

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTICIPATION POLICY

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

2008-2009

Student activities are a part of the total school program and provide opportunities for students to supplement their classroom experiences. Participation in the activities program is a privilege, not a right. School administrators may suspend student participation in student activities for inappropriate conduct, regardless of whether that conduct occurs during the school day, evenings, weekends, or holidays. Inappropriate conduct includes but is not limited to conduct listed in this agreement, conduct in violation of rules and agreements established between students and their coaches/sponsors, and conduct in violation of a school's student behavior guidelines, VHSL rules or FCPS Regulation 2601 (Student Responsibilities and Rights). Although students may use the Regulation 2601 complaint procedure to appeal decisions regarding student activities, the school administrator's decision to exclude or suspend student participation in an activity will not be held in abeyance while the student pursues his or her complaint right.

Coaches and sponsors will distribute activity rules and policies at the beginning of each season to student participants and parents. Coaches and sponsors will discuss and clarify their expectations regarding school-wide participation policies and the particular activity's rules and commitments. Students are required to comply with these rules and may forfeit their privilege to participate if they engage in any prohibited conduct.

Student Standards of Conduct

Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs and Steroids

Students will not participate in student activities if they engage in prohibited conduct pertaining to alcohol, tobacco, or other illegal drugs as outlined in FCPS Student Responsibilities and Rights Regulation 2601.

- Students may not possess, use, sell, give, or otherwise transmit or be under the influence of any drug of abuse or alcoholic beverage, the possession of which is prohibited by law.
- Possession or use of any tobacco product is prohibited.
- Students are expected not to put themselves into compromising situations where drugs, alcohol or tobacco products are being used. If they are at a party where drugs, alcohol or tobacco products are being used, students are expected to leave immediately or risk being suspended from student activities for at least 15 calendar days.
- If it is determined that a student has used steroids, the student is subject to consequences under Virginia code effective July 1, 2005, which in summary bans students from activities for a 2 year period.

Other Behaviors

Students will not participate in student activities if they engage in prohibited conduct pertaining to *attendance violations, disruption of activities, damage of property, stealing, assault and battery, weapons, obscenity, disobedience, harassment, and hazing* as outlined in FCPS Student Responsibilities and Rights Regulation 2601.

- Students suspended from school will not be permitted to participate in student activities while suspended from school.
- Students assigned detention by teachers and/or administrators must report the detention to their coach or sponsor. The coach or sponsor will determine any additional action to be taken according to the activity rules given to students at the beginning of the year.
- Students will not engage in hazing or harassment. Where such results in bodily injury to a student, offender(s) are subject to criminal prosecution and to expulsion by the Fairfax County School Board, as mandated by Virginia law. School officials may recommend suspension and/or expulsion in any case, and students who violate this rule will lose extracurricular participation privileges.

Attendance Policy

- Students must be in school the entire day to be eligible to participate in any student activities scheduled on that day. Exceptions to this standard may be made with the prior approval of the Director of Student Activities.

Consequences for Student Violation of Standards of Conduct

If the school determines that a student who is participating in athletics is engaged in prohibited conduct, the student will be subject to consequences. Prior to making such a determination and imposing any exclusionary consequence, the coach and/or school authorities shall give the athlete the right to explain his/her conduct.

The school administration shall record in writing the factors that led to their conclusion, shall stipulate the consequence to be administered, and shall recommend an Alcohol and Drug Services assessment if applicable. With parent permission, a student may voluntarily submit to an appropriate drug test to attempt to establish compliance with school policy (if applicable). The results of any such testing shall be kept confidential but shall be communicated to the student and his/her parent and appropriate school authorities.

Students and/or their parents may appeal actions pursuant to this policy taken by the coach. The first level of appeal is to the Director of Student Activities. The second level of appeal is to the Principal. Decisions rendered under this policy cannot be appealed beyond the principal, whose decision is final. The school administration will send a written decision to the parent within two days of the appeal hearing.

Students charged with a crime in the community that involves violence, tobacco, alcohol, or any other prohibited substance will be suspended from participation in student activities until disposition of the charges. Students must report any such incidents to the coach, who will present the facts as known to the school administrator, who will determine eligibility for participation. Failure to report such an incident may result in exclusion from participation in student activities for the remainder of the school year.

Mandatory Consequences for Prohibited Conduct

(Pertaining to drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products; attendance violations, disruption of activities, damage of property, stealing, assault and battery, weapons, obscenity, disobedience, harassment, and hazing)

First Offense:

- Suspended for 30 calendar days from club events, games, performances, and productions
- Participate in an ADS (Alcohol and Drug Service) assessment (if applicable)
- May practice and attend events (non dress) unless the student is found in violation of Students Responsibilities and Rights
- May try out for new season

Second Offense:

- Suspended for the rest of the current school year from all student activities
- Participation in an ADS (Alcohol and Drug Service) assessment (if applicable)

**I have read and acknowledge receipt of the Student Participation Policy
For Extracurricular Activities and Athletic Programs**

Student's Printed Name _____

Student's Signature

Grade

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date