

Bronco Parents and Students-

I hope everyone has had a safe and restful summer. With the start of school just around the corner I wanted to update you on the state of athletics at Northgate High School.

As of right now interscholastic sports are scheduled to start December 14th. Of course this is dependent on the direction COVID takes. For a detailed visual of the seasons visit our website at northgatebronco.org. The Athletic Department has included answers to some frequently asked questions below.

1. Has my sport been cancelled?

No. As of right now every sport has been included in the new schedule.

2. The sports overlap. Can I play two sports?

Yes. First there is an overlap between the winter post season and the start of the spring season. This is no different than our traditional seasonal overlaps that many of you already have dealt with. Athletes coming out from the winter season will be given a chance to tryout for their spring sport once the winter sport has concluded.

Second is the combining of seasons which has created overlap of sports which have traditionally taken place in different, non-conflicting seasons. These athletes **may** participate in more than one sport during a season. This is a decision that must be made keeping in mind the health and safety of the student (making sure to prevent injury from overuse) as well as the ability to keep up with their academic responsibilities. Our coaches understand this dilemma and have agreed to support our athletes that choose to play more than one sport.

3. Do I still need a physical?

Yes. As of right now the MDUSD is requiring a current, completed Athletic Clearance form. We have several options available to do this. The first is through our Bronco Sports Medicine Team. Glen Barker and our local team Doctors put on an annual fundraiser physical day to support the sports med program. This is usually put on in the Sports Med Facility by our team and local doctors, however due to the closure of school we are not able to host this year. What Glen Barker is currently doing is working with the local doctors that support Northgate to come up with a way to facilitate this year's physicals. As more information about this comes out we will be posting on northgatebroncos.org.

You can also seek out a physical with your family doctor (make sure to download our forms, as they are required) and upload them to Sportsnet.

4. Can I play with my club team and school team at the same time?

Yes. The CIF has suspended the rule about concurrent participation for this year.

5. Will we have practices/workouts before the season?

Our current summer camps will continue as we move through the fall months. As changes may come during these months we will continue to review the protocols from the county and state to determine how to best move forward with preseason camps as we get closer to the Dec 14th start date.

6. When will we have a game schedules?

The DAL athletic directors are currently working to revise the existing league schedules to fit the new dates. Once this is done coaches will need to address non league play. With limited field availability, limited officiating and the desire to keep games as local as possible I anticipate our schedules looking much different than in the past.

As many of you know this summer we have offered camps to ensure our students have a safe and supervised place to get some physical, emotional and social relief during this strange time. Our camps and coaches have followed County and District protocols to mitigate the exposure to COVID. There have been many questions from teachers, coaches and community members. "Can I use

the field/pool/batting cages with my kids/self?" The answer to that has been no. For the health and safety of everyone our facilities are closed unless you are part of our approved and supervised camps.

Most people have been understanding of these rules and have remained off campus. Unfortunately we still have to deal with unauthorized people on our campus using the athletic facilities. These individuals and groups have been jumping fences and in some cases cutting locks. There has been vandalism to some of our facilities and equipment.

Per the MDUSD Student Athlete Contract, any unauthorized Northgate students using our facilities will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including Administrative suspension for sports activities.

6. Conduct on and off campus shall be of a nature to bring credit to myself, my family, the team and the school. Administrative suspensions from sports activities can occur for inappropriate behavior.

I know that we would all like to return to normal as soon as safely possible. This only works if we all do our part. This is a reminder **that our facilities are closed** unless you are part of one of our approved camps. Ignoring this fact and not following rules jeopardizes the hard work we have put into creating protocols and a safe environment for our camps. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Thank you all for working together. I hope to see everyone soon

Ben Ballard
Athletic Director, Northgate HS