

# FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTICIPATION POLICY

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### 2012-2013

#### Introduction

Extracurricular activities, Co-curricular requirements, and interscholastic athletic programs collectively, "Student Activities", are a part of the total school program and provide opportunities for students to supplement their classroom experiences. Participation in student activities is a privilege, not a right. School administrators may suspend student participation in student activities to include any performance or representation of the school or FCPS 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 the following: conduct in violation of rules and agreements established between students and their coaches, sponsors, or teachers; conduct in violation of a school's student behavior guidelines; VHSL rules or FCPS Regulation 2601 (Student Rights and Responsibilities). 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 Student Activities will not be delayed while the student pursues his or her complaint right.

Coaches and sponsors will distribute activity rules and policies at the beginning of each season and may supplement those rules and policies thereafter, as appropriate. 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.

Co-curricular requirements that occur after-school as extensions of classes will have written procedures governing graded, alternative assignments. Should a student forfeit his/her privilege to represent the school at public performances and events, these alternative assignments will replace public, after-school requirements associated with the class. These written procedures will be included in course handouts, syllabi, and grading design.

#### **Virginia High School League Eligibility**

The eligibility of any student who is reassigned to a different school following disciplinary proceedings for prohibited conduct and who seeks to participate in any activity, including interscholastic athletics, governed by the Virginia High School League (VHSL) is subject to:

##### **Regulation 2601.25P**

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- a. Compliance with VHSL rules.
- b. Minimum 30-school day waiting period beginning with the date on which the student began classes at the school of attendance.
- c. No participation in practices during the waiting period and no same-season waivers.
- d. Approval of the principal of the school of attendance, including verification that the student is in good standing. The student's eligibility is neither assured nor guaranteed but, rather, is dependent on positive conduct and citizenship. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the process of securing VHSL eligibility in order to participate in VHSL activities. For further information regarding VHSL eligibility and activities, see the VHSL website, [www.vhsl.org](http://www.vhsl.org).

#### **Section A.**

##### **Prohibited Student Conduct-alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and steroids**

##### **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 Rights and Responsibilities Regulation 2601.

- Students may not possess, use, sell, give, or otherwise transmit or be under the influence of any illegal drug 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 in compromising situations where illegal drugs are present, or where alcohol or tobacco products are being offered to, or being used by under aged individuals, or where legal drugs (prescription medication) is being used illegally. If students are at a party or other event where illegal drugs are

present, or where alcohol or tobacco products are being offered to or being used by under-aged individuals, or where legal drugs are being used illegally, students are expected to leave or risk being suspended from Student Activities for 15 calendar days.

- If it is determined that a student has unlawfully used performance-enhancing steroids, the student is subject to consequences under Virginia code effective July 1, 2005, which in summary bans an offending student from interscholastic athletic competition for a 2 year period.

## **Mandatory Consequences for Prohibited Student Conduct-alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and performance-enhancing steroids**

### **Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs**

#### **First Offense:**

The student:

- Will be suspended for 30 calendar days from club events, games, performances, productions, and course requirements that occur outside of the school day and are open to the public
- Must participate in an ADS (Alcohol and Drug Service) assessment (if applicable)
- May practice and attend events (non dress/ performance/compete) unless the student is found in violation of Students Rights and Responsibilities
- May try out for new season

#### **Second Offense:**

The student:

- Will be suspended for the rest of the current school year from all student extracurricular activities and co-curricular course requirements that occur outside of the school day and are open to the public
- Must participate in an ADS (Alcohol and Drug Service) assessment (if applicable)

#### **For performance-enhancing steroids-any offense**

- If it is determined that a student has unlawfully used performance-enhancing steroids, the student is subject to consequences under Virginia code effective July 1, 2005, which in summary bans an offending student from interscholastic athletic competition for a 2 year period.

Students and/or their parents may appeal actions pursuant to this policy taken by the coach, sponsor, or teacher. The first level of appeal is to the Director of Student Activities or other administrator. 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 school days of the appeal hearing.

Students charged with a crime in the community that involves violence, tobacco, alcohol, or any other prohibited substance may be suspended from participation in Student Activities until disposition of the charges. Students must report any such incidents to the coach, sponsor, or teacher who will present the facts as known to the school administrator. Failure to report such an incident may result in exclusion from participation in these Student Activities for the remainder of the school year. In the event the charges are dismissed or the student is judged not guilty, the student shall be reinstated in Student Activities.

## **Section B**

### **General Student Standards of Conduct**

#### **Other Behaviors**

Students may not participate in Student Activities if they engage in other prohibited conduct as outlined in FCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities Regulation 2601 and the Code of Virginia.

- Students suspended (in-house or away from school) will not be permitted to participate in student extracurricular and/or co-curricular activity or athletic program while suspended.
- Students assigned detention by teachers and/or administrators must report the detention to their coach, sponsor, or co-curricular teacher. The coach, sponsor, or co-curricular teacher 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, in accordance with Virginia law. School officials may recommend suspension and/or expulsion in any case, and students who violate this rule will lose participation privileges for Student Activities.

#### **Attendance Policy**

- Students must be present in school and in good standing the entire day in order to be eligible to participate in any after-school Student Activities scheduled on that day. Exceptions to this standard may be made with the prior approval of the principal or her/his designee.

**Consequences for Student Violation of Standards of Conduct**

If the school determines that a student who is participating in Student Activities 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, sponsor, teacher, and/or school authorities shall give the student the right to explain his/her actions.

The school administration shall record in writing the factors that led to its 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, sponsor, or teacher. The first level of appeal is to the Director of Student Activities or other administrator. 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 school days of the appeal hearing.

Students charged with a crime in the may be suspended from participation in all Student Activities until disposition of the charges. Students must report any such incidents to the coach, sponsor, or teacher, who will present the facts as known to the school administrator. Failure to report such an incident may result in exclusion from participation in these Student Activities for the remainder of the school year. In the event the charges are dismissed, or the student is adjudged not guilty, the student shall be reinstated in Student Activities.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE  
2012-2013**

**We have read and acknowledge receipt of the Student Participation Policy  
For Student Activities**

**Student's Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Grade**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's/Guardian's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Please return this acknowledgement page, signed to \_\_\_\_\_ no later than \_\_\_\_\_