



# **2024-2025 Parent-Athlete Handbook**

## **Who We Are**

Durango Winter Sports Club (DWSC) is home to the Alpine, Freestyle, Freeride, and Snowboard teams as well as Gromlins, our competition development program. Each team is committed to providing quality training for athletes who are dedicated to pursuing excellence in winter sports and in life through sportsmanship, friendship, team spirit, and personal achievement. Formerly Durango Winter Sports Foundation and Purgatory Ski Team, DWSC carries on the legacy of organized youth winter sports programs in Durango.

## **Vision Statement**

Our vision is to provide an opportunity for the youth of our community to become successful individuals and to achieve their personal goals through participating in alpine skiing, freestyle skiing, freeride skiing, snowboarding, and the competitive aspects of each discipline.

## **Mission Statement**

To support our vision the DWSC maintains the following mission:

- Strive to provide a dedicated and qualified staff to guide, encourage and motivate athletes to accomplish their goals in an environment where skills in both winter sports and life are taught.
- Provide its athletes a solid foundation of skills in a manner that is both safe and fun and that offers its members the potential for athletic success.
- Ensure that every child with the desire to participate will be given that opportunity within financial and programmatic means, the Durango Winter Sports Club will offer financial assistance (tuition scholarships) to improve accessibility and inclusivity.
- Promote the development of the core values of: Respect, Sportsmanship, Confidence, Perseverance, Responsibility, Teamwork, and Accountability.
- Instill life-long enthusiasm for skiing and winter sports.
- Cultivate organizational excellence and long-term financial sustainability.

## **CORE VALUES**

● Respect ● Confidence ● Teamwork ● Sportsmanship ● Perseverance ● Fun ●

**Parents and athletes are expected to review this handbook together.  
Please reach out to your Team Director for more information or with questions.**

*Updated September 2024*

*DWSC will make updates periodically to this document and post this handbook to the website and team pages.*

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## CONTACT INFO

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Durango, CO

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 4104  
Durango, CO 81302

**Phone/Email:** Phone: (970) 236-1867  
Email (general): info@durangowintersportsclub.org

## STAFF DIRECTORY

<b>Executive Director</b>	Nate Greason <i>director@durangowintersportsclub.org</i>	(206) 619-6259
<b>Alpine Team Director</b>	Tyler Hoyt <i>alpine@durangowintersportsclub.org</i>	(208) 484-5604
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<b>Freestyle Team Director</b>	Shane Ellis <i>freestyle@durangowintersportsclub.org</i>	(970) 799-5677
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<b>Snowboard Team Director</b>	Cody Beaver <i>snowboard@durangowintersportsclub.org</i>	(970) 238-1630

## **ACTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

Nate Pierantoni	President
Caitlyn Kneller	Vice President
Tiffany DeBoer	HR Lead
Adam Haughey	Member at Large
Heath Corley	Member at Large
Greg Ewing	Member at Large
Heather Feistner	Member at Large
Patrick Murphy	Member at Large
Graham Smith	Member at Large
Hunter Sykes	Member at Large
<b>KEY VOLUNTEERS</b>	
Sarah Morgan	Volunteer Coordinator

## **CLUB FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND PROGRAM FEES**

As a Colorado 501(c)(3)- EIN: 84-1466141, DWSC was set up with the aim of increasing accessibility to winter sports and providing opportunities to pursue excellence in the various skiing disciplines. To achieve accessibility, DWSC seeks to keep programming fees affordable and to provide scholarships to athletes. In pursuing excellent programming, DWSC seeks to support the heart of our programs, the team directors and coaching staff, by providing coach training and advancement, in addition to funding infrastructure improvements, equipment purchases, and continued program development. Donations and sponsorships are critical to achieving these aims. We are grateful to our sustaining and supporting sponsors, individual donors, as well as partners including Purgatory Ski Resort and the City of Durango.

### **DWSC By the Numbers:**

The annual DWSC budget is approximately \$315,000. Approximately 85-90% of our revenue comes from tuition with the balance coming from sponsorships and donations. The DWSC operates with thousands of parent and supporter volunteer hours annually, including those provided by the Board of Directors. The only paid administrators are our Part Time Executive Director and our five team directors, who spend a portion of their time on administrative duties with the rest as direct on-snow or dryland coaching. In addition to direct athlete scholarships, nearly all donated dollars go directly to support programming which includes coaching staff, insurances, travel expenses, location fees, SportsEngine (our website and team management platform), related program expenses, and equipment, with minimal expenses on fundraising and marketing.

Your Board of Directors works to support the mission of the club by serving key roles in administration and fundraising. We hope you will support us at our upcoming fundraising events. For a full listing of all of our events, visit [Calendar \(durangowintersportsclub.org\)](https://durangowintersportsclub.org)

### **PROGRAM FEES**

SportsEngine is our platform for registration. Program fees can be paid in full or over a payment plan. As of last season (2023/2024), program fees include coach related travel fees that had been invoiced to parents as a daily charge in the past. Program fees do not include race entry fees or other expenses associated with competition/travel, nor do they include lift access to any ski resorts. Please plan accordingly to purchase your Purgatory Ski Resort pass, as well as Chapman Hill Pass, and any other passes or tickets for training, competition or events at other resorts. The snowboard program does not include coach travel fees and athletes traveling to events will be billed on a per day basis for events.

The Colorado Ski Passport Program is great option for 3rd-6th graders; please find more information at [The Ski Passport | Colorado Ski Country USA](https://www.coloradoski.org/).

### **REFUND POLICY**

Current Tuition Refund Policy: No refund will be granted for any reason. If this is a concern, optional tuition refund insurance may be purchased through AIG at the time of registration.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS & SUPPORT PROGRAM**

**The DWSC Scholarship and Support Program** helps ensure that the many costs involved with winter sports do not act as a limiting factor to an athlete's entry or continued participation in the sport of competitive skiing and snowboarding.

We are grateful to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and in-kind supporters who help subsidize the overall cost of our programs by about 10% for all athletes. In other words, a program that would normally cost \$1,000 costs \$900 because of this generous support. We recognize that this is not enough for some families and reserve approximately 10% of budgeted tuition revenue to go towards providing up to 90% tuition assistance to scholarship applicants demonstrating financial need.

**The Scholarship and Support Program** is governed by policies established by the Scholarship Committee of the Board of Directors and is administered by the Executive Director and the Team Directors.

Durango Winter Sports Club offers both need and merit based scholarships in keeping with its mission to promote inclusivity and access, as well as athletic excellence. Emphasis and priority will always be placed on need over merit.

Scholarship Awards are confidential and final. Scholarship award selections are solely at the discretion of the Team Directors through an anonymous process. Scholarships are awarded as a percentage of tuition costs for the athletes selected program; the maximum scholarship awarded is 90% of a program's tuition.

Limited funds are available. The Scholarship Budget is established by the fiscal year budget approved by the Board of Directors in August of each year. Approximately 10% of the prior year tuition revenue is used as a baseline level for scholarship funds.

Scholarships represent a relationship and a "two-way street." First and foremost, scholarships are intended to help and support student-athletes who represent need and/or merit. All scholarship recipients, along with any member of DWSC, are expected to fulfill any volunteer requirements to their team and be positive ambassadors for DWSC and its programs.

### **Need-Based Scholarship Policy**

The Need-Based application process itself is confidential and applicants remain anonymous throughout the process. The Executive Director receives scholarship applications and anonymizes them. The Team Directors review the anonymous applications and award scholarships on an anonymous basis at up to 90% of the program tuition. Once awards are determined only the Scholarship Committee, Team Directors, and Executive Director are privy to scholarship award information. Asking families to provide financial information is an essential part of the process and this information is kept strictly confidential. **We do not ask for tax documentation in the application; however, this may be requested later in the process if needed for income verification.**

The application period for the 2024-2025 Season is 9/7/24 to 9/27/24. Applicants will be notified within 1 week of the application end date if their application has been accepted or not, and provided with a discount code to apply when they register.

The DWSC Scholarship process is primarily based on demonstrating financial need. With need being the highest priority, the Scholarship Committee also requires that applicants can demonstrate a commitment to:

- Academics and success in school
- DWSC programming
- DWSC core values

All scholarship recipients are awarded confidential scholarship awards, in writing, via email.

*\*Note: scholarship funds are applied towards tuition for program registration, and are not distributed to the individual or other organizations outside of DWSC. Scholarships are not transferable for cash.*

### **End-of-Season Need-based and Merit Based Scholarships**

Each year between 5% and 20% of the total scholarship budget is reserved for a second round of need-based scholarship and merit-based scholarship applications. Each spring the scholarship process is followed for athletes that have qualified for end-of-season competitions or special opportunities. Each Team Director is responsible for determining which events may qualify as applicable for end-of-season scholarship requests, and setting appropriate deadlines for applications with the DWSC Scholarship Committee.

In addition to the end-of-season scholarships, Team Directors may budget to subsidize travel and coaching expenses for end-of-season competitions or opportunities.

### **Tuition Remission**

As part of the DWSC tuition remission policy, volunteer opportunities that help offset budgeted DWSC expenses may be offered to individuals. In these cases, tuition remission may be offered to volunteers. This policy allows for another support mechanism to families in need that are able to “work off” part of their tuition. Any such arrangements need to be approved by the appropriate Team Director, and Board of Directors, and must be associated with budgeted Club expenses.

More information on these scholarship opportunities can be found here:

[www.durangowintersportsclub.org/scholarships](http://www.durangowintersportsclub.org/scholarships)

This scholarship policy was established by the DWSC Scholarship Committee, shaped by model programs and [US Ski and Snowboard recommendations](#), and approved by the Board of Directors in August 2023. Dates may be adjusted as needed.

## **DWSC ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**ARRIVE EARLY AND PREPARED** - Ensure you're receiving your coaches' and Team Directors' communications (see Parent section below) in regards to meeting location, time, and planned training details (i.e. slalom or free-skiing). Please dress appropriately with layers, and don't forget your helmet! Bring a packed lunch and water bottle.

**AVOID LOST EQUIPMENT** - Please put your name on all pieces of gear and clothing, this will save you time and frustration when things get misplaced or get mixed with other athletes' stuff. Please make sure that you and your parents account for all gear, lunch boxes and clothing at the end of your day to help avoid confusion.

**CELLPHONES** - Cellphones can be a great tool but can also make for a big distraction. We prefer our athletes to leave phones in the lodge but if you prefer to ski with your phone that's ok, but please know that cellphones during practice or events are for emergencies only and will be taken away if it becomes a distraction. No cell phone use on the lifts! Cell phone use during lunch is discouraged. Be social at lunch and on the lift - make a new friend.

**COMPETITION WAIVERS** - Every competition venue will have its own release form...please make sure you are aware of this before every event and come prepared. While we like to encourage parents to accompany their children to away events, we understand that this cannot always happen. DWSC encourages parents to help each other with travel to away competitions and make sure the waivers are signed and delivered. Many away events use online waivers, which is great and links will be emailed before the race as to where to find them.

**HEADPHONES** - DWSC prohibits the use of headphones or earbuds during training and competitions for the safety of our athletes.

**HELMETS** - Helmets are mandatory for all athletes for on hill training sessions, as well as, all of the events in which we participate. No athlete will be allowed on the hill without a helmet. No exceptions.

**Alpine racers must have a hard-eared helmet for competitions; U14 and up must meet USSA/FIS standards.**

**HEALTH** - Your overall health as an athlete is a priority. All athletes are required to have personal health insurance with proof required at the time of registration. Please inform the coaches about any allergies, food allergies, medical conditions or learning disabilities prior to the start of the season. If you are unwell, please ensure you get the rest you need, as well as heed the general precaution of being without a fever or vomiting for 24 hours before resuming activities with others.

**RACE DAY CONDUCT** - It is the athlete's responsibility to be on time, have their own equipment ready to go, have their ski pass, and be properly dressed for the weather. Use the restroom and eat something nutritious before meeting on snow. A snack in the pocket is a must. A water bottle at the start is also a good idea.

Parents: As the event day approaches, make sure you have communicated your volunteer availability to the Team Director. Make sure that your athlete/s are registered for the event with waivers signed. Know when and where you need to be for your volunteer position.

**SKI PASSES** - The pass should be kept in a safe and secure place where it can be easily scanned by the ticket checkers. It can also be attached to the helmet which makes things much easier on race days

and cold weather days. Make sure you have your pass with you whenever you ski, you will not be allowed on the lifts without it. Each child is responsible for their pass and if it is forgotten they will have to sit out until they can get it replaced either by themselves or with a parent. Tracking down a pass is not the coaches' responsibility. If the pass is lost during training, the coach will call the parent and assist in finding a solution.

**TAKE GOOD CARE OF EQUIPMENT** - Please keep your gear properly tuned & waxed. Coaches are not responsible for tuning gear but can help make recommendations and give helpful tips; coach tuning packages can be purchased through the DWSC website, if interested. Older athletes should know how to wax and tune their own skis. DWSC will host various tuning clinics throughout the season. Make sure to conduct a binding check at the start of each season with a local shop. Also, keep in mind that most ski shops have tuning & waxing included in their season-long rental programs.

**TERRAIN PARKS** - DWSC permits the use of the terrain parks as a learning tool when with coaches.. There are a variety of parks at PurgatorySki Resort and Chapman Hill, and the coaches are asked to use the parks that are appropriate to the age and ability of the group they are working with. The parks are an important learning tool for all disciplines, and safety and proper park use is critical. Athletes are asked to stay out of the park when lapping runs without a coach during training and race days.

### **DWSC ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each athlete is expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner and is responsible for their actions. The partnerships of Purgatory Resort and the City of Durango/Chapman Hill are our most valuable assets and it is a privilege to ski at these locations as a team. Please think about your actions while on the mountain. You represent yourself and our team at all times through your behavior.

#### **Good sportsmanship includes but is not limited to:**

- Respect for event officials and volunteers, ski area employees, coaches, and staff, the skiing and snowboarding public, fellow teammates and fellow competitors.
- Self-control, responsible behavior, consideration of others' physical and emotional wellbeing.
- A positive attitude promoting team spirit and team unity.
- Honest conduct.
- Maintaining the expected responsible behavior during away competitions. This includes time traveling, racing, and after competition.

#### **DWSC will NOT tolerate:**

- Skiing out of control
- Cutting in lift lines
- Profane or abusive language or behavior
- Cheating, lying, and/or theft
- Disrespect towards any coach, parent, lift operator, skier/snowboarder, ski patrol, event officials, etc.
- Bullying of any kind
- Any conduct reflecting poorly on the team while participating in any race, event, training or function
- The use of alcohol, illicit drugs or tobacco products

## DWSC athlete responsibilities include the following:

- Academics are more important than athletics. Please make every effort to maintain a good grade point average and to satisfy your parents' academic expectations.
- Competitors are expected to attend all training activities of their program. You are required to be on time and prepared for the day. This includes:
  - Having skis properly tuned and in good condition.
  - Wearing suitable clothing and being prepared for changing weather conditions.
  - Helmets and goggles are required at all times for training and competitions.
  - Make arrangements for your meals, bring a packed lunch including snacks or bring money to purchase a meal on the mountain.
  - Bring a positive attitude and be ready to ski.
  - While training and competing, each athlete owes it to themselves, coaches and competitors to put forth their best effort.
  - Athletes are required to remain with the team and/or ski as instructed by their coaches at all times unless arrangements are made prior.

## Skier Safety Responsibility Code:



Common Sense, it's one of the most important things to keep in mind and practice when on the slopes. The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) believes education, helmet use, respect and common sense are very important when cruising down the mountain. NSAA developed Your Responsibility Code to help skiers and boarders be aware that there are elements of risk in snowsports that common sense and personal awareness can help reduce.

## Seven Points to Your Responsibility Code

1. Always stay in control, and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
2. People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
3. You must not stop where you obstruct a trail, or are not visible from above.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
5. Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
7. Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.

**KNOW THE CODE: IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

## DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

*(Adapted with permission from Telluride Ski and Snowboard Club)*

DWSC's primary objective in all discipline procedures will focus on respect for coaches, parents, teachers, personal and resort equipment/facilities as well as each other. Respect is the foundation from which we can develop our athletes both on and off the hill. This overall personal development is

critical to the success of our athletes and the club in general.

DWSC coaches will always make every effort to set up our groups and individuals for successful experiences. Some factors we consider when striving to create such an environment are:

1. The age of the athletes; what is developmentally appropriate for this age?
2. What is an acceptable physical expectation for this group, do they have the stamina?
3. Do the athletes have the ability to comprehend your instructions or plans?
4. Does this activity lend itself to creating more successful experiences in the future for these athletes? Is it a constructive activity?

When these few factors are considered when providing our group with tasks or instructions, we find that we have less need for disciplining our group.

One of the most important aspects of discipline is to be sure that the individual being disciplined clearly understands what behavior was unacceptable. The consequences of their actions will be clear and consistent throughout the club and in line with our mission statement.

Two things DWSC strives to remember are: 1. Criticize the act, not the person. 2. The purpose of discipline is to change the behavior. The objective of discipline and follow up of unacceptable behavior is to teach acceptable alternative behavior. Each athlete must learn from disciplinary experiences in a positive manner, which will result in his or her continued growth within the program.

Our task here is to work with the athletes to build character and sportsmanship, and to become strong individuals. This goal will always be kept in mind when suspension of privileges or disciplinary action is enforced. While we cannot name every specific situation, we can provide some guidelines for situations that require immediate intervention.

#### **Category I Offenses:**

- An athlete does not comply with the Code of Conduct
- An athlete is late for an inexcusable reason
- Foul language
- Does not clean up
- Does not carry out assigned tasks
- Is disruptive to the group
- Shows lack of respect for coaches, athletes, teachers, parents, or assignments

#### **Category II Offenses:**

- Abuses teammate or another verbally (bullying)
- Leaves group without permission

#### **Category III Offenses (either during or not during ski team related activities):**

- Abuses teammate or another physically
- Uses another athletes or coach's equipment without permission
- Destroys or attempts to destroy club or another's property
- Violated DWSC Substance Policy

The athlete and athlete/parent handouts you received outline what our expectations are of our athletes and the athlete's obligations. If an athlete does not meet their obligations and expectations,

then we are obligated to invoke disciplinary action. In all cases it is our policy to notify parents of any discipline actions we take. Required actions are outlined below:

**Category I Offense Action:**

First Time Offense: 1 hour additional work for club to be assigned that day.

*Acceptable assignments: clean up trash in base area, provide training environment maintenance, etc. Apology letter if situation allows.*

Second Time Offense: Suspend club privileges for the day.

*Have parent pick up athlete. If a parent is not available, send to Team Director with an assignment and to wait for your return. If the athlete is not there upon your return, then immediate notification of parents and a 1 week suspension of privileges.*

Third Time Offense: One week suspension of club privileges.

*Notify parents and recommend all skiing privileges be revoked for the same duration. Athlete must write an essay detailing what they did, why they did it, what is an acceptable alternative behavior, and why they want to be in the Club; and submit it to their coach prior to returning to Club activities. Meet with parents to discuss recommendations to correct the behavior. Any further infractions shall result in additional weekly suspensions and meetings with parents and Team Directors until an acceptable action plan can be agreed upon in an attempt to correct the behavior. If the athlete is traveling with DWSC, a third time offense shall constitute immediately sending the athlete home at the parents' expense.*

**Category II Offense Action:**

First Time Offense: Suspend Training privileges for the day.

*Have parent pick up athlete. If a parent is not available, send to the Team Director with an assignment and to wait for your return. If the athlete is not there upon your return, then immediate notification of parents and a 1 week suspension of privileges.*

Second Time Offense: One week suspension of club privileges.

*Notify parents and recommend all skiing privileges be revoked for the same duration. Athlete must write an essay detailing what they did, why they did it, what is an acceptable alternative behavior, and why they want to be in the Club; and submit it to their coach prior to returning to Club activities. Meet with parents to discuss recommendations to correct the behavior.*

Third Time Offense: One month suspension of club privileges.

*Notify parents and recommend all skiing privileges be revoked for the same duration. Athlete must write an essay detailing what they did, why they did it, what is an acceptable alternative behavior, and why they want to be in the Club; and submit it to their coach prior to returning to Club activities. Athlete will also be assigned 10 club service hours. Meet with parents to discuss recommendations to correct the behavior. Any further infractions shall result in suspension of club privileges for the season and more if deemed necessary by the parents, coach and Team Director. Additional corrective action shall be agreed upon by all parties involved. If an athlete is traveling with PST, a second time offense shall constitute immediately sending an athlete home at the parents' expense.*

**Category III Offense Action:**

These offenses are much more serious.

Physical abuse is illegal. Notify your Team Director and parents. Corrective action plan and the decision of whether the authorities will be notified will be made by all parties involved. Borrowing someone's stuff without permission is considered theft. Immediate action is required. Notify your Team Director and the parents.

Destruction of property is considered vandalism. Suspension of club privileges is required. Notify your Team Director and parents. Corrective action plan and the decision of whether the authorities will be notified will be made by all parties involved.

Use of Drugs or alcohol is illegal. Suspension of club privileges is required. Notify your Team Director and parents. Corrective action plan and the decision of whether the authorities will be notified will be made by all parties involved.

First Time Offense: Two week suspension of club privileges.

*Notify parents and recommend all skiing privileges be revoked for the same duration. Athlete must write an essay detailing what they did, why they did it, what is an acceptable alternative behavior, and why they want to be in the Club; and submit it to their coach prior to returning to Club activities. Meet with parents to discuss recommendations to correct the behavior.*

Second Time Offense: One month suspension of club privileges.

*Notify parents and recommend all skiing privileges be revoked for the same duration. Athlete must write an essay detailing what they did, why they did it, what is an acceptable alternative behavior, and why they want to be in the Club; and submit it to their coach prior to returning to Club activities. Athlete will also be assigned 15 club service hours. Meet with parents to discuss recommendations to correct the behavior.*

Third Time Offense: One season suspension of club privileges.

*Extreme cases which may include, but are not limited to, excessive use, selling, distributing, etc. may constitute notification of the proper authorities and permanent expulsion from club activities. Notify parents and recommend all skiing privileges be revoked for the same duration. A minimum of 40 club service hours will be required to be completed if reinstatement of club privileges is granted. Team Director and parents will meet to discuss a corrective action plan. Any further infractions shall result in suspension from club privileges for the season and more if deemed necessary by the parents, coach and Team Director. Additional corrective action shall be agreed upon by all parties involved. If an athlete is traveling with DWSC, a first time offense shall constitute immediately sending an athlete home at the parents' expense.*

The above outlined actions are NOT negotiable! So let's just behave and have a GREAT SEASON!

### **DRUG, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO POLICY**

DWSC will not tolerate the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco while participating in DWSC activities. DWSC will strive to provide an environment free of drugs, alcohol and tobacco for our athletes and our staff.

### **RISKS & NEED FOR POLICY**

Underage drinking and drug use is against the law. It is against the law to sell tobacco to individuals under the age of 18. Substance use negatively impacts athletic and academic performance. Alcohol

and drug use interferes in learning processes, brain development and increases the chance of physical injury while participating in athletic competition. As a result of the risks associated with youth substance use, the National Standards for Youth Sports adopted by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association states: "Parents must encourage a drug, tobacco and alcohol-free environment for their children" and youth sports organizations must "establish policy and implementation procedures for immediately dealing with substance use by coaches and players and communicate these policies to coaches, players, and parents."

### **ATHLETES & STAFF -- ABSTAIN FROM DRUGS, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO**

All DWSC athletes and staff (including coaches) shall abstain from the use of illegal drugs, consumption of alcohol and any form of tobacco while involved in any club related activity, this includes all aspects of team travel, practices, and competition activities.

### **ATHLETES & STAFF WHO NEED HELP**

DWSC is creating an atmosphere where individuals who are experiencing difficulties with substance use/abuse are able to seek help in a comfortable and safe environment. An individual who seeks help or makes a self-report of a violation of this DWSC policy will be dealt with in a supportive manner. Such effort to seek help, providing the athlete/participant seeks help prior to a violation of policy, is reported to a staff member of DWSC, will result in less severe sanctions being instituted against the athlete/participant.

### **DRUG, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO FREE FACILITIES**

DWSC facilities such as Chapman Hill and Purgatory Resort are a "Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Free Zone". Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, and law enforcement may be notified. Being under the influence of the above substances while involved in club related activities, or being in possession of paraphernalia for the use of the same, is also deemed a violation of these rules.

### **TESTING**

On a case by case basis, DWSC reserves the right, for cause, to require any athlete or staff member to submit to a drug test and/or counseling to determine the use of drugs or alcohol. Failure to submit to a test shall result in the loss of all membership privileges. These services are provided to protect the athlete's rights. The coaches, staff and Board of DWSC are dedicated to providing a positive and rewarding experience for all its members. It is only with the help of the members themselves, that this can be achieved.

### **COMPETITION MEMBERSHIPS & LICENSES**

[U.S. Ski & Snowboard](#) is the governing body for competitive skiing and snowboarding in the United States, and DWSC is a member of the Rocky Mountain Division (RMD), a division of U.S. Ski & Snowboard. Any athletes who will compete in U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned competition must have the appropriate U.S. Ski & Snowboard membership. Membership options are available here - [Member Categories and Benefits | my.us skiandsnowboard.org](#), and low-cost general memberships exist. Excess accident insurance during U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events is one of the benefits of this membership; primary health insurance is required.

*This membership is required for athletes competing in U.S. Ski & Snowboard events and strongly encouraged for all DWSC athletes.*

The [International Freeski Association](#) (IFSA) is the governing body for big mountain ski and snowboard competition. [United States of America Snowboard and Freeski Association](#) (USASA), in partnership with U.S. Ski & Snowboard, is the governing body for freeskiing & snowboarding competitions including half-pipe, slopestyle, boarder/skier-cross, rail jam, and alpine snowboarding. Memberships/licenses are also required by these organizations for athletes competing in sanctioned competitions.

Descriptions of which licenses/memberships your child may need are within each discipline handbook. Please reach out to your team director with specific questions.

You can purchase your licenses/memberships directly at the website of the appropriate governing body.

## **CONCUSSION POLICY**

Any DWSC athlete under the age of 18 years suspected of having sustained a concussion or traumatic head injury must be removed immediately from participation in DWSC/USSA sporting events (e.g. sanctioned training, practice, camps, competitions or tryouts), by a USSA Technical Delegate/Supervisor or USSA member coach or DWSC member Coach overseeing such sporting event. The minor athlete will be prohibited from further participation until evaluated and cleared in writing to resume participation in above sanctioned sporting events by a qualified "health care provider" as defined under C.R.S. § 25-43-102(1). The qualified health care provider must certify to DWSC and/or USSA in the clearance letter that he /she is a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathic medicine, licensed nurse practitioner, licensed physician assistant, or licensed doctor of psychology with training in neuropsychology or concussion evaluation and management. Upon removal of a minor athlete from participation for a suspected concussion or traumatic head injury, the USSA TD or member coach or DWSC Member coach, making the removal must inform USSA Competition Services. Athletes who have subsequently been medically cleared to resume participation must provide such medical clearance (as described above) to DWSC and USSA Competition Service in order to be permitted to participate in DWSC or USSA sporting events.

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (TBI) caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. Doctors may describe a concussion as a "mild" brain injury because concussions are usually not life-threatening. Even so, their effects can be serious.

### **Risk of Continued Participation**

A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the first-usually within a short period of time (hours, days, or weeks)-can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in edema (brain swelling), permanent brain damage, and even death.

The USSA, USASA and DWSC recommend that Members review the Center for Disease Control's resources on concussion awareness at the following link:

[http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online\\_training.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html)

**Baseline concussion testing** is starting to be a requirement in many youth sports programs. These evaluations help to monitor athletes' recovery once a concussion has taken place. The Impact Test can be an important tool to determine the status of recovery following a suspected brain injury. DWSC does not require the Impact Test but highly recommends it. For more info, <https://www.impacttest.com/>

Many DWSC athletes can go through a Baseline test as part of their participation in school sports (for example, 9R schools provide Baseline testing for student athletes). For DWSC athletes who do not participate in school sports, the club may coordinate Baseline testing opportunities in November or December — communication about those opportunities will come via email.

## TRAVEL POLICIES

### **General Travel Procedures:**

Team Directors are responsible for making all travel arrangements, as applicable by team, and follow best practices in regards to team travel.

### **Travel Expenses:**

As of the 2023-2024 season, DWSC Travel Fees to help cover coach costs are included in all programs. This does not include athlete travel expenses, or any group travel expenses related to lodging, passes/tickets, food, etc. Please see your team's handbook for any applicable details.

## **DWSC PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES & INFORMATION**

### COMMUNICATION

Communication is important for ensuring safety, clear expectations, and ensuring full participation in programs.

**Sports Engine (SE)** is our primary platform for communicating. This is a web-based platform that you used for registering your child. Once your child is registered, your child will be “rostered” on their specific team and receive communication specific to that team/coach. Please download the Sports Engine app. You can modify your notifications in the SE platform. It is very helpful to coaches if parents indicate Yes or No on their athletes scheduled events. This eliminates unnecessary waiting or delays if it is known that an athlete is not intending to meet that morning.

**Email** is the next primary communication. Coaches and/or Team Directors will typically email weekly updates with training plans or upcoming competitions or events; however, this information is primarily shared via SE.

**Phone** communication is primarily for addressing particular needs or emergencies. Please ensure you have your coaches and/or Team Director contact to be able to reach them in the event of an emergency or to communicate tardiness or differing meeting arrangements. Your child's coach will have access to emergency contacts, as well. Some programs may use other apps, such as WhatsApp for primary communication for training and racing.

**Orientation Meeting:** In the fall, each DWSC program will host a Parent & Athlete meeting to cover program logistics, expectations, and calendar. We encourage all parents/athletes to attend; however, this is particularly critical for new parents/athletes.

[www.durangowintersportsclub.org](http://www.durangowintersportsclub.org): Updated monthly calendars and club wide information is available on the website, as well as through social media platforms.

## **THE TEAM: PARENT - COACH - ATHLETE**

By joining DWSC, you have joined a team of adults that are here to ensure that your child is safe, has fun, and learns the skills and values of ski racing. This team includes the parent, the coach, and the athlete. The parents are a critical piece of the 'team' but it is important that parents understand what that role means and how to act in order for everyone to have a positive and successful season.

### **Job Descriptions**

Parent: Love and Support

Coach: Teach and Challenge

Athlete: Work and Play (have FUN)

The relationships that exist among the 'team' go a long way toward determining the quality of the experience that the child has in the program. Some parents do not realize this and at first are surprised to find out that their participation is just as important as the coaches. When this happens, they miss opportunities to help their children grow, and sometimes do things that interfere with their children's development without realizing it.

The child/athlete has rights as a member of the 'team'. They have the right to participate and the right not to participate. Although the parent might choose to encourage participation, the child should not be pressured into participation. If they feel forced, their chances of receiving the benefits of the program are decreased and many times leads to the child quitting at an early age.

Congratulate your child if they win, congratulate them if they are last, and support them if they fall. Remind them to be supportive of their teammates.

You're supporting their effort....not their result.

### **DWSC PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- It is a team policy that parents are not to instruct their kids during training or competition. It can be very confusing for the competitors to hear differing messages from their parents and coaches. If you would like to discuss certain aspects of the training, please discuss with the coaches at the end of the training and/or race day, or preferably set up another time to meet. Please leave the instruction to the coaching staff, and do not plan on skiing with your child's group. Instead meet them for the appointed lunchtime.
- Parents are encouraged to participate in a variety of roles in support of the team and are expected to volunteer. This includes assisting at events, organizing team events, planning for competitions, acting as chaperones for team members, and helping with fundraisers.
- Parents are expected to act and behave in a positive, constructive, and appropriate manner at all times, especially while in the presence of the team athletes. Please remember you are a role model to our kids and to other teams, as well as a representative of the DWSC. Inappropriate actions will not be tolerated and can result in you and your child being excluded from training and competitions.
- When traveling, we require at least one parent chaperone for every six athletes to supervise athletes in the evening. The coaches cannot be responsible to chaperone athletes in the evenings. It is not the responsibility of DWSC to transport your child, regardless of age.

- If your child is an age 10 or under athlete, it is mandatory for you to either travel with your child to events, or have a designated adult directly responsible for them for the entirety of the event; or please discuss options directly with your Team Director.
- Make every effort to ensure that your competitor arrives at practices and events on time with all equipment necessary to participate. Equipment and bindings should be tested and in good condition and prepared in advance of the event or practice.

**The role of the parent on race day is just that; parent not coach.**

Your collective group of coaches have many years of experience with every kind of racer/athlete and there is very little we have not dealt with before. While we realize that many parents want to be involved on the day, it typically works best for the athlete if they keep to the routine that has been established in training. It is not just the ski racing we prepare for on training days, but also the race routine, what you do/think/say before, during and after the race.



Inspection, warm up, course reports, post-race feedback; these are all jobs for the coaching staff. This allows them to control certain information, which we believe is beneficial to the athletes. If you believe certain info is not being delivered to your athlete, please talk to the coach first, instead of to the athlete.

The start area is a coach/athlete environment. It is the start of their prep for the race, so they need to have focus and follow a routine. Swing by the top of the course to say “good luck” by all means, but then allow the athletes to get back to their normal routine which they have been preparing for. The start area is a skier’s dugout, so please respect the boundaries; as well as race rules do not allow unsanctioned individuals in the race arena.



So what is your job on race day? You are their support network, their positive reinforcement, and their cheering crowd in the finish area. This is a difficult sport and every great run has an element of luck in it. Some days we have it.....some days we don't.

But by following a well-practiced routine from the start to the finish of the process we can hope to maintain an even keel, allowing the athlete to perform to their best in a familiar environment.

**Winning...and losing.** What's the priority? Where do the kids learn the most? Is losing important? In terms of the educational benefits of sports, kids learn from both winning and losing. But for this to occur, winning must be placed in a healthy perspective. The emphasis on enjoyment of sports and working hard for something increases their chances of having a positive experience.



**Winning isn't everything, nor is it the only thing.** Young athletes can't possibly learn from winning and losing if they think that they have failed if they didn't win. Does this mean that children should not try to win? Definitely not! It would be naive and unrealistic to believe that winning is not an important goal in sports. But, winning it is not the most important objective at this age.

**Fundamental skill development is the priority.** It is important that we not define success only as winning. Not every athlete can win each race or become the next Mikaela Shiffrin. Yet, every athlete can experience the true success that comes from trying his or her best to win. The opportunity to strive for success is the right of every athlete.

**Losing. It isn't all bad.** Valuable lessons can be learned from losing. Kids learn to persist in the face of obstacles and to support each other. They can also learn that mistakes are not fully negative; they are important stepping stones to achievement.

**Young athletes learn the most from failure.** Success is not necessarily winning. Success is feeling a new movement. Success is making your first arc. Success is finishing 25th when your previous best result was 40th. The winner isn't the only athlete that has success. The important idea is that success is related to effort. The only thing that athletes have control over is the amount of effort they give on every run and on every day. They have only limited control over the outcome that is achieved. Athletes are never "losers" if they give maximum effort!

The athlete's development and personal performance always comes first. Additional resources for parents include:

<http://training.teamusa.org/brands/details?brandId=6>

<http://changingthegameproject.com/parent-coaches/>

<https://www.positivecoach.org/>

## SAFESPORT

As National Governing Body and steward of its sports, U.S. Ski & Snowboard has partnered with the SafeSport program via the United States Olympic Committee to assist its clubs, coaches, parents, and team leaders in recognizing unacceptable behavior and acting to prevent or correct it. As a U.S. Ski and Snowboard member club, we support and raise awareness for these resources and trainings.

Information and training can be found at: <https://safesport.org/>

All DWSC coaching staff has been advised of the [SafeSport guidelines](#) and program and are required to go through SafeSport training as part of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard membership process, as well

as onboarding for all our programs. All staff are also made aware of mandatory reporting laws governing the state of CO.

### **SafeSport Reporting**

There is a no-cost, confidential service that helps athletes manage crisis situations and other misconduct-related issues that they may face.

Reporting of sexual or abusive misconduct can be done here: [Report a Concern | U.S. Center for SafeSport \(uscenterforsafesport.org\)](https://www.uscenterforsafesport.org), or 1(833)587-7233.

State based reporting can be done here [Colorado Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline](https://www.colorado.gov/hotline) at 844-CO-4-KIDS.

## **VOLUNTEERING / WORK DEPOSIT PROGRAM**

The DWSC relies on hundreds, if not thousands, of parent volunteer hours to operate annually. Volunteering is a great way to meet other families and learn about your child's sport. Home races, camps, fundraisers, team media, building courses for freestyle, and club maintenance/operation are all great opportunities for parents to contribute to the team.

Alpine and Freestyle teams require significant volunteer support (or paid staff). These teams have instituted a required \$200 volunteer work deposit that is fully refundable at the end of season (April 2024) after the completion of a minimum of two (2) "Dibs" sessions (see below).

SportsEngine's "Dibs" tool will be the vehicle for signing up for volunteer opportunities and tracking fulfillment. These credits can be fulfilled by a parent, family member or friend on behalf of the family. Each dib credit is approximately 2-6 hours, depending on the work item. Accounts will be reconciled at the end of the season and refunds will be available at the end of each season, though they may be made available sooner during a monthly reconciliation. If you wish to simply donate your tax deductible work deposit at the end of the season, this is also an option.

Families in Freeride, Snowboard, and Gromlins are encouraged to volunteer, even though a payment policy is not required for these teams. You will still have the option to select dibs within SportsEngine, as well as to reach out directly to coaches or Team Directors to volunteer.

The Volunteer Coordinator is Sarah Morgan, who herself is a volunteer. If you have any questions, you can reach out to her directly. Sarah Morgan, Volunteer Coordinator (Phone: (505) 947-3514).

## **VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

There are numerous volunteering opportunities ranging from handing out awards, to shoveling landings, to official race positions requiring extensive training. Volunteer opportunities can be found on the Dibs page of Sports Engine, or you can reach out directly to your Team Director or coach to learn more about various opportunities. Sports Engine is the main communication platform for finding these opportunities.

### **SKI RACES: CALL FOR OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Successful race and event organization is a large task requiring 30-60 volunteers and certified officials. depending on the discipline and event. DWSC hosts a minimum of two competitions each season, and

some years three or four, across the three disciplines. Volunteering improves our club, as well as provides you a new view of the sport. ***DWSC encourages as many parents as possible to become involved, and to seek certifications through the USSA. DWSC will help fund certifications for interested parents.***

Your involvement in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard makes a difference. The U.S. Ski & Snowboard needs your support as a race official and volunteer to provide all our athletes with the quality competitive experiences they deserve. If you are a member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard, you are covered by their liability insurance anytime you are performing volunteer work at U.S. Ski & Snowboard sanctioned events. If you wish to become a member of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard, visit <https://usskiandsnowboard.org/>.

### **COACH RESPONSIBILITIES & BEHAVIOR**

DWSC recognizes that excellent Team Directors and coaching staff are the heart of our club. To this end, directors and coaches have the following expectations:

- To the best of their ability, create a safe, fun, and positive learning environment
- To the best of their ability, support each athlete in meeting their goals for athletic and personal achievement
- Carry emergency contact details for each athlete
- Represent the athletes' best interest at competitions and events
- Behave according to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard/USASA/IFSA Coaching Code of Ethics
- Be punctual, prepared, and maintain a professional appearance
- Communicate with parents before and after practice, or as needed
- Support and positively represent the DWSC club, team and program sponsors
- Consistently look for ways to grow their own skills and knowledge
- Be aware of [SafeSport](#) resources and [code](#) and be vigilant in reporting any signs of abuse
- Be aware of responsibility and laws regarding mandatory reporting of abuse