matthew 18: 15-17; Matthew 5:23,24

It is inevitable in any endeavor involving numerous people of diverse personalities, interests, and goals, but to have conflict. EXPECT IT. However, as with any other issue, we are instructed by the word of God how to deal with those conflicts. Before we look at instructions on how to resolve conflict, some general observations first:

1. These instructions given by the Lord Jesus Himself apply both when we are offended and when we know we have offended. In either case we are never off the hook; we must move towards resolution.
2. It is also important to note from the scriptures cited, that our relationships with one another are more important than our conflicts. We should keep that in mind.
3. Our communion with the Lord Jesus Christ hinges on the harmony of our relationships one with another.

What to do when there is a conflict:

1. Go Privately: The first instruction is to go to the offended / offender alone and debate or argue your case. Avoid the temptation to discuss details with others who are not directly involved.

2. Take someone else:

If the person will not hear you, take someone else with you. Try to keep the conflict in as small a sphere as possible.

3. Bring it to the organization:

If it is a conflict within your team, bring it to the attention of your player's coach. If it extends beyond your team, you can bring it to the attention of your player's coach or a member of the committee. If necessary, we will bring it to the attention of the DasCHE board. If it involves a coach, Coach Wray is the coaches' liaison on the committee.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be issued at the beginning of the season upon receipt of a deposit and Uniform Agreement. Every player is responsible to bring his or her uniform to every game. Uniforms should be clean prior to each game. Uniforms provided are the property of DasCHE Spartans and must be returned in good condition at the end of the season.

Updated 7/24/22

SPARTANS FOOTBALL PARENT / PLAYER AGREEMENT

PARENT NAMES:

PLAYER NAMES:

By my signature below, I acknowledge, understand, accept and agree to comply with the information contained in the DasCHE Spartans Football General Guidelines. I understand these guidelines are not intended to cover every situation which may arise during the season, but is simply a general guide to the goals, policies, practices, and expectations of the DasCHE Spartans Football Program.

Parent's Signature:

Date: _____

Date: _____

Player's Signature:

Date: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____