

# WELCOME FENCING FAMILIES!



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

## **MEET OUR TEAM:**

Nathalie Hanlet, Team/Teacher Sponsor

Coach Kathy Vail, Head Coach

Gareth Payne, Coach Advisor

Robbie Garber, Coach Advisor

## **Our Booster Club:**

Melanie Blackburn, President

Christine Delano, Vice-President

Andrea Oki Pomeroy, Treasurer

Julie Kegley, Secretary

Lee Blackburn, Member at Large / Web Admin

Charles Dean, Member at Large / Armorer

## **Captains:**

Sparrow Oki Pomeroy, Team Captain

Rachel Dean, Women's Captain

Thomas Tran, Men's Captain

## **WHEN WE PRACTICE**

We practice Wednesdays after school in the cafeteria. If the cafeteria is used for another event we will find a backup location at the school. Practice starts at 3:30 and continues until 6:10 PM. Our weekly practices start when school begins and continue through the end of March.

## **PRACTICE DATES**

August 7, 14, 21, 28 (VA Fencing will be at 8/21 practice to sell gear)

September 4, 11, 18, 25

October 2, 9, 23, 30

November 6, 13, 20

December 4, 11, 18

January 8, 15, 22, 29

February 5, 12, 26

March 5, 12, 19, 26

TBA - Fencing Banquet to be held end of March

## **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 6-7 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 in the area. 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).

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. It is also fun and exciting to watch the semifinals and finals. Please plan to stay for the duration of any tournament you attend.

**The tournament schedule for the 2024-2025 school year is:**

Round 1 – September 14 – location TBD

Round 2 – September 28 - location TBD

Round 3 – October 19 - location TBD

Round 4 – November 2 – DHS (waiting on finalization)

Round 5 – December 21 - location TBD

Round 6 – January 11 – location TBD

Individual Championships – February 1 - location TBD

Team Championships – February 8 - location TBD

\*\* as soon as locations are determined they will be updated on our website \*\*

**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 takes two seasons to earn, 170 total hours) and fencers will be made aware of the requirements.

**FENCING TEAM SOCIALS & PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout the year we will host social events for the team to get together outside of fencing. We also try to find opportunities to give back to the community. More information will follow about these events throughout the season.

## COMMUNICATION

We will utilize the Remind App to communicate important information throughout the season to both parents and students.

**Please text @36c86ef to 81010**

Students Fencers use the app Discord to communicate

Our website is: [www.dunwoodywildcatsfencing.com](http://www.dunwoodywildcatsfencing.com)

Our email is [dhswildcatsfencing@gmail.com](mailto:dhswildcatsfencing@gmail.com)

## BEFORE YOU CAN BEGIN FENCING:

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

**\*\*\*All 7 fencing forms MUST be completed and signed (these are all available on our website)\*\*\***

- GHSL DCSD Physical Form (Must be signed by a doctor)
- Dekalb County Concussion Awareness Form
- Dekalb County Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form
- DCSD Athletic Participation Consent / Insurance Verification Form
- GHSFL Waiver (Must be signed by both parents or reason given)
- DHS Wildcats Booster Club Waiver (Must be signed by both parents or reason given)
- DHS Club Permission Form

## FENCING EQUIPMENT

The following equipment is required of all fencers:

- Fencing Pants
- Fencing Plastron (large pad worn over the torso)
- Breast Plate (required for all women fencers only)
- 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!

Suggestions on where to Purchase Fencing Equipment:

- “Absolute Fencing” ([www.absolutefencinggear.com](http://www.absolutefencinggear.com)) is a good online source for your equipment needs. They have an epee fencing starter kit which includes 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 website.
- A local small business option is VA Sports Equipment (out of Chamblee). Their website and online store is at [www.vasportsequipment.com](http://www.vasportsequipment.com), (404) 820-6336. Their equipment is reasonably priced and appears to be of good quality. VA Fencing will come to the school at Practice on August 21 at 4:30 pm to offer fittings and sell equipment.

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.

## TEAM DUES

We rely on dues payments for the majority of our costs (coaches, tournament fees, scoring, equipment, (2) referees, and so much more).

This year, the dues will be \$450 per fencer. Dues do NOT need to be paid before your student attends a first or second practice, but **MUST be paid by September 6, 2024.**

You can pay your dues one of 3 ways:

- Check or Money Order made payable to: DHS Wildcats Fencing
- Via Venmo to our Treasurer, Andrea Oki Pomery. Last four digits of phone # 6359



- Square - Dues paid via Square are \$465 in order to cover processing 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 want to donate equipment or money to the club, we can provide a confirmation letter as documentation for your taxes.

## **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 required to host a tournament each season (which requires lots of “hands on” work). Here are some ways parents can be involved to help out:

1. **Referees** - At the tournaments we participate in, we are responsible for “a strip”. This strip is run by a referee who is responsible for testing the equipment before each bout, maintaining safety on the strip, enforcing the rules and keeping track of scoring. To become a referee, you need to pass a certification class. If you are interested, please let Melanie Blackburn know.
2. **Armorer** - An armorer attends the tournaments and helps troubleshoot and repair equipment for the team. For those interested in this role, we can arrange for them to attend a class.
3. **“Responsible Parent”** at team practices: At each practice, we require a “responsible parent” to be there in case anything comes up. We will create a sign-up genius and post on the website.
4. **Fundraisers & Sponsorships**: Dues alone don’t cover all the costs associated with each fencing season. We are always looking for volunteers to help us find ways to raise money for the club.
5. **Other Volunteer Opportunities** - The team always welcomes volunteers to help out with various activities such as our hosted fencing tournament at DHS, Homecoming Parade, etc.

## **SPIRIT WEAR**

Each fencer will receive a dri-fit T-shirt included in the payment of their dues. Additional T-shirts may be purchased by both fencers and parents. Additional T-shirts are \$20 each (sizes S – XL). \$24 for sizes 2XL and 3XL. Please note that dri-fit t-shirts can be a more snug fit so please order accordingly. We are unable to exchange sizes once ordered.

## **HOODIES**

Hoodies are an additional charge and are not included with dues. Hoodies may be purchased by our fencers and parents. Hoodies are priced at \$35 for sizes S-XL and \$38 for sizes 2XL and 3XL. These hoodies are a unisex fit so please order accordingly. We are unable to exchange sizes once ordered.



**ORDER FORM FOR DHS FENCING**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Fencers Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email (in case of question regarding order)

\_\_\_\_\_

*Payment may be made via check or money order made out to DHS Wildcats Fencing or via Venmo to @Aoki2019. Orders may also be placed via our website.*

*Orders will be delivered to your fencer at practice.*

DESCRIPTION	SIZE – PLEASE CIRCLE	QUANTITY NEEDED	PRICE PER ITEM	TOTAL
Dri-fit t-shirt (standard size)	S M L XL		\$20	
Dri -fit t-shirt (extended sizes)	2XL 3XL		\$24	
Hoodie (standard sizes)	S M L XL		\$35	
Hoodie (extended sizes)	2 XL 3 XL		\$38	