



# Athletic Handbook



## Welcome

Welcome to DMI athletics. The purpose of this handbook is to outline requirements that will help orient you with participating in DMI athletics. Our prayer is that your DMI experience will be a life changing one.

### Staff Contacts

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### DMI Board Members

- Ray & Deena Vasser.....Board Co-Chairs
- Ray Vasser.....Finance
- Advisory Committee.....Secretary/Fundraising
  - Ashley Monnahan, Myles Monnahan, Jordan Vasser and Dylan Cronk

## **DMI DEFENDER ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY**

DMI understands that physical activity and education is vital to the holistic development of each participant in Defender athletics. Our goal is to foster family involvement to develop the physical, social and emotional health of our athletes. We apply the most important aspects of this development to our athletic program that only can be found in scripture.

This contradicts a world where psychology tries to impute improvement upon on the old nature, that there is good in man. This totally goes against scripture. "...*There is none good no, not one*" Romans 3:12, "*Therefore if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new.*" 2nd Corinthians 5:17 God does not take anything from the old nature of man, He makes it new. We will achieve this by acting in accordance with our values to impact the lives of those we encounter inside and outside Defender Basketball without compromise.

*1 Corinthians 9: 24-25 "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown."* The major goal of the DMI athletic program is the same as for any other educational program: To provide athletes with the opportunity to develop to their maximum potential and to teach life skills. Players, coaches, and spectators must remember that when our opponents and their fans are Christians, they are our brothers and sisters in the Lord and should be treated as such. When our opponents and their fans are not Christians, they need to know our Lord and Savior, and our testimony for the Lord becomes all the more important. We don't want to behave or speak in a way that would damage the testimony of Jesus Christ.

There are a number of goals based on Biblical principles which flow naturally out of this primary goal. First of all, we want to teach respect for authority. Players need to respect coaches, while coaches, players, and fans need to respect the officials. Secondly, we want to teach the principle of putting aside individual desires and goals for the good of the team. Thirdly, we want to teach players to realize that often their true character will come out in the heat of competition, and that there are valuable lessons to be learned and adjustments to be made. If winning comes about as a result of aiming for these goals, that is great. If we lose, it is not the end of the world, and there is likely a valuable lesson to learn through it. *Winning must never be allowed to become our primary goal.*

DMI currently has a basketball program for junior high boys, varsity boys, and varsity girls which are comprised of homeschooled student-athletes. However, DMI is not closed off to student-athletes who are not able to be completely homeschooled. DMI will not allow more than a maximum of 55 players (subject to change) for all 3 teams. This will allow for individual focus and attention of DMI coaches and volunteers.

## **OBJECTIVES OF DMI ATHLETICS**

Development of Physical Fitness: The athlete who participates in DMI athletics will improve physically and mentally while learning activities that will maintain a high level of physical fitness. Development of Skills and Mental Alertness: A sport is a learning activity. The rules, principles, individual skills, cooperative effort, decision making under stress while learning to think quickly and react to changing conditions, are all part of the sports experience.

#### **Development of Character Qualities:**

- A. Identify with team members and our program
- B. Learn self-discipline
- C. Develop leadership skills, good sportsmanship and conduct
- E. Development of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, etc.
- F. Learn teamwork

#### **Out of Town Trips**

There are a number of games that DMI plays out of town and it is the expectation of parents and players to plan accordingly to make sure travel arrangements have been made prior to games. Travel details (i.e. addresses, location, etc.) will be posted on the website along with general expectations of player arrival times. When out of town, players and parents are expected to behave in a positive way that reflects DMI athletic ideals. Players are expected to return home with parents or whatever carpool has been assigned. Players that desire to go home with someone other than who they came with may do so if they communicate with their coaches and get parent approval. Students may go home with another parent only if the coach receives permission from all parents involved.

#### **Age/Grade Requirements**

Homeschool/Students in grades 6-12 are eligible to participate in DMI athletics or meet the requirements of being age 13 by November 1<sup>st</sup> for varsity teams & age 11 by November 1<sup>st</sup> for junior high for the current season. There are exceptions to this rule and will be reviewed by the DMI board of Directors on a case by case basis.

#### **Parent/Guardian Involvement**

At DMI we understand that part of the athletes development starts with the parent(s). Parents should encourage their children to give 100% of themselves to represent Christ. The following are basic expectations for parents to adhere to during the season.

1. Parents are expected to engage in a support role during the season (I.e. working at gate, concession stand, stats, etc.) during DMI activities.
2. Parents should support their children by attending as many games as possible.
3. Parents should always conduct themselves in a Christ like manner during athletic events. Parents should realize that they are just as responsible for representing DMI as are the coaches and players.
4. Parents need to realize that due to the varied talents of athletes on each team, playing time is not guaranteed. Encourage your child to improve his or her skills so that they can help the team.
5. Parents are asked to schedule vacations, doctor, dental and other appointments as not to conflict with practices and games.
6. Parents are responsible for the transportation arrangements of their players to and from practices and games. It is imperative that your son or daughter be picked up and dropped off for practices and games on time. Please be aware that athletes may be disciplined for being late to practice.

7. Parents should direct any questions regarding their student athlete or manner of coaching to the coach directly. Please approach these situations in a mature and responsible manner and in private if needed. Appointments or meetings can be arranged as well.

8. Parents should encourage and follow up with devotional preparations that are required by the coaches to ensure their player is completing the assignment.

### **Facilities:**

DMI activities will be held at Old Cono Christian School including practices. DMI will adhere to policies as governed by the facility we use for our program.

### **Fees: (\$400.00) total**

Each DMI athlete pays dues of \$200, plus another **\$200 for nationals** (for those that are participating in the trip) this usually means varsity only, but not limited to varsity players. Each participating athlete needs to have all fees paid by the deadline communicated. In the event an athlete cannot afford the fee, a review by the board will be considered to see what reasonable payment arrangements can be agreed upon.

### **Uniform/equipment policy**

At the beginning of each season all DMI athletes will be issued a uniform for his/her team. Each athlete is responsible for his/her issued equipment and uniform(s). In the event a uniform is damaged during the season that athlete will be charged a replacement fee of \$75. DMI views the care and maintenance of uniforms and equipment as a very serious responsibility for all of our participants.

1. Student/Athletes must keep the uniform number they are assigned at the beginning of the season and at no time may they exchange their uniform with a teammate without permission of the coach.
2. Student/Athletes must wash and care for their uniform after each game/contest. Please launder uniforms separately from dark colors. Wash all uniforms in COLD water. NEVER place uniforms or warm-ups in the dryer on high heat.
3. DMI Athletes may only wear the team uniform for scheduled games/contests or for other special events as requested by the coach.
4. DMI Athletes must wear their uniform with the jersey tucked in and must keep the uniform on for the entire game.
5. At no time may a student/athlete alter or change the original shape or form of the uniform.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

A homeschool/student athlete is eligible to participate in any DMI sports program if they are in grades 6-12. Iowa Law allows homeschooled students to participate in sports programs until they are 19 years of age (as a hardship). However, DMI rules of eligibility are restricted to basic IHSAA eligibility rules. A

public school students' eligibility will be determined by final board approval after a formal interview process of the athlete and family within guidelines that allows us to retain our homeschool status.

In the event a DMI athlete decides to play in a non DMI program or school in a given season, they will "NOT" be allowed to play for DMI and they will forgo any eligibility for the rest of the season. They will also have to be reinstated the following year if they meet all the specified requirements and will lose that year of participation and eligibility.

### **Academics**

A DMI student athlete must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA while participating in DMI athletics and other specified requirements set by parents.

### **Waivers/Physical**

A DMI homeschool student athlete must have a participation/waivers form signed and on file in order to be able to participate in any DMI athletic event. It is also required that DMI athletes turn in a physical form to be kept on file (if available) along with specific written outline(s) of health concerns.

### **DMI Conduct Policy**

The ultimate goal for all activities sponsored by DMI is to bring honor and glory to God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. The following guidelines are to be adhered to by all staff, and board members. In the event disciplinary action is necessary, a form must be filled out and turned in to DMI (Ray Vasser) for review.

This will encourage those who attend our events and give God the glory through our conduct. DMI and each of its participants, during DMI activities, must conduct themselves in a manner that honors God and handle all things with uncompromising honesty and integrity. As a participant within DMI you are required to adhere to the highest standard ethically that honors God and your neighbor. Your actions must be free from discrimination, slander or harassment of another individual. Misconduct cannot be excused because it was directed or requested by another. You are expected to alert a board or staff member whenever a dishonest or unethical act is discovered or suspected during DMI activities. Speak courteously at all times to all adults, volunteers, refs, and anyone you come in contact with during the season as well as during game play. ***Titus 2:7-8***

To be a DMI athlete is an honor. Athletes are regarded by fans, and the public as examples of what DMI is all about. Therefore, the following rules will apply to all those participating in athletic preparation and competition within DMI. Generally, the season includes the first day of practice and extends through the last day of competition (Nationals).

- A. Student athletes may not use or have in their possession any tobacco product.
- B. Student athletes may not use or possess alcohol. In addition, such students may not be present at any gathering of peers where alcohol or illegal drugs are used. To avoid penalty for being present at such a gathering, a student must leave immediately.
- C. Student athletes may not use or possess any illegal drugs (marijuana, ecstasy, prescription drugs not prescribed for the athlete, steroids, cocaine, etc.) or drug paraphernalia (pipes, rolling papers, clips, etc.). Student athletes may not be present where illegal drugs are used or experienced.

D. DMI administration may impose penalties for the above offenses it believes to be more detrimental to DMI. Persons involved may be subject to and including dismissal from DMI activities for the remainder of the season and possibly any future DMI activity participation.

### **DMI Sportsmanship Code**

1. Athletes, coaches, and spectators will treat officials with respect at all times. Only the coach may discuss a questionable call.
2. Teammates will be supportive of one another and provide encouragement, not criticism to each other. No derogatory language will be used toward anyone.
3. Quiet will be maintained during free throws at basketball games, and at no time will officials or opposing players be taunted or “booded”.
4. Athletes will be expected to become the very best players they can be, focusing on the strengths and talents God has given them. Players will not be ridiculed or admonished for a poor performance, but will be disciplined for disruptive behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the court.
5. The property and reputation of our opponents, as well as that of our own program, will be respected.
6. Hospitality will be exhibited toward the visiting team.
7. No derogatory language will be used toward anyone.
8. Athletes will be reverent during the prayer and the playing or singing of the National Anthem at games.
9. Athletes who are dismissed or who quit must be reviewed by DMI board for future participation in DMI activities.

### **Parent/Player/Coaching Expectations**

The purpose is to briefly outline expectations and the coaching philosophy we intend to follow throughout each DMI athletics season. Our main objectives will be to glorify God and our Lord Jesus Christ, have fun, learn, work and compete.

### **DMI Expectations of Coaches**

- 1) Relationship with the Lord must be right.
  - a. Be in the Word and Prayer daily.
  - b. Be obedient in your walk.
- 2) Plan team devotionals each week.
- 3) Student Athletes placed above the game
  - a. Obedience first
  - b. Never allow the game to become bigger than your players or your values.
- 4) Teach the fundamentals
  - a. Explain why you are doing different drills so the athlete understands.
  - b. An athlete who is not in shape will never reach their full potential.
- 5) Live and teach integrity and discipline.
  - a. Your athletes will mirror your actions.
  - b. Implement Godly principles into your daily coaching, parallel disciplines of your sport

- with Biblical principles.
- 6) Teach team over individual.
    - a. Team effort wins.
    - b. Treat each individual remembering they are made in the image of God.
  - 7) Strive to play with high intensity.
    - a. Play to win; do not play “not to lose.”
    - b. Never set goals to win by so many points. Focus on giving 100% at all times.
    - c. Never be afraid of losing.
  - 8) Set your goals and devise a plan to reach them.
    - a. In your daily practices have a practice schedule.
    - b. Transfer your drills to game-like situations.
    - c. Demand 100% effort from all your athletes.
    - d. Challenge your players.

We understand that our coaches have a tremendous opportunity to have a positive influence over the young men and women they get to work with each year. We expect them to be a model for those that see them each day and trust we can make a difference for tomorrow’s leaders.

*1 Corinthians 11:1 “And you should follow my example, just as I follow Christ’s.”*

The coaching philosophy will be for us to function together as “ONE” regardless of who is playing. We are looking forward to working with these boys & girls. We want to teach them the disciplines according to the Christian faith such as unity, reliability, unselfishness, and more.

- Players must show up for practice and be on time. (REALIABILITY) It is impossible to function as ONE if everyone is not learning the same skills ETC. (see note below on practices)
- We will focus on fundamentals and teaching the basics of offense, defense and more. All learning from the same page (UNITY).
- At this level, we will play to be competitive and even win. However, we will not sacrifice our governing principles for the sake of winning. Playing time is based on game circumstances; there is no commitment to equal playing time. We hope to have more flexibility to play more boys & girls with the teams being increased in number this year. It is very hard to beat a team of 12-15 players versus 5. Playing time will be based on ability, effort, attitude and the game situation. (UNSELFISHNESS)
- In both speech and conduct, DMI expects the coaches, managers, and players to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring glory and honor to God. DMI also expect players to respect the authority that they have been put under.
- If issues arise throughout the season, and as a parent, you need to discuss it with a coach, feel free to contact that individual coach. We would ask that if you have issues or concerns, to speak with the appropriate coach at the appropriate time, unless the issue or concern needs to be addressed immediately. The time will be after a practice but, not before or immediately after games. These times are reserved for the coaches and their players.
- We encourage parents not to attend practice. It can be a distraction to your kids and to the coaches (unless arranged otherwise). Showing up 5 or 10 minutes before the end of practice is fine for pick-ups, etc.

- For home games, please make sure the players are arriving **1-HOUR** prior to the start of the game. For junior high players 30-45 minutes prior unless otherwise notified by the coaching staff.

### **Practices/Game Attendance:**

Players must show up for practice and be on time. (REALIABILITY) It is impossible to function as ONE if everyone is not learning the same skills, plays, etc. In the event that a player will not be at a practice or a game, they “**MUST CONTACT ONE OF THE COACHES BEFORE/PRIOR TO THAT GAME OR PRACTICE TO BE EXCUSED.**” If a coach is NOT contacted, then that practice or game will be unexcused and will result in further disciplinary action at the discretion of the coaches. Repeat offenses will lead up to deduction in playing time, and or expulsion from the team.

### **Dress Code**

- **Coaches** are expected to be business casual for games with exception of tournaments which run on weekends. The coaches can wear team apparel with nice jeans or sweat pants. A shirt and tie is acceptable at any time.

### **Home Games-Players**

- **All boys** are expected to wear slacks and a collared shirt or tie for all home games unless otherwise specified by coaches. Away games, boys can wear team apparel with sweat pants or jeans. Clothing with holes or tears will not be allowed!
- **Girls** for all home games girls can wear dress slacks and or knee length skirts or dresses with appropriate blouses, sweaters etc. Any low cut attire is not allowed. For away games, team apparel and or jeans are allowed. No torn or ripped clothing is acceptable.

These are just guidelines for adherence to professional and reasonable dress that will bring honor and glory to God. If you have some doubts about what to wear or feel it is questionable wisdom says don't wear it!



## Participation Agreement

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, have read, understand and agree as an active DMI participant in DMI programs or activities to abide by all rules and regulations set-forth according to principles outlined in the organizational overview provided me/us.

I will attend and actively participate in all DMI activities as set forth by DMI and its volunteer staff, and when unable to attend, I will give proper notification of my absence. I understand conduct in contradiction to the principles set forth by DMI can be a detriment to the program and organization as a whole. In keeping with Matthew 5:13-16

DMI parents and athletes are to conduct themselves in a manner glorifying to God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, your signatures on this document indicate your willingness to abide by the Christian biblical principles as set forth by DMI and its staff members. Failure to do so, as determined by the DMI staff and board members can and will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from DMI activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date