

WELCOME WILDCATS FENCERS!

General Information

Welcome to our team! Here is a very brief overview of what you need to know to be a Wildcat Fencer:

MEET OUR TEAM:

Our coaches:

Coach Kathy Vail is our Head Coach

Carol Hickey is our Assistant Coach

Our Fencing captains:

Gareth Payne is our Team Captain

Men's and Women's Team Captains to be announced

Our Booster Club:

Alana Black is our President

Randy Gallagher is our Vice-President

Miriam Miller is our Treasurer

Michelle Berkowitz is our Secretary

Allison James is our Member-at-large

Open: Second Member-at-large

Matt James is our Webmaster

Our Team Sponsor is Dr. Sonya Williams. Co-Sponsor is Mr. Paul Yoon.

WHEN WE PRACTICE:

Normally we practice Thursdays after school in the cafeteria or the auditorium lobby. Practice usually starts around 3:40 and continues until around 5:30. Our weekly practices usually start a week or two after school begins and continues through the last tournament at the end of February.

Because of COVID-19, this year is a little different. Currently, no parent volunteers will be used at practice due to the DeKalb County School System "visitors" policy announced at the beginning of the school year, although generally they are encouraged. Also, coaches, sponsors and students will all be masked at practice.

HOW WE COMPETE:

We belong to the Georgia High School Fencing League (GHSFL) which has teams in Cobb, Dekalb, and Fulton counties. Normally they conduct 5 or 6 tournaments in a season from September through January. These tournaments are held on Saturday mornings (check-in is usually around 7:30 AM and the tournaments last until about 2:00 PM or so) at various High Schools and fencers compete for tournament medals as well as individual points. After the last of these tournaments, there are individual and team championship tournaments. Entry to these tournaments is usually based on the number of points fencers have achieved over the season (and some other factors). For more information check out "Tournament 101" on our web site (on the "Downloads" tab).

Note: It is expected that fencers show good sportsmanship by staying until the end of each tournament even if they are eliminated from competition to cheer on their fellow Wildcats. Please plan to stay for the duration of any tournament you attend.

A tentative tournament schedule has been set for the 2021-2022 school year. It is:

2021-2022 GHSFL tournament schedule

Round 1: September 18th (Alpharetta and Campbell)

Round 2: October 16th (Johns Creek and Pope)

Round 3: October 30th (Pinecrest and Centennial)

Round 4: November 13th (Chattahoochee and ?)

Round 5: December 4th (Dunwoody and Roswell)

Round 6: January 8th (Lassiter and ?)

Individual Championship: January 22nd (Northview)

Team Championship: January 29th (Lambert)

BEFORE YOU CAN BEGIN FENCING:

There are a few things that are required before you are allowed to participate:

- All fencing forms must be completed and signed (these are all available in the forms packet, except for the physical form which is separate):
 - GHSFL Waiver ***
 - DHS Booster Club Waiver ***
 - DCSS Concussion Awareness
 - DCSS Sudden Cardiac Awareness
 - DCSS Club Permission Form
 - Pre-participation Physical Form (You generally do not need to schedule a new physical for your child to get the form completed. Doctor's offices will typically fill out the form

for up to 1 year after the last physical. If you make sure your student's physical was completed on or after 4/1/2021, your form will be good for the entire fencing season and will not need to be reaccomplished mid-season.)

- Insurance Verification Form (must include front and back copy of insurance ID card)
- Emergency Contact Form
- DHS Fencing Code of Conduct form

*** Please note that for the first two forms (the waivers) **BOTH PARENTS MUST SIGN THE FORM**. This includes situations where parents are divorced, one parent lives out of town, etc.

All forms are submitted to the team sponsor at the time a student attends the first practice. No student will be allowed to practice without the forms being submitted.

- You must have the proper equipment.

Fencing although fun, can be a dangerous sport. As such the following equipment is required of all fencers:

- Fencing Pants
- Fencing Plastron (large pad worn over the torso)
- Breast Plate (required for all women)
- Fencing Jacket with Wildcat Patch (we will provide the patch – you sew it on)
- Fencing Glove
- Fencing Helmet
- Standard Body Cord
- Epee

We suggest beginners use a “French Grip”

We suggest all Fencers use a “German Tip”

- Fencing Socks – The Booster Club will provide these prior to your first tournament. In the meantime, you must wear socks that are long enough to cover the distance between your sneakers and your pants (no exposed skin is allowed)

All fencing equipment looks alike. Please be sure to take a sharpie and mark your name on EVERY piece of equipment!

We recommend “Absolute Fencing” for your equipment needs. They have an epee fencing starter kit which will include all of the above (except for the women's breast plate), plus an equipment bag to carry everything, for about \$300. Make sure you are ordering an “electric” set (many practice sets don't include electric epees and don't have body cords). They have great customer service and easy to follow fitting guides on their web site. They are also very good with exchanges if something doesn't fit right. (just a note: we don't get anything from recommending them, and you are free to get the equipment anywhere you want).

We do have a LIMITED amount of used equipment that students have donated (most fencers keep their equipment after they graduate and continue to fence). You are welcome to borrow something if it fits (for a week or two – not for the season) as long as you clean it and return it

for the next person after you get your own equipment. There is no need to buy equipment before the first practice if your child has never tried fencing and you want them to try it first.

- You must join the Booster Club.

Unfortunately, we rely on dues payments for the majority of our costs (coaches, tournament fees, scoring equipment, referees, and so much more).

This year, the dues is \$300.00 per fencer. Dues do NOT need to be paid before your student attends a first or second practice, but do need to be paid by the first tournament. You can pay your dues one of 2 ways:

- Check or Money Order made payable to: *DHS Wildcats Fencing*
- Via PayPal – our account is: dhwildcatsfencing

Note: If you are using PayPal:

Be sure to include Fencer's name in the comments

If paying with a credit card, you will need to add an additional \$10 to cover credit card fees

DHS Wildcats Fencing is a fully qualifying 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are fully tax deductible (in accordance with IRS regulations). As a non-profit organization, we also qualify for company matching. So please consider making a donation and checking with your company to see if they will match your contribution.

If you have a financial issue please contact the Treasure for a [completely confidential] discussion about payments. We don't want anyone to feel like they can't be part of the team because of money.

CREDITS, AND VARSITY LETTERS:

Fencers can Earn a Varsity Letter (and subsequent Varsity Bars) as well as a PE exemption credit. There are requirements for each of these (the PE exemption usually takes two seasons to earn) and fencers will be made aware of the requirements, as well as attendance and tournament requirements by our team sponsor once our official season begins

PARENT PARTICIPATION:

Fencing at DHS is a self-funded and self-operated activity. It takes a huge effort to support our fencers both financially and logistically. We are usually required to host a tournament each season (which requires lots of "hands on"). We also have practices, which typically require a "responsible parent" to be there in case anything comes up. We need parents to volunteer to transport equipment to/from tournaments. We need volunteers to serve on our Booster Club Board that helps decide the direction of the club. We ask all parents to check our sign-up rosters and volunteer where they can.

WEB SITE AND CONTACT INFO:

Here is a list of web sites and contacts that will help:

Fencing Web Site:	www.dhsfencing.org
Absolute Fencing Gear:	www.absolutefencinggear.com
DHS Booster Club Email:	dunwoodyhsfencing@gmail.com