

# Athletic Handbook



## Northville Athletic Department

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## Northville High School

## Home of the Mustangs

A comprehensive guide for both  
athletes and parents

## Dear Mustang Supporters:

On behalf of the athletic department we would like to welcome you to the world of athletics at Northville High School. We, along with 15 other schools, are a member of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. This conference is divided up into two divisions of eight teams. The two divisions make up the conference. Northville High School offers 28 sports and 5 club sports from which to choose and a total of 67 different levels of competition. Listed within this program are the names of the member schools of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association along with all the team support offerings here at Northville.

The pages contained within this booklet should serve as a means to allow your son or daughter to experience Northville athletics in the most favorable light possible. We have enclosed information which is pertinent to the understanding, development, performance, dedication, commitment, and enjoyment of high school athletics at Northville High School. Before your child begins his/her athletic career at our school, please take the time to read through this booklet with them. Should you have any remaining questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Northville athletic office at (248) 344-3960 during the normal school day, or access our website at <http://nhs.northvilleschools.org>.

The success of the Northville athletic department depends on a shared responsibility of students, staff, parents, and the Northville community. Your children and the support you provide are what makes Northville athletics possible. We are excited about the future of our athletic program and encouraged and motivated by Northville's pride and tradition. We wish you the very best, both academically and athletically, for a successful athletic season at Northville High School.

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***Mission Statement***  
***Northville Athletic Department***

**The Northville Athletic Department considers athletics to be an integral part of the Northville Learning Community and thus follows and honors the Northville Public Schools overall institutional mission. Our commitment to excellence in athletics implies that the Northville Athletic Department will provide exemplary leadership, appropriate facilities and support services to allow its student-athletes to compete at the highest level of interscholastic competition and to reach their educational and athletic progress objectives.**

## **Athletics Offered at Northville High School**

### **FALL SPORTS**

Girls Volleyball - Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Sideline Cheerleading – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Girls and Boys Cross Country  
Football – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Girls Golf – JV, Varsity  
Pom Pon – JV, Varsity  
Boys Soccer – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Girls Swimming & Diving  
Boys Tennis – JV, Varsity  
Competitive Dance – Club  
Equestrian - Club

### **WINTER SPORTS**

Boys Basketball – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Competitive Cheerleading – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Girls Gymnastics  
Boys Ice Hockey – JV, Varsity  
Pom Pon – JV, Varsity  
Boys Swimming & Diving  
Girls Basketball – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Wrestling – JV, Varsity  
Girls Bowling – JV, Varsity  
Boys Bowling – JV, Varsity  
Boys & Girls Ski – JV, Varsity  
Girls Figure Skating - Club  
Girls Ice Hockey - Club

### **SPRING SPORTS**

Baseball – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Boys Golf – JV, Varsity  
Girls Soccer – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Softball – Freshman, JV, Varsity  
Girls Tennis – JV, Varsity  
Boys Track & Field  
Girls Track & Field  
Girls Lacrosse – JV, Varsity  
Boys Lacrosse – JV, Varsity  
Boys & Girls Rowing - Club

## **Kensington Lakes Activities Association**

Northville High School is a member of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. The association consists of 16 schools. The schools are divided into two Divisions and one Conference for athletic competition.

### **East Division**

Belleville  
Churchill  
Dearborn  
Fordson  
Franklin  
John Glenn  
Stevenson  
Wayne

### **West Division**

Brighton  
Canton  
Hartland  
Howell  
Northville  
Novi  
Plymouth  
Salem

**“Go Mustangs”**

## **Student-Athlete Code of Conduct**

The following list highlights important guidelines of the Northville High School Student Activity Code of Conduct. Each student receives a copy of this code of conduct at time of enrollment at Northville High School. The rules will apply on a twelve-month basis throughout the student's high school career.

### **I. Athletic/Academic Eligibility**

- A. MHSAA guidelines require a student to be passing 66% of their full-time subjects to be eligible for participation in interschool contests.
- B. In addition, an athlete must maintain a cumulative 1.67 GPA to be eligible to participate in interscholastic competition. The cumulative GPA is calculated at the conclusion of each semester. This cumulative grade point average will begin at the end of the first semester of the athletes' freshman year and continue in effect until graduation.
- C. A transfer student with a previously established cumulative GPA of less than the Northville requirement (1.67) may be allowed to participate while progressing towards that standard.

### **II. Gross Misconduct**

A student shall not engage in acts of gross misconduct including, but not limited to, behavior which is addressed in the student handbook such as acts of theft, extortion, vandalism, assault, sexual misconduct, and gross disrespect. Violations will be dealt with on an individual basis and penalties will range from administrative intervention to exclusion from athletic activity participation.

### **III. Alcohol and Substance Abuse**

Use, possession, attempting to possess, concealment, distribution, sale or being under the influence of the following substances is prohibited:

- A. Tobacco or tobacco products in any form.
- B. Alcohol or alcohol beverages in any form.
- C. Illegal or unauthorized drugs including, but not limited to, those substances defined as "controlled substance" pursuant to federal and/or state statute.
- D. Steroids, human growth hormones, Inhalants or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- E. Substances purported to be illegal, abusive, or performance-enhancing drugs.

### **IV. Penalties for Substance Abuse**

These guidelines supplement and do not supersede or modify the District's Student Code of Conduct, with which all students are expected to comply. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in suspension or expulsion from school, and would also affect a student's eligibility to participate in extra/co-curricular activities.

#### ***A. First Violation***

Upon confirmation of a first violation, the student will be suspended for 25% of the scheduled competitions and/or performances for the season, regarding all extra-curricular, co-curricular and athletic activities in which the student is then participating, which will be served without interruption and consecutively. If the suspension is not completed during the season/activity in which it is first imposed, the suspension will continue into the next extra-curricular, co-curricular and athletic activity in which the student participates until it is completed, which may include the subsequent school year.

B. *Second Violation*

Upon confirmation of a second violation, the student will be suspended for 50% of the scheduled competitions and/or performances for the season, regarding all extra-curricular, co-curricular and athletic activities in which the student is then participating, which will be served without interruption and consecutively. If the suspension is not completed during the season/activity in which it is first imposed, the suspension will continue into the next extra-curricular, co-curricular and athletic activity in which the student participates until it is completed, which may include the subsequent school year. If the violation occurs during the season the student will be suspended from participation in the scheduled competitions and/or performances for the remainder of the season.

C. *Third Violation and Subsequent Violations*

The student-athlete will lose eligibility to participate in any interscholastic athletic competition and will be suspended from all student activities for one calendar year from the time of the violation.

V. Suspension from School

Any student-athlete, who is suspended from school for violation of the Northville High School Student Code of Conduct, will be ineligible to participate in practices, competitions, or any outside-of-classroom activities for the duration of the suspension.

VI. Attendance Requirements

1. No athlete will be permitted to practice or play in a game, contest or event if absent for any part of that school day, unless excused by the Athletic Director or designee.
2. Regular attendance at practice sessions is expected.

3. An athlete cannot drop out of one sport and start practicing in another until the previous sport is over or both coaches agree.
4. Students who participate in outside school athletics while representing a Northville High School team must understand and adhere to the expectation that their commitment to the school team comes first.
5. Students who quit or are suspended from a team after the first regularly scheduled contest may not join another team during the season.

## Northville Athletic Honors

The Northville Athletic Department is proud to recognize student-athletes with the following athletic awards. Upon completion and in good standing with the team the student-athlete may receive one of the following awards.

**Freshman Athlete** – A Freshman Certificate.

**Junior Varsity Athlete** – A Junior Varsity Certificate.

**Varsity Athlete** – A Varsity Certificate. A varsity letter “N” and numerals for their varsity jacket. The student can pick up their varsity letter from the Athletic Department office at the completion of their first varsity season.

**Senior Plaque** – Each senior athlete will receive a senior plaque at the completion of their first season, during their senior year.

**KLAA Scholar-Athlete Award** – Following each season the KLAA recognizes our varsity scholar-athletes. A student-athlete will receive a KLAA scholar-athlete patch for the first time receiving the award and pin for each time after. To be recognized, the student-athlete will need to meet the following criteria.

1. Be a 10-12 grade member of a Varsity team.
2. Have a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.25.

**KLAA Three Sport Athlete Award** – A student who participates in three sports in one school year may earn the KLAA Three Sport Athlete Award. The student must earn a varsity letter in one of the three sports and complete the season in good standing.

*“...See our bright colors high in the sky...”*

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### **Parents Code of Conduct**

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by being a positive role model.
2. I will try my best to make athletics a positive experience for everyone involved, i.e., participants, coaches, officials, and spectators.
3. I will insist my child treat other participants, coaches, officials, and fans with respect.
4. I will reinforce the school’s drug and alcohol free policies and refrain from use of alcohol and other drugs before or during contests.
5. I will do my best to understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.
6. I will show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
7. I will be a “team” fan, not only a “my child” fan.
8. I will help my child learn that success is measured by the development of skills, not just winning or losing.

9. If I have a concern, I will talk to the coach at the appropriate time and place, i.e., never before, during, or immediately after a contest or practice.
10. I will do my best to remember my ticket to a school athletic event provides me with the privilege of observing the contest, not berating officials, coaches, or players.
11. Understand the ultimate purpose of athletics. It exists as an integral part of the total educational mission of the school, and participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right.

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### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child’s program.

### **Communication you should expect from your child’s coach:**

1. Philosophy of the Coach.
2. Locations & times of all practices & contests.
3. Team Requirements.
4. Procedure followed should your child be

injured during participation.

5. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

### **Communication coaches expect from parents:**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notifications of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

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### **Issues appropriate to discuss with coaches**

As your children become involved in the athletic program at Northville High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important that they understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

◆ Examples:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's attitude and/or behavior.
4. Academic support and college opportunities.

### **Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches**

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much or where you would hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based upon what they believe to be best for all student/athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach.

◆ Examples:

1. Team strategy
2. Play calling
3. Other student /athletes

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### **Proper Protocol**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach can not be reached call the athletic director. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. 24 Hour Rule.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and

coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Please allow 24 hours to pass before contacting the coach.

4. If the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to call and set up an appointment with the athletic director.

5. The last step.

If you still feel a satisfactory resolution was not provided by the athletic director, you may call and set up an appointment with the principal.

*Thank you  
for your support of Northville Athletics*

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### Common Athletic Questions

Welcome to Northville High School, home of the “Mustangs”. The athletic program at Northville is an extension of the classroom. We stress the coexistence of academics and athletics and firmly believe you cannot have one without the other.

Many long lasting life skills and friendships are developed during team participation. We hope that your son or daughter will find an opportunity that appeals to him or her and get involved. The following information pertains to the athletic opportunities currently available at our school.

**INFORMED CONSENT:** By its nature, Participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of injury, which may range in severity. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk.

Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury. Players must obey all safety rules, report all physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment daily.

**INSURANCE:** Athletes are covered under their own family policies. Individuals can purchase additional coverage. Information is available through Northville Public Schools.

**TRYOUTS:** Fall tryouts begin in early August. Winter tryouts begin in November (End of October for Hockey). Spring tryouts begin in March. Tryouts for Cheerleading and Pom Pon will take place in the spring. Call the athletic office at (248) 344-8414 or check our website at: <http://nhs.northville.k12.mi.us> for further information.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All incoming (first time) ninth graders are immediately eligible for participation in the athletic program.

However, to maintain eligibility an athlete must:

- Have been enrolled no later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day.

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- Not have turned 19 before September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Have a physical examination on file in the athletic office after April 15.
- Have not been enrolled in more than eight semesters in high school (9-12).
- Have passed at least four full credits the previous semester.
- Be currently eligible under the Northville Code of Conduct.
- Have not changed schools without a corresponding move by your parents or legal guardian, with whom you were living.
- Have not received money or other valuable considerations for participating in a MHSSA sponsored sports.
- Have not received a gift of more than \$25 for participating in a MHSAA sponsored sport.

- Have not participated in a non-school contest during your sport season after having reported to your school team.

**NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE:** Don't procrastinate... Many junior and senior athletes in line to receive athletic scholarships are discovering that they will be academically ineligible to participation in Division I and II colleges and universities because they failed to meet the academic standards set by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. If you see any possibility that your son or daughter might want to participate in collegiate athletics, please check with his or her counselor for current NCAA Clearinghouse information or call the NCAA Clearinghouse at 1-800-638-3731.

*“Go Mustangs”*

