Mission Statement

David Thompson Secondary's mission for athletics is to foster the personal development of athletes and coaches by providing opportunities for participants through a quality athletic experience.

Vision

Participants in David Thompson's athletic program will demonstrate:

- A good academic standing
- Responsibility and accountability to the school and community
- Sportsmanship and fair play
- The development of athletic skill
- Opportunities to develop competitive skills
- Positive leadership and role modeling for DTSS in and out of the school

Grade 8 Athletics

The philosophy of the bantam program is an emphasis on fun, participation, and skill and team development.

- In order to encourage participation, numbers of athletes at practice will not be limited.
- Travelling numbers are accommodated for ease of coach supervision and travel. Travel for students will be based on availability and ensuring all athletes have an equal opportunity to travel.
- Every player will have the opportunity to develop their skills during game situations, either home or away (all players will play).
- Two weeks prior to the East Kootenay Championships the team will make a decision (through a closed vote) on whether they would like to send a team to the EK's to win or to participate.
If the majority of team members choose to win, a final group of players will be put together for the East Kootenay's based on skill, effort, attendance, and attitude.

**Junior Athletics**

The philosophy of the junior program is an emphasis on fun, participation, and skill and team development, and game experience. At this level teams will also begin to develop competitiveness.

- In order to encourage participation, numbers of athletes at practice will not be limited.
- Travelling numbers are accommodated for ease of coach supervision and travel. Travel for students will be based on availability and ensuring all athletes have an equal opportunity to travel.
- Two weeks prior to the East Kootenay Championships the team will make a decision on whether they would like to send a team to the EK’s to win or to participate.
  - If the majority of team members choose to win, a final group of players will be put together for the East Kootenay's based on skill, effort, attendance, and attitude.
- In order to continue the development of players and teams, coaches are encouraged to include both grade nines and tens in all situations.

**Playing Up**

The coaching department at David Thompson Secondary believes that all athletes in grades 10 – 12 may have the opportunity to try out for the senior team of that sport, unless it eliminates a junior team or prevents a senior from playing.

**Guidelines:**

- Grade 8 and 9 players will play within their respective age groups based on need.
- Coaches will not ‘recruit’ junior age players prior to the start of the season.
- An athlete that is moved up will become a full member of that senior team.