



2025/2026 DWSC Snowboard Handbook

The Durango Winter Sports Club Snowboard Program is dedicated to developing snowboarders of all levels, from recreational riders to competitive athletes ready for USASA and regional events. Our program emphasizes safe progression, skill-building, and having fun, while helping athletes become well-rounded and technically proficient snowboarders. With expert coaching across multiple disciplines—such as slopestyle, halfpipe, boardercross, and rail jam—our program allows snowboarders to pursue a specific focus or explore multiple areas. We aim to create a positive, supportive environment where athletes can grow into accomplished riders and lifelong members of the snowboarding community.

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DWSC Snowboard Team Overview

The DWSC snowboard team offers programs that aim to create competitive and capable, lifelong snowboarders through training and competition in snowboard disciplines. We are lucky enough to have access to amazing snowboarding terrain at Chapman Hill and Purgatory Resort.

We aim to provide a variety of different training programs that suit different ages, experience levels, competitive interests and varying levels of time commitment. While competing is not mandatory all athletes are encouraged to try at least one event per season. For entry level Southwest Colorado series events athletes will need a General USASA Membership. In order to sign up for other competitions, such as the USASA Southwest Colorado Series your athlete will need a USASA membership. That can be obtained at USASA.org.

Note: Development Team and Competition teams are designed around a weekend schedule with practices at Purgatory Resort. Chapman practices can be added on to these registrations or can be signed up for separately, with our Chapman only options.

Tips For Purgatory Sessions

- Get ready early! Traffic and road conditions can increase the amount of time it takes to get there. Usually leaving at 8:00 AM is a sure bet to get there and be up at Hoody's (our team meeting location) by 9:00, ready to go!
- Carpool! This builds community and saves on time and gas for parents. Let your director know if you would like help creating a carpool group
- Bring lunch, water and snacks! The athletes will be eating lunch in the Hoody's brown bag area. They will have access to the food options at the base area but the lines can sometimes be long and we want the kids to be able to finish their lunch,
- Encourage and discuss safe snowboarding practices with your child. Prior to practice sessions remind them that Demon is a slow skiing zone and that staying in control is important for their safety as well as others.
- Send your child with a cell phone or a note with your phone number, their coach's phone number and the director's (Cody's) number. Also, remind them if they do get split from the group, that we will meet at Hoody's at 2:30 (this is where our programs wrap up). Of course we don't intend to split up but mistakes happen and having a plan in place can help everyone stay safe.

Tips For Chapman Sessions

- Warm up! Unlike purgatory practices there are no built in warm up slopes prior to accessing freestyle terrain. Encourage your athlete to do 3-5 warm up runs before getting on the race course or using the terrain park. Coaches will try to monitor this as well, but if you show up late we may be preoccupied with other athletes.
- Get there early! While on the topic of warming up this can be done by your athlete before the session starts if you get there early.
- Bring durable gloves! Kinco leather work gloves are relatively inexpensive, warm and durable.

Practice Gear List

- Proper fitting boots
- Proper Fitted Helmet
- Well-fitting goggles and gloves
- Appropriate jackets and pants for various weather conditions.
- Water and food
- Extra face masks for snowy days.
- Multi tool

Tips For all Practices

- Be flexible! Sometimes trying something new or that you didn't intend to try that day can lead to the most growth. For example, if we get a bunch of new snow our practices may turn into a sweet pow day with friends!
- Assess terrain park, half pipe, and race course conditions and start slow.
- Practices will begin with a warm up, followed by a course inspection
- Connect with your athletes coach at the end of the day! It is important that you as a parent get a sense of what is happening at practice to be able to understand your athlete's development.
- Keep your child's board waxed and tuned. I recommend learning to do this at home or using one of our great shops around town (Boarding Haus)

Communication and SportsEngine

- Please download the SportsEngine app
- The app will be used for scheduling and communication throughout the season.
- Please use the RSVP feature within SportsEngine to show that your child will be at practice or attending an upcoming competition
- Additional communication may come via email, text message, or phone call, but SportsEngine will always be the primary communication channel

Practice Schedules

Development Team Schedule

- 10 Saturdays/ Sundays between January and mid-March
- 9:00 AM-2:30 PM

Competition Team Schedule

- 16 weekends
- 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
- Dec-March

Chapman Schedule

- TBD

Holiday Freestyle Camp co-hosted with the Freestyle Ski Team

- Takes place during the 9R winter break
- Durango Gymnastics Center - 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM (\$15 per day)
- Transport from Durango Gymnastics to Purgatory - 9:45 AM - 11:15 AM
- Lunch - 11:15 AM - Noon
- Afternoon Jump Session - Noon - 3 PM (\$30 per day)

Competition Information and Schedules

All DWSC Snowboard Team Athletes will have the chance to participate in competitions and are encouraged to try out at least one event per season. The competition series for our athletes this year:

- **Southwest Colorado USASA series**
- **Southwest Series and USASA Nationals Information**

Membership: Athletes, as long as they are under 18, will need to have a USASA membership to compete. They can purchase a one day membership if they only plan on doing one event, but if they would like to do more than one competition or try to qualify for Nationals, a full year membership is the way to go. One day membership results will not count towards National rankings points. If an athlete is 18 or over, they will need both a USSA and USASA membership to compete. The USSA membership deals with background checks and SafeSport, and that can take awhile to clear so memberships should be purchased no less than one month before the first event the athlete plans on competing in. I believe they won't even be able to register for an event before having valid, non-pending membership status.

Format:

GS and Slalom: Two runs on both of the set courses or two runs on a single set course. The runs are then combined with the winning athlete having the lowest combined time on the courses.

Slopestyle: Two runs for each athlete, best run is used for placing. (Runs are judged on the acronym DAVE: Difficulty, Amplitude, Variety, Execution)

Halfpipe: Two runs for each athlete, best run is used for placing. (Runs are judged on the acronym DAVE: Difficulty, Amplitude, Variety, Execution)

Rail Jam: Typically 30-45 minute heats (athlete only competes in one heat), broken down into age categories, depending on athletes competing. (Athletes are judged on the acronym DAVE: Difficulty, Amplitude, Variety, Execution and can be broken down into "best trick" or overall impression, but usually turns out being a hybrid where it's an overall impression, but best trick is weighted heavily)

Boardercross: Races can be done in one of three formats. The first being a traditional format where seeding is determined through a time trial (typically one run time trial). Second, athletes are seeded based on National Ranking. Third is a Round Robin. The most common of these are Round Robin and Time Trial. There are then Heat Races to narrow down fields and then a final with four racers, depending on field size for age group.

Registration: Registration will begin when events post to the USASA website (usasa.org). This should be around mid-late November. Once registration is open, athletes login to their accounts

and register on usasa.org. Event registrations typically close the Wednesday before the event or the day before the event.

Event Price: Event costs for all of the Southwest Colorado Series events this season will most likely be \$55/event (If there is more than one event per day or weekend, each event is still \$55 and will be paid at online registration before the actual event). Not all series have the same event fees, some series are higher and some are lower, so athletes should be aware of this if they plan on competing in other series events.

Nationals Qualifications: To qualify for Nationals, athletes must have a full membership. For athletes with full memberships, each Regional Series is allocated one slot for their series winner in each discipline and age/gender group. Each Regional Series can name their second place finisher in each discipline, gender and age class as an alternate in the event that the first place finisher can't attend. National Champions from the previous year also receive an automatic qualification and invite, provided they are a current member in good standing. There are also Overall Champions, athletes who competed in every discipline at Nationals and were the Overall points leader, and these athletes also receive an automatic qualification and invite to Nationals. The remaining spots for Nationals invites are sent out in rounds to athletes based on National Rankings at the end of the regional competition season.

More information: You can find out most general information you need on usasa.org and follow along on instagram at @usasasnow. To find out information specific to our Southwest Colorado Series, our Instagram is @usasa_swco, and our Facebook is USASA SW Colorado Series. It is also necessary for athletes and/or parents to get the Stack Team App, all information on events and important updates for our series will be posted on there. Each regional series has their own page on the Stack Team App and ours is USASA Southwest Colorado Series. If athletes plan on competing in other series' events, they should also join those series' pages on Stack Team App to stay updated. There is also a page for Nationals, that is athletes are going, they should join the Nationals page as well.

Team Travel Fees

Travel fees will be assessed to athletes that are part of the devo program that would like to compete during the season. Competition program athletes will not be charged a travel fee; travel costs are already factored into the price of that programs

25/26 DWSC Snowboard Competition Schedule

- *TBD*

Snowboard “Go Bag” for Competitions

We encourage athletes to be prepared for spending time outside and believe that an athlete's ability to be in control of their fuel and hydration will create an independent and prepared athlete. By bringing a bag full of supplies the ability to be in control of their performance. While we encourage athletes, especially as they get older, to carry their own bags at purgatory practices, coaches will have backpacks that can carry athlete lunches as well. This list is geared specifically to what an athlete will want to have at a competition, where the scheduling demands can be difficult.

Always Pack:

1. Face mask or dual layer buff
2. Backpack - Small / Medium preferably with waist strap
3. Hand sanitizer
4. Sack Lunch
5. Water / Bottle - 8oz min
8. Simple Sugar snacks - energy bars, shot blocs, figs, etc.
6. Extra Shell / jacket - For weather change or to sit on during break
7. Electrolyte / Juice - 8oz
9. Sun Screen

Recommended:

1. Thermos - small, for hot liquid drink Hot Choc., Tea,
2. Extra gloves
3. Extra Skull cap or thin hat
4. Extra Goggles
5. Multi Tool
6. Duct Tape
7. Hand Warmers
8. Quick Sugars - dried fruit, candy
9. Foam Pad - Square for sitting, standing on.
10. Emergency Space blanket
11. Anti-fog wipes
12. Rub-on Wax
13. Lip balm

DWSC Snowboard Team Code of Conduct

To be a successful member of our snowboarding team, each rider is expected to follow these guidelines to create a positive and supportive environment for everyone:

1. **Listen to the Coaches**
 - Pay close attention to what your coaches are saying.
 - Follow instructions and respect their feedback—they're here to help you improve and stay safe.
2. **Try New Skills**
 - Be open to learning and trying the skills we're teaching, even if they feel challenging at first.
 - Remember, improvement comes with practice and a positive attitude!
3. **Respect Teammates**
 - Treat each team member with respect, on and off the slopes.
 - Encourage one another, celebrate each other's progress, and show good sportsmanship.
4. **Use Appropriate Language and Behavior**
 - No inappropriate language, comments, or behavior—on the mountain, in the lodge, or anywhere we gather.
 - During team lunches, avoid watching or sharing inappropriate videos or content on your phones.

Conclusion and Key Reminder!

We're all here to have fun, learn, and grow as snowboarders. Let's keep our environment safe, friendly, and respectful for everyone!

