



Danville Oaks Rugby Football Club

Player Communication, Participation and Competition Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear expectations for players, coaches and parents regarding the Danville Oaks policies regarding player participation and the proper communication channels for the different age groups and levels of competition offered by the Danville Oaks.

Guiding Principles:

The Danville Oaks Rugby club was founded on the principle of providing a safe and fun athletic option for youth in Danville and the surrounding communities. The objective of the club is to help youth build character and learn positive life lessons while participating in the great sport of rugby. Sportsmanship, integrity, effort and respect for teammates, opponents and officials are our guiding principles.

Communication Policy:

Coaches, parents and club administrators are expected to follow the following communication policy:

- A team meeting will be scheduled at the beginning of each season where expectations for parents and players will be clearly communicated.
- These expectations will include at a minimum player and parent code of conduct, playing time policy and parent volunteer assistance.
- The head coach of each team will be responsible for communicating these expectations at the beginning of the season and for providing reminders or clarification to the team during the season if these expectations are not being met.
- Players at the middle school and high school level are expected to speak to their coach directly for clarification if they are not clear on coaching instructions or decisions. If further clarifications or concerns still exist, the player's parents should ask for a meeting with the head coach of that team. If the issue remains unresolved, the parent should request a meeting with the Age Group Coordinator to resolve the issue.
- A person should be designated at each age level and for each team to be responsible for providing weekly communication and updates to the team. This communication should be provided via email and the team page on danvillerugby.com at a minimum.



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Player Participation Policy:

- The head coach of each team is ultimately responsible for determining the playing time of each player.
- Attendance and participation at practice along with the skill of the player will be the primary factors in determining playing time for each game.
- Coaches are expected to provide as much playing time as possible for players who have attended practice, given the constraints of available game time and competitive considerations.
- Coaches at the Youth Level (U8, U10 and U12) are expected to make an effort to provide equal playing time for all players who are regularly attending practice.
- Coaches at the Middle School, Junior Varsity B/C and Varsity B/C levels are expected to make an effort to provide equal playing time for all players who are regularly attending practice.
- Coaches at the Junior Varsity A and Varsity A level are expected to attempt to involve all players selected as much as possible. However, this may not always be possible given the level of competition at this level.
- As a demonstration of respect for the game and for our opponents, coaches should always attempt to refrain from running up the score against an opponent by involving reserves as early as possible if it becomes apparent that the level of competition is out of balance.
- If players have questions or concerns about their playing time, they should approach their coaches before or after practice and ask for constructive feedback regarding what they can do to gain more playing time.
- If a player still has questions after discussing with his coach, the player should ask his parents to schedule a conversation with the player's coach.
- If questions or concerns remain, the player or parents should schedule a conversation with the coach and the Age Group Coordinator for that team.

Competition policy:

- The method of division of Youth teams may vary from week to week depending upon the level of completion and the numbers of the Oaks and the opponents.
- Middle School, JV and Varsity will be divided into A/B/C [teams, etc.] The objective of the [A] team at these levels will be to compete at the highest level in Northern California within that age group. Players selected to the [A] teams at these age levels may be expected to have a greater amount of participation than players on



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[B/C] teams. These expectations may include additional practices, pre-season conditioning or extra conditioning during the season and occasional travel to games and tournaments outside of Northern California. Additional costs may also be required to pay for this travel.

- Players may or may not be selected to play at the A level over the course of the season at the coach's discretion.
- The [B & C] teams at the Middle School, JV and Varsity level will place a greater emphasis on providing equal playing time. These teams will also be considered as developmental teams and players may be promoted at any time during the season at the coach's discretion.

Code of conduct

- Coaches, parents and players will be expected to sign a code of conduct prior to each season.
- If any player, parent or coach is believed to be in violation of the code of conduct, the Danville Oaks Disciplinary Committee will take that person's eligibility into consideration.
- The opportunity to play rugby for the Oaks is a privilege and not a right. The Oaks organization reserves the right to ask any player, parent or coach not to participate if that person is unable to conform to the code of conduct.
- From time to time, players and parents may be asked to sign another code of conduct specific to behavior expectations for a tour or similar opportunity which may include travel and involvement with other organizations such as tournaments or all star teams.