

NORTH STAR LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME OF THE LEAGUE

Section 1. The name shall be the North Star League.

ARTICLE II LEAGUE PURPOSE

Section 1. To promote in all ways the teaching and practice of sportsmanship.

Section 2. To provide schedules and competitive opportunities for member Schools within the rules and regulations of the Michigan High School Athletic Association as adopted by each schools' Board of Education.

Section 3. To provide for conference championships and reward the same with trophies and all-conference individual medals and certificates.

Section 4. To determine the all-sports winner; basing the winner on point totals established for all sports sponsored at the varsity level by the league.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The following schools are members in good standing with the league: Atlanta, AuGres-Sims, Fairview, Hale, Hillman, Mio-AuSable, Posen, Lincoln-Alcona, Oscoda, Rogers City, and Whittemore-Prescott. NOTE: TWINING-ARENAC EASTERN IS NO LONGER A NSL MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.

Section 2. New members may be added to the league by a 2/3 affirmative vote of members in good standing. Each member school shall be notified in writing at least one month prior to official action.

Section 3. All new members to the league must serve a two-year probationary period before a 2/3 affirmative vote by members in good standing vote them the same.

Section 4. A member school may not withdraw from the league without a one-year notification period to other member schools.

- a. All master schedules of the league must be honored by the school making the withdrawal.
- b. Except when the member schools vote by 2/3 affirmative to release said school from its responsibilities.

Section 5. All members must be schools in good standing with the Michigan High School Athletic Administration.

Section 6. Any school may be removed from the league by a unanimous vote of the remaining members in good standing.

- a. Evidence must be submitted in writing to substantiate removal of any member school.
- b. All schools must be represented at such time when a removal vote is taken.

ARTICLE IV BOARD CONTROLLING LEAGUE POLICY

Section 1. This controlling board shall be known as the "Athletic Council".

Section 2. The Athletic Council shall consist of the athletic director or school designee of each member school.

Section 3. Each school shall have one vote at the council meetings.

Section 4. All questions not covered specifically in this constitution shall be determined by a majority of the members present. A majority of the schools in the league shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Athletic Council to set policy governing the league.

- a. All members are obligated to support league policy or face expulsion from league affiliation.
- b. Policy being questioned by member schools shall be brought before the council for review.
- c. Complaints regarding policy shall be in writing and sent to the president and all member schools seven days prior to regular or special meetings of the Athletic Council.

Section 6. Difficulties between member schools shall be handled by the schools directly involved unless by mutual consent they request league assistance in settling the problem or problems.

Section 7. Constitution and by-laws may be adopted, changed, or deleted by a majority of all member schools. Any proposed change must be submitted in writing at a previous meeting and appear on the agenda of the next meeting. Changes will take effect immediately and a revised copy of that portion of the changes be sent to member schools.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NORTH STAR LEAGUE WILL BE HIRED, AND A TREASURER, AT A NEGOTIATED SALARY. THESE POSITIONS TO BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY.

ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Secretary

- a. Shall be installed to office at the athletic council meeting in May.
- b. Shall call and preside at all regular and special meetings of the athletic council.
- c. Shall designate the time and place for meetings, with league OK.
- d. Shall keep records of the meetings.
- e. Shall attend to all correspondence of the league.
- f. Shall notify all member schools of regular or special meetings at least one week in advance, if at all possible.

Section 2. Treasurer

- a. Shall be duly authorized to pay the bills of the league from the finances available to the league by its members.
- b.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings: The athletic council shall meet once a month, September thru May, at a time and place mutually voted upon by member schools, unless otherwise notified by the Ex. Sec.

Section 2. Special meetings: Shall be called by the president and attended by a voting member of each school, at a time and place designated by the president.

Section 3. League dues will be determined at the onset of each school year and will be amended during same year if necessary.

ARTICLE VIII CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Section 1. All schools shall be held responsible for the adopted league schedule.

Section 2. Failure to complete the league schedule shall provide a recorded win

for all member schools with whom a verbal/written contract was made in a particular sport. The canceling school shall be responsible for financial obligations incurred by the host school, unless other agreements are made. In addition:

- A. Athletic council will determine if the visiting school's refusal or cancellation was justified.
- B. If school's refusal or cancellation was not justified, then post-season league competition and all league awards to the school in question shall be forfeited for that sport in that sport season.
- C. Any subsequent violation will be sent to the NSL "Athletic Council" to determine the school's punishment regarding future league awards and/or association.

Section 3. All league champions shall be awarded a trophy with duplicate awards being provided by the league in case of ties. In case of cancellations, the league champions will be determined by the best percentage, in the league standings.

Section 4. Postponements shall be determined by mutual agreement of the participating schools with the home school having the final say, if mutual agreement is not reached. The home team shall be obligated to re-schedule all postponements to the satisfaction of the visiting team and in accord with all state rules governing such contests.

Section 5. If contractual obligations are pending as a result of the postponement, the two schools will equally share in the payment of the obligation.

SECTION IX RULES

Section 1. M.H.S.A.A. rules of eligibility shall govern all contests between league members.

Section 2. All games scheduled between members shall be made binding by a written M.H.S.A.A. contract forms.

Section 3. Schedules shall be made up two years in advanced by a committee designated by mutual agreement of member schools.

Section 4. Should a member determine not to sponsor a league sport for the coming season, it must notify all member schools 60 days prior to the first league contest in that sport. League members may take whatever action they seem necessary for such behavior by one or more of its members.

Section 5. All non league contests shall be arranged to facilitate the league schedule. Non league contests in the last two weeks of a sport's season are to be discouraged to provide for make-up dates for the league schedules. (Exception shall be made regarding football).

Section 6. Admission prices for league contests shall be designated by league policy with all members being obligated. For the 2017-18 seasons, those prices will be \$5 for varsity, \$4 for sub-varsity, \$15 and \$12 respectively, for families. Sr. citizens and others at each school discretion.

- a. Advanced sales and season ticket prices shall be determined by each school.
- b. No school shall sell advanced sale tickets for an away contest for a price less than the minimum designated by the league price at the gate of a NSL contest.
- c. 25 league passes to be given out for 2016-17 seasons. Passes are valid for 1 adult and 1 other.

Section 7. All disputes must be submitted to the league for settlement before submission to the M.H.S.A.A.

Section 8. Written complaints being sent to the M.S.H.A.A. by a member school, where another member school is involved, shall be duplicated and sent to the voting member of the Athletic Council of all other members.

SPORTS BY LAWS

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, all sports offered by the NSL and by the old Huron Shores conf. will be designated league sports, providing a minimum of 4 current schools offer that sport. Ex: golf, soccer, etc. will count as a league sport, (but will not count towards all sports trophy. Those sports offered by the NSL: FB, volleyball, boys and girls BKB, boys and girls track, baseball, and softball, will count towards all sports trophy.)

Section 1. All sports trophy will be earned by varsity standings for sports mentioned above, one for boys and one for girls.

Section 2. Act of God days will be played or rescheduled with the cooperation of the two competing schools, with final say by visiting school. All efforts shall be made to make up any postponed events.

Section 3. Marching bands or pep bands will not be allowed from visiting schools unless approved by the host school. Also, no individual instruments are allowed without

prior knowledge and approval. Bands are not to play at any time when the ball is in play or during free throws.

Noise making devices, including the human voice, will not be allowed to be used in an unsportsmanship-like manner. The home team management will have the right to remove any such object, or person, from the sporting activity. The home school officials will, for conduct purposes, invoke the right to enforce good sportsmanship with all possible assistance from the visiting school officials.

The N.S.L. supports those standards of ethical conduct set forth by the MHSAA in their annual handbook in reference to coaches, athletic directors, and administrators. Good sportsmanship is essential and all members should adopt a common policy. Member schools are expected to implement a plan to promote a responsible behavior by fans and all persons associated with athletics. It is suggested that schools use contest programs, the media, bulletins, and meetings as a means for promoting good sportsmanship. Member schools should also have plans for the monitoring of home and away contests and for dealing with those persons who violate the principles of responsible behavior.

It shall be the responsibility of the Athletic Director and coach to have adequate facilities for all officials. A courteous relationship shall be maintained between coaches and officials at all competition venues. Under no circumstances shall abusive/obscene language be used between coaches and officials on the school premises.

Conduct unbecoming a coach or game official shall be reported in writing to the Executive Secretary within seven (7) days of such misconduct. This matter shall be brought before the Council for the purpose of preventing future problems within the league.

The host school shall provide water (or suitable hydration) for visiting teams during indoor events.

When written policies of the N.S.L. are in conflict with the MHSAA, rules and regulations of the MHSAA shall take precedence.

All –Conference Selection

The Executive Secretary or designee is responsible for monitoring conference rules for all-conference selections. Violations for all-conference selections will result in a letter of reprimand, or other disciplinary action, as deemed necessary by the Executive Council.

The site of the All-Conference selection meeting will be determined by the Executive Secretary and will be centrally located whenever possible. The Athletic Director in charge of the sport will oversee the All-Conference meeting with coaches.

The Executive Secretary will notify the SPORT AD, who then will notify each athletic director who will notify their varsity coaches with the time, date and location of the All-

Conference meeting. At this meeting, the coaches will discuss the nominees and then vote for the All-Conference selections. Coaches may speak on behalf of their own players prior to the voting, but may not vote for their own players.

If a coach or designated representative is not present at an all-conference voting meeting, athletes from that school are not eligible for All-Conference recognition beyond honorable mention.

First and second team medals will be awarded and certificates for 1st 2nd & HM.

The League will provide member schools with medals to honor North Star League scholar athletes. Scholar Athlete awards will be recognized annually. The criteria for this award are:

- Varsity letter winner in two or more sports in current school year.
- At least junior/senior status.
- Hold a cumulative semester GPA of 3.5 or higher at the end of the current trimester/semester.

Grievance/Protest

The principal/designee of the protesting school will notify the League president and its opponent(s) by phone the following school day of the intent to protest. All violations and protests will be directed to the League president in writing by a school administrator within 72 hours of the event. The League president will appoint a committee of non-involved schools to determine whether the protest is valid and make a recommendation for a course of action to be voted on by the conference membership not involved in the protest.

Baseball and Softball By-Laws

1. Registered umpires will be selected by the home school. The use of two umpires will be for Varsity games, and if the host school chooses, one umpire for JV games.
2. All conference dates will be played according to the league schedule established by the league secretary. League games will start at 4:00. Any change in starting time must be agreed upon by both participating schools.
3. Two six (6) inning games will be played at the Varsity level, with the 10-run mercy rule after 5 innings of play. A fifteen (15) run rule will be in effect after three complete innings have been played. JV games will consist of two six (6) inning games. A shortened game (weather, etc) must complete minimum of 3 ½ innings.

NOTE: BY LEAGUE ADOPTION EFFECTIVE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR, GAMES ENDING AFTER 6 INNINGS TIED WILL CONTINUE AS FOLLOWS: *After six innings, start 7th inning and continue play until a winner is established, beginning each inning with a runner on 2nd base, no outs, the runner on 2nd is the last official batter of previous inning. (International rules)*

4. League championship will be determined by league records. Any postponed game affecting championships must be played, *if at all possible*. If not played, championship to be determined by best overall percentage of league games played.
5. If games are postponed due to emergencies that might endanger participants, such as weather, darkness, etc. the following guidelines will be followed:
 - a. In a double-header, if the first game is ended before a winner can be determined, the game will be suspended, and continued from the point of suspension on another day, followed by the scheduled second game.
 - b. In a double-header, if the second game is ended and not a regulation game, it will be terminated. The contest shall start over from the beginning on another day, but only needs to be played if league championship is affected. Otherwise, up to the competing schools.
 - c. In a double-header, if the second game is a regulation game, and ended, but a winner cannot be determined, then the game shall end in a tie.
6. JV Baseball and Softball are the same schedule as Varsity at the opposite site as Varsity games.
7. Game procedures: Home team batting practice: 15 minutes – 1 hour before game time. Visiting batting practice: 15 minutes – 45 minutes before game time. Home team infield practice: 10 minutes – 30 minutes before game time. Visiting team infield practice: 10 minutes – 20 minutes before game time. Ground rules with umpires – 10 minutes before game time. 1 minute time between innings.
8. All-conference selection should be made at a coaches meeting at the conclusion of league play.
Eleven (11) first team selections. Nine (9) second team selections. Honorable Mention for each school, 1, based upon who is left from nominees.

Basketball By-Laws

1. Varsity Basketball – Boys and Girls
 - a. Varsity basketball games shall begin not more than twenty (20) minutes after completion of the JV game.
 - b. All games shall have two (minimum) approved officials from outside the community whenever possible.
 - c. Varsity basketball games shall be eight (8) minutes quarters
 - d. Home game uniforms will be white jerseys and dark jerseys for visiting teams.
2. Junior Varsity Basketball – Boys and Girls
 - a. League games will begin at 6:00 and be eight (8) minute quarters.
 - b. Gym shall be available for both teams' warm-ups at 5:30 pm. (Arrive no earlier than 5:15)
 - c. JV games shall have at least one approved and one registered official from outside the community, if possible.

- d. Juniors may be added to the JV roster if it is necessary to keep the JV program because of numbers. Senior foreign exchange students may also play.
3. Seventh/Eighth Grade Basketball – Boys and Girls
- a. MS Basketball games will start at 6:00, unless otherwise agreed upon by both competing schools, and be six (6) minute quarters, unless agreed upon for 8 min.
 - b. There shall be 10 minutes between seventh and eighth grade games, when played as double headers.
 - c. All games shall have registered officials selected from within the staff, community or outside the community.
4. Varsity All-Conference selection should be made at a coaches meeting at the conclusion of league play.
- Seven (7) First team, five (5) second team. Honorable Mention for each school, 1, based upon who is left from nominees.

Cross Country By-Laws

1. The league will consist of head to head meets run in a Jamboree format.
2. Seven (or more?) members from each team will compete with the top 5 finishers being scored for each team. These top 5 will determine team score.
3. Boys and girls will compete in separate races. If JH is competing, they will run after the varsity race and may run boys and girls together.
4. Varsity meets shall not run a distance greater than 5,000 meters(3.1 Miles). JH meets will be not over 2 miles.
5. All CC meets will be run according to CC rule printed in NFT&F rules book.
6. Meets begin at 4:00, unless otherwise determined by host school due to course restraints.
7. League champion will be determined after the final Jamboree of season.
8. All-conference selection will be made after final Jamboree. Runners with the top seven (7) total points for the year will be 1st team all conf, the next five (5) 2nd team, HM for next 5.

Football By-Laws

1. Varsity Football:
 - a. Varsity games begin at 7:00 PM. The home team band will be allowed access to the field at 6:45. Both teams shall be on the field for the National Anthem which will be played at 6:55. The visiting team should come out of the locker room first to avoid conflict.
 - b. All games shall have a minimum of four approved officials. Officials must be from outside the community, if possible.
 - c. Home team is to wear dark jerseys, and the visiting team is to wear light jerseys.
 - d. Varsity games will be 12 minute quarters and half time will be 15 minutes plus a three (3) minute warm up mandatory in presence of officials.

e. Halftime periods may be extended to a maximum of twenty minutes, with both officials and visiting coaches being notified. The traditional team handshakes will be done post-game.

f. Mercy Rule – After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 35 points or more, the following changes will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will be stopped: The clock will not be stopped when (1) the ball goes out of bounds, (2) incomplete forward pass, (3) score or touchback occurs, (4) fair catch is made. Normal timing procedures will resume if the point spread is reduced to less than 35 points. 50 point differential, clock will run, except for injuries.

g. Pre-game bands will be entitled, if they wish, to the exclusive use of the football field and to have unimpeded access to enter and leave the field from fifteen minutes prior to five minutes prior to the start of game time. Both teams will vacate the playing field during this period of time necessary to permit the above.

h. Field phones for football are the responsibility for each team. If one team fails to bring phones, the other team will not be obligated to furnish phones nor cease to use theirs.

i. All coaches shall provide copies of game tape to the opposing league head coach for the 2 most recent games by 7:00pm Sunday from the last game played, unless other arrangements have been made.

j. All-conference selection should be made at a coaches meeting at the conclusion of league play. An athlete can be selected All Conference as an offensive and defensive player in the same season. It is the head coach's decision as to what position a player is nominated. For example, a defensive end could be submitted as a lineman or a back. First team selection for 1 quarterback, 2 running backs, 3 receivers, 5 offensive linemen, 4 defensive linemen, 4 linebackers, 3 defensive backs, along with 1 special team. Second team selection shall be 1 quarterback, 2 running backs, 3 ends, 5 offensive linemen, 4 defensive linemen, 4 linebackers and 3 defensive backs, with 2 Honorable Mention Certificates for offense and defense based upon nominees not selected all conf. **NOTE: 8 Man Football:** First team selection for 1 quarterback, 2 running backs, 2 ends, 3 offensive linemen and 1 special team along with 3 defensive linemen, 3 linebackers, and 2 defensive backs. Second team selection for 1 quarterback, 2 running backs, 2 ends, 3 offensive linemen, 3 defensive linemen, 3 linebackers, and 2 defensive backs. Honorable Mention Certificates for offense and defense based upon nominees not selected all conference.

2. Junior Varsity Football:

a. JV games shall start at 6:30 PM, and quarters will be twelve minutes.

b. JV games shall have a minimum of three registered officials. No home school members of the coaching staff can be one of the officials.

c. Juniors will only be allowed at the JV level when it is necessary to maintain the program because of lack of numbers. In such a case, the Junior may not dress for the Varsity contest in the week in which he dressed for the JV game. Visiting coach and team should be made aware of the rationale for the Junior playing at that level.

d. JV games will be held on Thursday night at the opposite site of the Varsity games, except those which do not affect other schools in the conference and which have been mutually agreed upon by the parties involved.

Golf By-Laws

1. The league schedule will consist of head to head matches (9 holes) in a Jamboree format, and a final conference tournament (18 holes) at the end of the season, with the tournament location and course to be determined. League champion will be determined after the Jamborees, prior to the final league tournament.
2. Six members from a team shall compete in the nine (9) hole conference match, with the best four (4) team scores determining a team's total score.
3. League matches will begin at 4:00, unless otherwise determined by the host school due to home course availability. In the case of inclement weather, the match may be played at the opposing site, or postponed and rescheduled.
4. In inclement weather, the home coach will determine if play should begin. Once begun, suspension of play should be mutually agreed upon. If no decision is reached, the home coach will determine if play continues. Home coach will also determine how long a delay shall be held before suspension of play. If play is suspended, all rounds will be voided. Complete match to be played another day.
5. "Summer Rules" (as per U.S.G.A. Rules) will be used unless otherwise agreed upon unanimously at that Jamboree.
6. Each coach will instruct and encourage his golfers not to throw, bat or toss his/her golf ball at the completion of a hole.
7. United States Golf Association Rules will govern all play except, as stated in these By-Laws. Any special rules pertaining to the course will be announced on the day of the meet. The MHSAA Rules and Regulations will apply.
8. Caddies will not be used in Conference competition. Motorized carts are permitted for handicap persons. Consent must be granted prior to the day of competition.
9. Golf coaches, at all conference competitions, shall provide on-the-course supervision to the best of their ability.
10. All-Conference selection will be made at the final league tournament. The players with the four low average scores will be considered 1st Team All-Conference, and the next four low average scores will be considered 2nd team selection. "Low average scores" will be based upon their three low scores at the Jamboree matches and their conference tournament score. One Honorable Mention certificate given to each school to distribute as the coach chooses.

Soccer By-Laws

1. League contests will be scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning at 5:00 PM. Exceptions which do not affect the school within the conference would be allowed if mutually agreed upon by the parties involved.

2. Registered officials must be used to govern soccer contests. They are to be contracted by the host school and may not be team or parent related. Lines persons may be school related, but not the center official.
3. Home uniforms will be light jerseys and socks. Visitors will wear dark jerseys and socks.
4. MHSAA Mercy Rule shall apply, with an 8 goal differential, any time into the second half.
5. Games during the season that end in a tie will remain a tie. There will be no overtime. League standings will be awarding 3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.
6. Pre-game and halftime warm-ups shall take place on the team's half of the playing field only.
7. All-conference selection should be made at a coaches meeting at the conclusion of league play.
First team consisting of 6 offensive and 4 defensive players, along with 1 goalie. Second team consisting of 4 offensive and 2 defensive players, along with 1 goalie. One Honorable Mention Certificate based upon remainder of nominees.

Track By-Laws – Girls and Boys

1. Boys and girls meets will be run together.
2. League schedule will run on Wednesdays or *Tuesday* beginning at 4:00(3:30) PM, unless mutually agreed upon by participating schools. Field events may start earlier if mutually agreed upon by all coaches.
3. Each school is to send at least two competent workers to help at the League meet. The League meet will be conducted by MHSAA regulations, including all seeding and determination of number of heats.
4. In regular season meets with three teams, team scoring will be kept as three dual meets.
5. Regular League dual or tri meets allow only four (4) attempts in the long jump. The throwing events will be conducted with 4 throws and no finals.
6. League Championship – 3 throws – top 9 to finals with 3 more throws.
7. Scoring for the League Championship would be determined based on the following point system: Each dual meet victory will earn 1 point. These points will be added to the League Championship meet to determine the League champion. (*Unless for weather related or other problems*)
8. A league school's head or assistant track coach may not act as the meet manager for the conference championship track meet. The league will pay for the head starter and the clerk.
9. Metric times are to be used to seed the conference track meet.
10. Host school shall provide the necessary, approved, site and apparatus for each field event at the League Championship meet. This does not include individual/school equipment such as vaulting poles, shots, discuss, etc. If the host school is unable to do so, the meet shall be hosted by the next school in the established order.

11. League meet to be held on Thursday following regionals.
12. All schools must attend schedule meets.

Volleyball By-Laws

1. Dual meets shall be according to the League master schedule, with a final league tournament at the end of the season. Volleyball will follow MHSAA format (3 out of 5 game matches with rally scoring to 25, 15 points in fifth set game).
2. JV games that precede the Varsity matches will begin at 6:00 and be played best 2 of 3 game matches with rally scoring to 25.
3. There will be one minute between games. There shall be 15 minutes between the JV matches and the Varsity match. Adequate warm-up time shall be allowed players before the fifteen (15) minute timed pre-game warm-up begins.
4. Varsity officials will consist of a referee and umpire. A minimum of two lines people shall be used.
5. In tri and quad matches, if at least one is a League scheduled game, the League schedule game will be played first.
6. National Federation rules will be followed.
7. All-conference selection should be made at a coaches meeting at the conclusion of league play. 8 First team and 6 Second team selections. Honorable Mention based upon nominees not selected for all conf.

Wrestling By-Laws

1. North Star League (NSL) schools shall wrestle each school at least once, the first scheduled league contest counting for the league standings.
2. Wrestling meets shall be held on Wednesdays starting at 6:00.
3. Home weigh-in procedure will be conducted for all NSL meets. (MHSAA Home Weigh-In Procedure and Guidelines). The weigh-in for the NSL of combined league meet wrestling tournament will be determined by an agreement of all schools involved.
4. Date and locations of the NSL meet or combined league meet will be determined each year.
5. When hosting a tri or quad that includes a NSL school, the NSL contest should be conducted first. Length of travel times may be considered.
6. Final NSL standings will be based on NSL dual meet results. If the final NSL standings result in a tie the following Tie-Breaker procedure will be followed:

Tie-Breakers for NSL Wrestling Championship:

If 2 teams, head to head

If 3 or more teams, as follows:

Unsportsmanship conduct at any NSL meet. Refer to #1

Combined point differential between the 3 schools

Combined point scored between the 3 schools

Combined point allowed between the 3 schools

7. Procedure for seeding in the NSL meet or combined league meet will be determined by the host school
8. 1st team All-NSL Honors and Honorable Mention All-NSL (2nd team) Honors will be determined by the consensus of the NSL Head Coaches

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