

WARRIOR ATHLETICS

RODEO ● ARCHERY ● CROSS COUNTRY ● TRACK & FIELD

2025-2026



STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK

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GREETING FROM ATHLETIC MANAGER

Yá'át'éch T'áánóól'tsóh!,

On behalf of the Diné College Athletic Department, I would like to commend you on your intent in becoming a Warrior Student-Athlete. Us Navajos have a vibrant heritage of running, rodeoing and utilizing archery tools. Our ancestral ferocity is an important virtue that has been passed down to our people since the emergence into this Glittering World. The Warrior Athletics Program aims to incorporate Diné cultural teachings of Sa'ah Naaghái Bik'eh Hózhóón, T'áá Hwó'ají T'éego and the Hózhóójik'ehgo Na'nitin & Naayée'jik'ehgo Na'nitin.

Take a moment to applaud yourself in embracing the willingness to compete. It takes substantial confidence to embark on the path of balancing your social, academic, athletic and professional lifestyles. During the participation as a Student-Athlete you will be held to highest standards of performance, evaluation and continuation. Keep in mind that all Student-Athletes are entrusted to represent the institution both on and off campus. Athletic participation is a privilege and that it can be forfeited if institution and league regulations are not adhered to.

Compete to your best physical and mental capabilities. Embrace setbacks to remember that there is always time for improvements. Implement compassion into the sport and commit the patience to genuinely enjoy. Always prioritize academics and take advantage of the many resources that the institution offers. Throughout your time participating in intercollegiate sports, we anticipate to strengthen personal growth, ethical responsibility, team experiences, networking opportunities and sportsmanship.

Good luck in your endeavors, may your involvement in athletics result in success for yourself, your family and your nation. The Athletic Department is here to assist you and answer any questions that you may have. Take care and have a great year.

Sincerely

Brandon G. Begaye

Brandon G. Begaye
Athletic Manager
bgbegaye@dinecollege.edu
(928) 724-6753



VISION & MISSION

Mission Statement

Diné College will pursue to captivate Student-Athletes who will accomplish in academics and athletics.

Vision Statement

Diné College will provide a learning environment for Student-Athletics to expand their academic and social leadership skills.

Objectives

1. To comply with all institutional, United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA), National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), and United States Archery Association (USAA) regulations pertaining to an athlete's eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics.
2. To encourage the academic success of all Student-Athletics.
3. To create a positive academic atmosphere for Student-Athletes by making available counseling and tutoring.
4. To promote wellness through a sound conditioning program as well as pre-season physicals and careful attention to illness and injury.
5. To optimize the marketing of the athletic department in an effort to enhance its image.



VALUES

Core Values

Integrity – We are devoted to the highest sense of integrity surrounding every aspect of our behavior as representatives of Diné College. We strive for high moral character, honor, respect, and honesty in all our actions.

Education – We will educate each Student-Athlete with quality academics, competitive, leadership, and social experiences to build a sense of responsibility and foster an appreciation for life-long learning.

Respect – We will honor a climate of mutual respect and diversity by recognizing each individual's contribution to the team.

Traditions – We will build upon our traditions, which have been developed, throughout our proud history.

Community – We serve as role models, mentors, and leaders seeking not only to teach others but also to learn from their diverse experiences. We take pride in creating and fostering life-enhancing relationships, which lead to a strong and vibrant community.

Pride – We are beneficiaries of a rich and living tradition forged by all the efforts of all those who have come before us. Our personal and team triumphs add to the growing pride that we share at Diné College.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Student-Athletes are subject to the student policies and penalties as stated in the Diné College Student Code of Conduct as well as federal, state, and local laws. Participation in intercollegiate athletics at Diné College is a privilege and not a guaranteed right. Student-Athletes are expected to meet higher standards of personal conduct and appearance than those stated in other college regulations. Therefore, in addition on the sanctions that may be imposed for misconduct as stated in the dine College Student Code of Conduct, Student=Athletes will also face disciplinary action by the President, Vice President, Dean(s), Athletic Manager or Coach for any of the following:

- Violation of USCAA, NIRA, USAA, or Team rules.
- Arrest for any crime other than a minor traffic offense.
- Use or possession of any illegal drugs.
- Unauthorized use of any steroid.
- Illegal consumption of alcohol.
- Fighting with, threatening the safety of, or harassing any individual.
- Larceny
- Destruction of Diné College property.
- Trespassing
- Acts of moral misconduct.
- Sexual Harassment of any athlete, student, or coach.
- Any interference with the normal operations of the college or conduct, which interferes with the rights, or opportunities of those who attend the college.
- Any conduct that reflects unfavorably upon the college, athletic department or team.
- Any form of hazing
- Failure to follow instructions of the Athletics staff.
- Failure to represent the College and Athletics Department, in an appropriate manner including both behavior and dress.
- Failure to abide by all rules imposed during practice and competitions, and at any other time when representing the college.
- Failure to treat all players, officials, coaches and any representative of Diné College courteously and with respect.
- Failure to respect the property of others.
- Failure to follow all academic procedures as established by the college, the athletic academic advisors, and the coach.
- Failure to comply with all travel policies and procedures.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

To support the Athletic Department's commitment to excellence in all areas, the following policies represent a guide to our sound participation in intercollegiate athletics:

A. The educational values, practices, and mission of this institution determine the standards by which we conduct our intercollegiate athletics program.

B. The responsibility and authority for the administration of the Athletics Department, including all basic policies, personnel and finances, are vested in the President. The Athletic Director reports to the Vice President of Student Affairs and is in direct control of the day-to-day operations.

C. Each student-athlete (male and female, majority and minority) in all sports will receive equitable and fair treatment. Diné College is an equal opportunity institution.

D. The admission policy for athletes is the same as for any student. Under the "Open Enrollment Policy", any graduate of an accredited high school or any person who holds a high school equivalency diploma will be accepted as a student.

E. The Financial Aid Office is responsible for administering and coordinating all financial assistance. All awards are made in compliance with institutional, state, and federal guidelines.

F. Continuing eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics will be based on the student being able to demonstrate academic eligibility and responsiveness to the standards and expectations of the program as communicated and published in the general catalog.

G. All sports require a pre-season physical for each player before practice or competition. A physician must release each player before practice or games. The Athletic Department will maintain and file medical histories of all injured athletes and keep files for up to three fiscal years.

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INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

The institutional policies found in the “Student Code of Conduct” and the “General Catalog” are the minimum requirements for students attending at Diné College. The Athletic Department recognizes that athletics require more guidelines to insure proper function within the system. Therefore, Student-Athletes must adhere to all policies of the institution and the Athletic Department.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Ineligible students shall not be allowed to dress for any competition.
2. Students who falsify their academic and/or athletic participation record shall be ineligible for further competition.
3. The word “term” as used within the Eligibility Rules, refers to semester, as it applies to the official unit of class attendance at a college. Summer sessions shall also be considered as a term of college if the Student-Athlete completes 12 semester hours.
4. A Student-Athlete’s grade-point average will be determined by devising the accumulated quality points by the corresponding credit hours.

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT-ATHLETE RULES

We expect you to avoid all situations that will embarrass yourself, your family, or our college.

1. You are expected to dress neatly and use good personal hygiene. We want you to look sharp, clean, and neat at all times.
2. We expect you to be on time and ATTEND all classes. If there is an unusual circumstance and you cannot attend class, you must notify your Head Coach BEFORE you miss class.
3. We expect you to take extreme care of all equipment and property that belongs to Diné College. This includes proper care and cleanliness of your residence hall room.
4. We expect you to be on TIME for all school and team functions. For team functions, you should arrive fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled time. We further expect you to follow curfew rules.
5. We expect you to show RESPECT for coaches, faculty members, community members, opposing teams, game officials, and fellow players.
6. We expect you to pay all fees associated with college housing and foodservices when due. Failure to do so can result in eviction from college housing.

TEAM RULES

The individual rules stated above are the minimum rules that are required by the Athletic Department. Each coach may implement other rules to help discipline the team that he/she coaches.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW STUDENT-ATHLETES

Students must be high school graduates, have received a high school equivalency diploma or have been certified as having passed the General Education Development Test (GED).

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The following rules shall be used to determine a student's eligibility for athletic competition. THIS ENTIRE SECTION MUST BE READ BEFORE A STUDENT'S ELIGIBILITY STATUS CAN BE DETERMINED.

A. Student-Athletes must be making satisfactory progress within an approved Diné College program or course as listed in the General Catalog.

B. Students must be in regular attendance within ten (10) calendar days from the beginning of classes of the term in which the students choose to participate. This ten (10) day rule can apply to the starting date of a mini-session within a regular session and shall be a published date in the General Catalog or schedule of classes for that term. The mini-session must begin prior to the date of the first contest and have a common ending date with the regular term. Students who do not conform to this rule are ineligible throughout the remainder of the term.

C. Students must maintain enrollment in twelve (12) or more credit hours of college work as listed in the general catalog during each term of athletic participation. Students who drop below twelve (12) credit hours become immediately ineligible for athletic participation.

SEMESTER ELIGIBILITY

A. Prior to the last official date to register for the second full-time semester, as published in the General Catalog, a student must have passed twelve (12) semester hours with a 2.0 GPA or higher.

B. Prior to the last official date to register for the third full-time semester, and all subsequent semesters thereafter, as published in the General Catalog, a student must satisfy one of the following two (2) requirements to be eligible for the upcoming term:

1. Pass a minimum of twelve (12) semester hours with a 2.0 GPA or higher during the previous semester of full-time enrollment OR

2. Pass an accumulation of semester hours equal to twelve multiplied by the number of semesters in which the student was previously enrolled full-time with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

C. Prior to a second season of participation in any sport at Diné College, students must pass a minimum accumulation of twenty-four (24) semester hours with a 2.0 GPA or higher.

D. Students must be enrolled full-time (twelve or more credits) at Diné College where they have chosen to participate when the regular season schedule of a sport begins. Students not enrolled during the term when the season begins remain ineligible throughout the season schedule unless they enroll on the first possible enrollment date following:

1. Their release from Active Armed Services of the United States with a discharge other than dishonorable.

2. Their return from a religious mission.

3. Their graduation from a high school or receipt of an equivalency diploma.

4. Their transfer from an NIRA, USCAA, USAA member college, which has dropped a sport after the school year begins. Students that satisfy one of the four exceptions become eligible after the previous term has ended upon registration as a full-time student for the new term. (Students must be added to the eligibility form before participating.)

ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS ATHLETES WHO WITHDRAW FROM CLASSES

Student-Athletes anticipating on dropping a course must consult with the Athletic Academic Advisor prior to formally dropping one or more courses. In the event a student drops below full-time status, the student will be declared ineligible and unable to participate in athletic events.

NUMBER OF SEASONS A STUDENT CAN PARTICIPATE

A. Students must not have previously competed during two (2) seasons in a given sport at any intercollegiate level.

B. Participation in any fraction of any regularly scheduled contest during the collegiate year shall constitute one (1) season of participation in that sport. Participation includes entry into an athletic contest and scrimmages and does not include dressing for such an event.

INELIGIBLE STUDENT-ATHLETES

Ineligible athletes are not representatives of Diné College Athletics Department. Therefore, ineligible Student-Athletes are not allowed to related activities, and when applicable not receive the benefits of membership on the team including sport specific equipment and attire.

STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

As a Student-Athlete at Diné College, you agree to hold yourself to the highest of standards of integrity in the classroom, on campus, during competitions and off campus. All Student-Athletes are in the public eye and must accept the responsibility of representing Diné College at all times. Deviations from the said expectations may result in disciplinary actions at the coaches and/or athletic directors' discretion.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS POLICIES

Time away from campus and/or class time missed will be limited to no more than (6) six classes during a semester. Each student-athlete is responsible for contacting instructors to arrange due to absence(s). Student-Athletes are responsible for meeting the attendance policy for all academic courses. It is unacceptable for Student-Athletes to miss classes for sports related activities (Meetings, Training, etc.) during the academic day unless approved by the Athletic Manager.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. When absences occur, it is the student's responsibility to make up the work missed. The instructor decides whether the student will be permitted to make up the missed work. The Athletic Department feels that the regular class attendance is vital for all student-athletes. The department recognizes that sometimes athletic events require student-athletes to miss class; therefore, no student-athlete should miss a class session without prior approval from the Head Coach and/or the instructor.

CLASS SCHEDULES AND DROP/ADD

It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to monitor the student-athletes' selection of courses. This will ensure that the student-athlete is taking courses that will apply to their program of study. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to notify the Head Coach and the Athletic Manager of any change in his/her class schedule.

Student-Athletes are not permitted to drop or add a course during the semester without prior approval from the Head Coach or Athletic Manager.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ACADEMIC PROGRESS REPORT

The most important goal for a student-athlete at Diné College is to obtain an education. Diné College athletics supports this goal by promoting and enhancing the academic and intellectual goals of its student-athletes. Each Student-Athlete is responsible for his/her academic success. The athletic department has structured a program to check the progress of all student-athletes.

Student-Athlete Progress reports are sent to students on a bi-weekly basis beginning two (2) weeks after instructions begin. Instructors must provide attendance, letter grade, additional progress notes and a signature. If there is an issue in the classroom, the athletics department can intervene and impose mandatory tutoring and/or seek additional assistance for the student-athlete so that he/she is academically successful. The submittal of all progress reports in a semester is a criterion for Student-Athletes to be considered for the end-of-the-semester incentive.

HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION

All individuals must be allowed to pursue activities at Diné College free from harassment based on color, race, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, sex, marital or parental status, or sexual orientation/gender identity. Responsibility for maintaining a harassment free campus environment rests with all students, and employees of Diné College.

Harassment based on one of the factors listed above is verbal, physical conduct or conduct using technology that is so severe or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational participation, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

All Students, Staff, and faculty must be allowed to pursue their activities at Diné College free from sexual harassment and unwelcome sexual advances. Such conduct will not be tolerated. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Discrimination encompasses a range of conduct, from sexual assault to conduct such as unwanted touching or persistent unwelcomed comments, emails, or pictures of an insulting or degrading sexual nature, which may constitute harassment.

All complaints regarding sexual harassment and sexual discrimination must be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator in accordance with the Student Complaint process.

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 is a Federal Civilized Right Law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities. All public and private elementary and secondary school, school districts, colleges and universities that receive any Federal funding must comply with Title IX.

Diné College will respond promptly and effectively to all complaints of sexual discrimination and sexual harassment including sexual violence. All complaints and policy inquiries regarding sexual harassment and sexual discrimination may be submitted to:

Perphelia Fowler,
Human Resource Director
Phone: (928)724-6603 or email pfowler@dinécollege.edu
Office is located in the Ned Hatathli Center, 2nd floor

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Diné College is a Zero Tolerance Institution, which prohibits the possession or use, processing, distributing, manufacturing, selling or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs by any student, faculty, or staff.

Under no circumstances are there to be drugs or alcohol purchased or consumed by the Diné College Student-Athlete at any time while traveling as teams away from Diné College Campus.

The college believes that the use and abuse of these substances is counterproductive of the educational process and often contributes to behaviors that are disruptive to the entire campus community. Health risks are associated with misuse and abuse of such substances and legal consequences for illegal drug use, can be quite severe and may greatly impact a person's future.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Student-athletes must understand of the consequences of the abuse of social media. They should always keep in mind that information posted on social network (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube) is public, and is a direct representation of themselves, family members, team members, and Diné College. Students must be cognizant of the amount of people affected by these sources of information.

Student-Athletes are not restricted from using online social network sites and digital platforms. However, violations of college policies (e.g. harassing language, alcohol or drug policy violations, etc.) or evidence of such violations in the content of online social networks or digital platforms is subject to investigation and sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct and Student-Athlete Handbook.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

The Athletic Department will provide all transportation necessary for athletic teams. This includes travel to regular season games, and local, regional and national tournaments. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to ensure that all players travel with the team and are under his/her supervision.

If it becomes necessary for a Student-Athlete to travel separately to a competition from the rest of the team, the coach must seek prior permission from the athletic director or his designee. If this is not completed prior to leaving Diné College, then permission is automatically denied. The Student-Athlete, acknowledging a release of liability of the team, the coaching staff, the athletic department and the college, must sign a Student-Athlete Travel Release form.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

All student-athletes participating in any Diné College sports must have passed a physical examination prior to their first competition for each collegiate year in which they compete. It is the Head Coach's responsibility to see that each student-athlete has a valid physical examination form on file in the Athletic Manager's Office.

No Student-Athlete will be allowed to participate in intercollegiate athletic practice or a physician has signed competition until a signed medical clearance form. This applies to tryouts and both traditional and non-traditional practice sessions.

INJURIES AND ILLNESS

If an injury or illness occurs, the student-athlete should notify the Head Coach so the Head Coach can make adjustments for participation and in assisting in the rehabilitation of the Student-Athlete.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to issue and inventory all items of equipment that are necessary for the Student-Athlete to participate properly in the sport. All issued items remain property of Diné College Athletic Department. Loss or damage to the issued items will be charged to the Student-Athlete. There are certain items that will be regarded as personal items that the Athletic Department will not furnish. The coach will list those items, and it is the responsibility of the Student-Athlete to obtain these items for his/her own use.

THEFT

Any degree of theft by a Student-Athlete is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Offenders will be prosecuted and disciplined appropriately.

HAZING

Diné College prohibits hazing. A person commits hazing when he or she knowing requires a student or other person at the college to perform any act, on or off college campus, for the purpose of induction, admission, or membership into any group, team, organization, or society associated with or connected to Diné College.

Any Student-Athlete or team that commits to hazing will be subject to the Athletic Department disciplinary measures that could include: ineligibility, suspension for a period of time or indefinitely.

Any person with knowledge of hazing is expected to communicate promptly with the Athletics Director or college security.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Diné College Athletics Department promotes good sportsmanship by Student-Athletes, Coaches, and Spectators. Diné College is committed to creating a positive and exciting atmosphere at all competitions. Student-Athletes are obligated to represent themselves, their team and the college with the highest level of sportsmanship.

*Cheer for your team

*Refrain from making personal comments about event participants, coaches and officials

*No vulgarity, profanity, racist, homophobic, or sexist comments.

*Alcohol or drugs will not be tolerated at any athletic events.

STUDENT-ATHLETE COMPLAINT PROCESS

In the event that a Student-Athlete has a complaint, the matter should be resolved by following the athletic chain of command. The Student-Athlete should first notify the Head Coach and together with the coach try to resolve the matter. If the complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the coach, Student-Athlete, and Athletic Manager, should meet to resolve the problem. In the event that the complaint cannot be settled to the satisfaction of all parties involved, the Athletic Manager will request a meeting with the Vice President of Student Affairs.

END OF YEAR SURVEY

After the completion of each season, you will be asked to complete an end-of-season survey that asks about your experience as a Student-Athlete. All of the information you provide in the survey will remain confidential. This survey is used to help the Athletic Department improve the athletics experience for all Diné College Student-Athletes.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Incentive program is provided by the athletic department and managed through the Athletic Manager to enhance the educational opportunities for Student-Athletes. The Incentive is offered to Student-Athletes to help defray the cost of attendance, the Incentive will vary from semester to semester for tuition and fees. Incentives are provided after the end of Fall and Spring Semesters, when final grades are posted.

Criteria for Students to receive the incentive are:

- Student-Athlete must be enrolled in twelve (12) or more credits.
- Student-Athlete must maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher
 - o No letter grade of "D" or "F"
- Submit Student-Athlete academic progress reports. (If a Student-Athlete is placed on mandatory tutoring, the Student-Athlete must complete the tutoring sessions to be eligible for the Incentive Program).
- Be in good academic and social standing.
- Participate in all team practices and competitions.

INSURANCE

In all athletic activities, there are some risk of injury, which cannot be eliminated even by the most safety-conscious coaching staff. Knowing this to be true, Diné College seeks to assure that every Student-Athlete, while participating in team practice or college sanctioned completion, is covered through the College's insurance.

STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)

The Student-Athlete advisory committee is a committee made up of Student-Athletes assembled to provide insight on the Student-Athlete experience. The SAAC also offers input on the rules, regulations and policies that effect Student-Athletes' lives on NIRA, USCAA, and USAA member institutions' campuses and conferences.

PURPOSE

- Encourage unity, common purpose and camaraderie between teams and all athletes.
- Evaluate the Diné College athletic programs and make recommendations to the administration for the improvement of the Student-Athlete's academic, athletic and social experiences.
- Promote and support athletics at institutional, conference and national levels.
- Serve as a vehicle through which the College may discuss with Student-Athlete's issues regarding the management, operation, rules and proposed legislations that govern the Athletics Department and its sports teams.
- To provide the Student-Athlete population with an opportunity to more effectively communicate with Diné College Athletics Department administration.

Team members are strongly encouraged to support the activities and events sponsored by SAAC.



Artwork Done by
Casey Mitchell
Student-Intern