



Summer 2026

Dear Student-Athletes and Families,

Fall sports are right around the corner and registration is now open. Registration will be open from July 2 - August 15. Please read the letter below for more information on Fall sports at Hanover High School.

Hanover High School believes that athletics is an important part of the secondary school curriculum, on par with other departments within the school, and like them, under the control of the school's central administration. Lessons learned in the athletic program are integral to each student's educational experience.

We field 66 athletic teams that represent 33 different sports. That translates into over 1,000 athletic opportunities. We encourage our students to take advantage of these opportunities by being a student-athlete at Hanover High School.

Below is the information needed for those interested in playing Fall sports at Hanover High School. The official NHIAA start date for our Fall sports other than Football (August 14) to begin pre-season is August 17. Some teams may have skills/drills and conditioning prior to the official start dates. Coaches will reach out to those registered.

Fall Sports Offered and Head Coaches:

The following sports and levels below are offered for the Fall season. Student-athletes may only participate in one sport per season. Some teams do require previous experience in the sport, and will have tryouts and cuts (this is sport-dependent and based on numbers each season). Other teams are open to all, but a commitment to attending all practices is required. We will field sub-Varsity teams as registration numbers allow. Please reach out to the head coach for sport specific questions.

- **Cross Country - (Boys and Girls - Varsity and JV)**
 - Co-Head Coach - Eric Picconi (ericpicconi@hanovernorwichschools.org)
 - Co-Head Coach - Dorcas DenHartog (dorcasdenhartog@hanovernorwichschools.org)

- **Field Hockey - (Girls - Varsity and JV)**
 - Head Coach - Mallory MacKenzie (mhillman510@gmail.com)
- **Football - (Coed - Varsity and JV)**
 - Head Coach - Jon Gentine (jonathangentine@hanovernorwichschools.org)
- **Golf - (Coed - Varsity only) - Previous golf experience is required.**
 - Head Coach - John Donnelly (johndonnelly@hanovernorwichschools.org)
- **Boys Soccer - (Varsity, JV, Freshman, and Intramural)**
 - Head Coach - Lucas Richardson (luker626@gmail.com)
- **Girls Soccer - (Varsity, JV, and JV2)**
 - Head Coach - Doug Kennedy (dkennedy@dougkennedyadvisors.com)
- **Volleyball - (Girls - Varsity, JV, and Development)**
 - Head Coach - Avery Kretschmar (averykretschmar@gmail.com)

Registration:

We use [FinalForms](#) for student-athlete registration. For students who previously participated in HHS or RMS athletics and already have an account on FinalForms, Fall registration will be very easy. Simply log into your FinalForms account, select which Fall sport you'd like to participate in, make sure all of your information is up-to-date, yearly forms are completed, and pay the registration fee.

For students who have not participated in HHS or RMS athletics yet, complete instructions on how to register and start the registration process with FinalForms, click [HERE](#). **The registration for Fall sports will be open from July 2 - August 15.** Please register as soon as possible, but no later than August 15.

Physical Exams:

These are required of all student-athletes, and should be uploaded during the online athletic registration process in FinalForms. The exam date must be within the last two years and cannot expire prior to the last date to play of the current sport season in which they are participating. For Fall sports, all physicals need to have been completed after November 15, 2024.

Participation Fee:

Hanover High School charges a \$150 participation fee for each sport in which a student participates. Payment should be made by credit card during the registration process. If this fee creates a financial hardship, waivers are available. Please complete the [Athletic Fee Waiver](#) form and the athletic department will review it and get back to you. If your child receives free or reduced lunch, the athletic department will waive the participation fee.

Please be aware that FinalForms charges a credit card transaction fee of 4%. In order to not pass this additional fee on to parents, Hanover High School will absorb \$5.00 of this fee. Therefore, the participation fee listed in FinalForms has been modified to \$145 to account for the processing fee. The total upon checkout will be \$150.80 per sport.

Academic Eligibility

In order to be eligible to participate in HHS athletics, students must be enrolled in a minimum of five courses and must pass a minimum of four courses each quarter. For returning students, eligibility for Fall sports will be based on fourth quarter grades. Student eligibility will also be checked at the end of each quarter.

Attendance

Participants in all HHS co-curricular activities are expected to attend all of their classes, in their entirety, except when they have a prior notification excuse or a doctor's note. Prior notification excuses are those for which the participant secures a goldenrod form (see below) signed by the teachers of those classes that they will miss for that day, and returns it to the main office. Absences that are parent-sanctioned but do not go through the goldenrod process will not allow participation on that day unless there is a doctor's note. Specifically:

- In order to be eligible to attend any athletic event (practice, match, etc.), you need to be present at all of your classes for the full class period.
- If you are listed as AE (Absence Excused) or AU (Absence Unexcused) in Powerschool for any period, you are not eligible to participate.
- If you go to the nurse during a class and are there for more than 15 minutes and it is listed as AE in Powerschool instead of H, you will not be eligible to participate.
- If you have to miss a class or classes for an appointment or another reason you know about in advance, you will be eligible to participate if you complete the "Goldenrod Process" (see below) in advance, and the periods you miss are marked PNA (Prior Notification Absence) in Powerschool.
- If you have to miss school for a doctor's or dentist's appointment and you did not get a Goldenrod, you can participate only if you bring a note from the doctor or dentist indicating that you had the appointment to the Main Office when you return to school, and the Main Office clears you.

In order to complete a goldenrod:

1. A student's parent or guardian informs the Main Office of the absence indicating their approval.
2. The student picks up the goldenrod form in the Main Office.
3. The student brings the goldenrod to the teachers of the classes they are going to miss.
4. Teachers must be given advance notice of an absence equal to the number of days a student will be missing. i.e. a one-day planned absence requires notification one day in advance, a two-day absence requires notification two days in advance, and so on.

5. The student turns in the completed goldenrod form to the main office.

For more information, here is a link to the student handbook:

<https://hhs.sau70.org/hhshandbookold/handbook/student-behavior-expectations>

Non-School Competition:

Per NHIAA regulations, members of a high school team at any level (varsity, JV, JV2, etc.) are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition to attend an out-of-school team practice or competition, to include tournaments, showcases, combines or other athletic events. Whenever a conflict arises between the high school team practice/competition and an out-of-school practice/competition on the same day, the high school team practice/competition must be honored by the student athlete. Priority must be given at all times to the high school team, its practices, and its contests unless a waiver has been granted by the principal and athletic director. It is expressly understood that waivers shall not be granted on a regular basis and shall only be granted in extraordinary circumstances (e.g. national team tryouts, etc.).

The penalties for violating this rule are severe. Penalties: Any student athlete who violates this rule, unless a waiver has been granted as stated above, for the first time shall be declared ineligible for the next four (4) consecutive interscholastic events or three (3) weeks of a season in which the student athlete is a participant, whichever is greater. Any student-athlete who violates this rule a second time or subsequent time shall be declared ineligible for participation in any high school sport for the balance of the school year.

Schedules:

Sports schedules, as well as other information on our programs, can be found on the [Hanover Athletics](#) website. These schedules should be considered “live” - they may change at any time. As we get into the season, coaches will also send weekly updates for practices and games.

Communication:

Athletic achievement requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For all of us to be successful, effective communication must occur. The school athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to students, parents, and supportive of the coaching staff.

As your athlete becomes involved in the various programs at Hanover High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your athlete wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach may be the quickest and most effective way to clear up the issue and avoid any misunderstanding. We encourage student-athletes to first talk directly with their coach about their concerns. If, after the athlete meets with the coach, the matter is still unresolved, parents may reach

out to the coach. If the coach cannot be reached or the parent and athlete don't think that a resolution can be reached by talking with the coach, the Athletic Director should be contacted.

Please remember that our coaches work long hours for a minimum hourly rate, so email responses should be expected within about 24-48 hours. We also respectfully ask that you never approach a coach with concerns after a game—please let them deal with their teams, or head home after a long day for dinner with their family. This also allows a small reflection period for everyone involved.

Sportsmanship:

We would like to be clear that we do not tolerate any verbal abuse (even minor comments) to game officials, and communicating in a negative way to any athlete on the field is 100% unacceptable. The state, and nation, is suffering from a severe shortage of officials, and their #1 reason for leaving the avocation is “it is no fun any more”. Our kids are playing games. Please enjoy the game, and keep your opinions to yourself...or find us and we can chat about it.

We look forward to the start of the spring season, and the joy that comes with friendly competition. Athletics is a core component of any educational program, and a huge part of the physical and mental health of our student-athletes. If you see us at games, please stop by and say hi.

Go Bears!

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