

**NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
HANDBOOK**

Go Cougars!

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Athletic Opportunities	2
Athletic Program	3
Philosophy	3
Objectives	4
Academic Policy	4
Athletic Dress Code	5
Athletic Procedures at a Glance	6
Attendance Policy	7
Behavioral Ineligibility	7
Booster Club	8
Equipment Policy	8
Game & Practice Day Pick-up	8
Maps and Schedules	8
Permission Slip and Physical	9
Siblings and Friends	9
Sports Fees	9
Sportsmanship	9
Student Contract	9
Tournaments	10
Transportation Policy	10
Website	10

Athletic Opportunities

Fall Sports

		Grades
Soccer	Co-ed	5 th - 8 th
Girls Basketball	Varsity Junior Varsity	7 th , 8 th 5 th , 6 th

Winter Sports

Boys Basketball	Varsity Junior Varsity	7 th , 8 th 5 th , 6 th
Girls Cheerleading	Varsity Junior Varsity	7 th , 8 TH 5 TH , 6 TH
Boys Wrestling	1 Team	4 th 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th
Girls Volleyball	Varsity Junior Varsity	7 th , 8 th 5 th , 6 th

Spring Sports

Fast pitch	1 Team	5 th - 8 th
Softball	Co-ed	5 th - 8 th
Track	1 Team	5 th - 8 th

Athletic Program

The athletic program at NCS plays an important role in the development of community. Sports can enhance the growth of healthy bodies, and interpersonal relationships, personal maturity in handling challenges, and simple life enjoyment.

Students in grades fifth through eighth are given the opportunity to participate in a sport of his/her choice through competition with other schools and some intramural sports events. Co-ed soccer, boys and girls basketball, cheerleading, wrestling, volleyball, as well as co-ed softball and track are the sports now being enjoyed by students.

Athletics should promote a Christ-like spirit, good sportsmanship, a wholesome attitude, loyalty among the students, and cooperation within the school community.

It is our goal to allow every student who chooses to sign-up for a sport to be accepted on the sport of their choice. However, in the event that there are more students than open positions on a specific sport team, students will need to qualify for that sport through try-outs.

Philosophy

Our philosophy must stem directly from the school's Christian philosophy of education. The ultimate goal is for each athlete to "be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ" (Rom. 8:29) and to develop the spiritual part of the athlete so that the Holy Spirit is in control directing his mind and body (1Thess. 5:23).

Our goal is that athletes develop positive Christ-like character qualities that can be expressed through athletics. Athletes are confronted with all types of life situations, which are opportunities for applying biblical principles.

It is the job of the parents and coaches to properly direct athletes in these situations in order to build vital character qualities.

Athletics should help foster vital relationships among team members, promoting the team concept, and utilizing the direct leadership of the coach.

There should be a commitment to excellence in each particular sport. “Do heartily as unto the Lord” (Col. 3:23). At the varsity level, playing time is under the discretion of the coach.

Athletics are an aspect of the educational program, not the main focus. The student’s academic life is a priority. Students make a commitment to excel in his/her chosen athletic pursuit while maintaining the academic standards of a Northville Christian School athlete. Students are also committed to pursuing the goal of becoming a well-rounded individual, striving toward his/her God-given potential in each area of his/her life.

The athletic program must provide well-balanced inter-scholastic activities for as many participants as possible, consistent with available facilities, personnel, and financial support.

The athletic program will be planned so as to present a minimal amount of interference with the academic program. We desire to involve the student body, parents, and friends.

Objectives

- 1) Develop each participant’s knowledge and use of fundamental skills.
- 2) Foster each student’s moral, social, personal, and spiritual development.
- 3) Encourage each athlete to extend himself/herself to the best of his/her ability.
- 4) Develop positive relationships within and outside the school community in support of the athletic program.
- 5) Promote the values of physical fitness and health.
- 6) Emphasize teamwork and sportsmanship.
- 7) Promote the ability to accept defeat graciously and victory modestly.
- 8) Teach the value of commitment.

Academic Policy

Students must have a minimum grade point of 2.0 for the preceding nine-week marking period in order to be declared eligible for sports participation. Students who do not have this minimum grade point average will be declared ineligible.

Students must maintain an average of 73% in all of his/her classes to remain eligible to participate. If a student’s average falls below 73% in any subject the student can

participate on a limited basis only. For these situations, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The athlete may participate in all practices during the probationary week.
2. The athlete cannot play in the first half of games (home or away) for one week.
3. At the end of the week, the athlete's grade will be computed. If it is 73% or higher, he/she is reinstated with full status. If it is below 73% by the end of this one-week period, the student will be placed on Academic Suspension and the parents will be contacted by phone.
4. An athlete placed on Academic Suspension may not participate in practices or games. His/her time and energy should be used in studying. At the end of one week, the student's grades will be computed. If the grade is 73% or better, the student will be reinstated with full status. A grade below 73% will result in the athlete being declared ineligible for the remainder of the season.
5. Teachers will notify the athletic director when a student receives 59% or lower in any subject and will not wait until the end of the week to provide such notification. Upon notification, the athletic director will place the athlete on immediate Academic Suspension.

Athletic Dress Code

Practice Day Attire: Athletes should dress in comfortable clothing. Tee shirts do not have to be tucked in during practice time. If there is a picture or slogan on a tee shirt, it must promote wholesome, traditional values. Shorts or slacks with slogans are not permitted. A coach can determine if practice clothing is inappropriate and decide not to allow the athlete to participate in practice for that day.

Game Day Attire: Girl athletes may choose to wear royal blue or white uniform polo shirt with dress code pants. Boy athletes may choose to wear a shirt and tie with dress code slacks or the royal blue or white polo shirt with dress code slacks. If an athlete decides to not wear game day attire on the day of the game they will be required be in dress code.

Athletic Procedures at a Glance

Early Dismissal - If there is a sibling that needs to be dismissed early, it's the parent's responsibility to have the child sent to the office. You must sign out the player, sibling, and anyone that maybe carpooling with you in the school office.

Transportation – You are responsible for your own transportation to away games.

Uniform Cleaning – Please do not dry or wash the jersey in warm water.

Website - All schedules and maps to the away games are on the school website only.

Academic Policy – Please read the Athletic Handbook on the school website.

Dress Attire – Please make sure your child is modestly dressed. No shorts with slogans on the back and the length of the shorts are appropriate. Please make sure the slogans on t-shirts are appropriate and no tied t-shirts.

Absences – If you child is going to be absent from practices or games, please contact the coach.

Practice Pick Up – Please be 15 minutes early picking you child up from practice. This is out of respect for the coach and his time. If you are late, your child will be sent to Kids Club and you will be charged.

Concession Stand - We are asking each parent to work the concession stand one time per season. There will be a schedule emailed before the first game.

Kids Club – Free Kids Club is available between school and practice. If your child goes to Kids Club after practice, there will be a charge. Please fill out the appropriate paperwork.

Sports Physical – All players must have a physical. If you have one scheduled after the season begins, please sign the Sports Physical Waiver and indicate the date of the appointment. This form is located on the school's website.

Parental Response - Enjoy the game and enhance the experience by providing your child with humble wisdom. Teach them to be gracious in victory and in defeat. Sports can instill nobility in kids or self-centeredness. It is our choice. America has developed some destructive beliefs that have placed sports above character and self-control. The coach or referee may make a decision you disagree with, but how we respond to the disappointment will teach a life lesson that will be remembered long after we forgot about the game.

It is our plan to give every student time to play in the game. During games that are very close, we will probably play the most skilled players. No child wants to remain in the game if it means a loss. Athletes have told me for years, they enjoy playing time but not at the expense of losing the game. They understand the skilled players will take precedence. Student athletes need their parents to calmly guide them to learn that disappointments are often useful in teaching life's most important lessons.

Attendance Policy

All athletes are expected to be at all scheduled practices and contests. Any absence must be pre-arranged with the coach and/or athletic director. Absenteeism may affect the athlete's standing/position with the team. Continued, unjustified, unexcused absenteeism will result in suspension from the team.

Students must be in attendance all of the school day to participate in practice or a game. All exceptions must be discussed with the coach and/or athletic director.

Students absent from school or unable to participate in PE cannot be involved in after school sports. If they are contagious with a virus they cannot come to practice. If it is an injury that prohibits them from participating in PE, then they cannot participate in a team sport. They can observe without physically participating. Any exceptions to this policy must be discussed with the teacher and an administrator.

Students are required to attend practices. If a student has three absences the student will not be allowed to play in the next scheduled game. If a student accumulates three tardies, this will be counted as one absence.

Occasionally, participation in athletics requires that the student be dismissed early from a class. The athlete is responsible to have his/her academic work completed or prior arrangements made with the teacher before he/she is dismissed from class. Students must not leave earlier than the time announced.

Students serving an in-school or at-home suspension are excluded from attending practices or games on those days.

Behavioral Ineligibility

Participation in co-curricular activities is a privilege that may be lost when a student consistently defies authority or commits a serious breach of conduct. A student may also be found ineligible if his/her behavior and/or cooperation in class is found unacceptable by at least two of his/her classroom teachers. After consultation with the student and staff members involved, the administration may declare a student ineligible to participate for a period of one week or until there has been a significant improvement on the part of the student. Parents will be notified of such ineligibility.

Booster Club

Funding support events will be during all home games and during spirit week. Parents of athletes are encouraged to become involved during the season of the sport that their child is participating in. Proceeds raised from Booster Club events help purchase any uniforms or equipment needed.

Equipment Policy

Uniforms remain the property of the school while they are on loan to the athlete. A uniform deposit (determined by the sport) will be required when uniforms are distributed. The athletic director will issue game uniforms to athletes at the beginning of the season. Unless otherwise stated, uniforms will be laundered at home in a cold water and hung to dry.

The uniform deposit will be used to cover uniforms not returned to the school office. The deposit will also cover any uniforms that are lost or damaged.

Game & Practice Day Pick-up

Athletes who are not be picked up immediately after games or practices will escorted to Kids Club and all fees will be applied. If the athlete is not picked up by 6:00 p.m., there will be an additional late fee charge of \$12.00 for each fifteen minutes of lateness. For the safety of your child they are not allowed to be left alone or wait for parents outside of Kids Club.

Maps and Schedules

Schedules will be given to each athlete at the start of the season. Schedules and maps will also be available on the website or outside the school office. When changes in the schedule occur, a revised schedule will be posted on the website and circulated to each athlete on the team. Day of game or practice cancellations will be communicated to parents by a phone call from the athlete.

Permission Slip and Physical

All athletes must have a signed permission slip to participate in any try-out, practice, or game. In order to participate in any sport, all athletes must have a current physical prior to any team practice. Athletes with difficulty meeting this deadline must have a *Physical Waiver Form* on file. All permission slips and physicals must be turned into the school office prior to the first practice.

Siblings and Friends

Siblings and friends, accompanied by a parent, are encouraged to come to the games and support the team. Students are not allowed to have siblings and friends be present during practices. Students without a parent present following the games or practices will be escorted to Kids Club by the coach and all fees will be applicable. In no case will unsupervised siblings or friends be permitted at any athletic event.

Sports Fees

All athletic department forms and sport fees must be turned into the school office by the first practice or the student will not be able to participate in practices or games. Sport fees cover the cost of the coaches and officials for that specific sport. Uniforms will not be issued until fees are paid.

Sportsmanship

All parents, coaches, and athletes are expected to demonstrate appropriate sportsmanship at all athletic events. There is a correlation between sportsmanship and a positive Christian testimony. As the saying goes, "we may be the only Bible others read." This should always be considered in athletic competition. Great sportsmanship, 100% effort, and a positive Christian testimony should be shown at all times on the athletic field, floor, and in the stands by athletes, coaches, and parents.

Student Contract

Parents and students must read and sign the student contract. Contracts will be kept on file in the school office.

Tournaments

Since tournaments are entered into with the idea of fielding a competitive team, no guarantee of playing time will be given to any athlete.

Transportation Policy

Each athlete is responsible to provide his/her own transportation to and from all practices and games. Parents must make arrangements in advance for their child's transportation with another parent. Do not assume that a teammate or coach can provide transportation. The person who is providing their transportation must sign out all athletes leaving early for an away game in the school office. Written permission authorizing another adult to transport must be on file.

Website

The website will be available to get forms, schedules, and maps to the away games. The website is www.northvillechristianschool.org and use the sport tab to navigate your way around.