



## DEBUTANTE BALL POLICY

### Rationale

Dimboola Memorial Secondary College recognises that the Debutante Ball is an event which connects the college to the community and provides the students with the opportunity to learn new skills.

***DMSC is also aware of the need to keep children safe and will take all necessary measures to ensure their safety whilst they are participating in the Deb Ball.***

### Purpose

- To ensure all those involved with the DMSC Debutante Ball have the appropriate Working with Children Check (WWCC) or relevant Police Check
- To state the frequency of the event
- To clarify who is eligible to participate
- To clarify the structure of, and the protocols regarding, the organising committee and the running of the Debutante Ball.

### Implementation

#### Eligibility

- Students must attend Dimboola Memorial Secondary College to be eligible to participate. (Girls and Boys)
- Students in Year 11 are eligible to participate in the Debutante Ball
- If there are not sufficient numbers from the Year 11 group for the Ball to proceed, students from Year 10 may also participate.
- Students who cannot participate in the Deb Ball during their Year 11 year, due to illness or other exceptional circumstances, may be permitted to participate during their Year 12 year. These students should seek permission from the committee and/or Principal if they wish to participate.

#### Frequency of event

- Dimboola Memorial Secondary College will host a Debutante Ball every year, unless the interested numbers of students is deemed to be too low and the cost to individuals will be too great. (The final decision will also factor in the cost to the school of running the ball with low numbers.)
- Should the numbers fall below twelve (12) students, the Ball may be opened up to Year 10 students or it may be cancelled until the following year.
- The Deb Ball will be held during the Term One holiday period each year, subject to the availability of a suitable trainer.
- Rehearsals will commence in the first week of first term – unless otherwise agreed by all participants.
- The format of the evening will also be influenced by numbers. (i.e – whether to have round tables or people seated around the perimeter of the hall.)

## Format of event

- Students will vote anonymously by secret ballot as to which Debutante Ball format they wish to have prior to the first planning meeting.
- The options will be either:
  - i. **Traditional Ball:** one partner wears a white dress and the other partner wears a black or blue formal suit. Partners dance all dances together, with the exception of progressive dances.
  - ii. **Presentation Ball:** one partner wears a dress of any colour, other partner wears a suit of any colour. Partners dance all dances together, with the exception of progressive dances.
  - iii. **Progressive Ball:** there are no assigned partners and students can wear a dress or suit of any colour.
- There will be no gender bias regarding the choice of partners for the Deb Ball, whatever format is voted on by students.

## Committee

- The committee will consist of interested parent and/or community members.
- The committee will make decisions, following consultation with the student group, other parents and the DMSC Principal.
- All expenditure for the Debutante Ball will be approved by the Principal/Business Manager, before any materials are ordered or booked.
- The committee will determine the cost per student for the Deb Ball based on the foreseen expenditure for the ball.
- All payments associated with the Deb Ball will be transacted through the school.

## Procedure for students

- All students wishing to participate will submit their names to the Principal before the last day of Term Three in the preceding year.
- All students intending to participate will pay a deposit in the first week of TERM FOUR in the preceding year.
- All final payments for the Deb Ball will be due by the end of Week Three in Term One of the year of the Ball.
- All students will respect the NO ALCOHOL policy of the DMSC Debutante Ball.

## Procedures for Parents/Carers

- Parents/Carers will sign an agreement which covers their willingness to meet the financial costs associated with the Deb Ball
- Parent/Carers will be eligible to join the organising committee.
- Parents/Carers who do not join the committee will be expected to assist with the set-up and clean-up of the Hall.
- Parents/Carers will abide by the set number of guests for the Debutante Ball – which will be determined by the number of debutantes in that year.
- Parents/Carers and family members will respect the NO ALCOHOL policy of the DMSC Debutante Ball.
- Parents/Carers and family members will abide by the Victorian legislation which prohibits smoking on school grounds or within five metres of the school gate.

## **Procedure for DMSC**

- DMSC will ensure that all parents/volunteers/instructors who assist with the Debutante Ball have the appropriate WWCC or Police Check. Their details will be added to the relevant DMSC register.
- DMSC will provide the venue for the Ball each year. (The Hall)
- DMSC will ensure that the venue is clean and ready to host the Ball.
- DMSC will encourage staff to be involved in the Ball.
- The Principal will have the ultimate say on any issues which are controversial or potentially divisive, regarding the Debutante Ball.

**The DMSC Debutante Ball is an ALCOHOL and SMOKE/VAPE FREE event.**

This policy was last ratified by School Council in **May 2023** and is due for review in **May 2025**.

Reference: <http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafepages/resources.html>

