

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (FCPS) PARTICIPATION POLICY**  
**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**  
2017 -2018

**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 declare a student ineligible to participate in Student Activities in total or in part, 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 conduct in violation of: rules and commitments established between students and their coaches, sponsors, or teachers; a school’s local student behavior guidelines; VHSL rules; or the current version of FCPS Regulation 2601, Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R).

Coaches and sponsors will communicate activity rules at the beginning of each season and may supplement those rules thereafter, as appropriate. Coaches and sponsors will discuss and clarify their expectations regarding this Participation Policy and the particular activity’s rules and commitments. Students are required to comply with such rules and may forfeit their privilege to participate in Student Activities if they violate those rules or this Policy.

Co-curricular requirements that occur outside regular school hours as extensions of classes will have written procedures governing graded, alternative assignments. These written procedures will be included in course handouts, syllabi, and/or grading design. Should a student be declared ineligible to represent the school at one or more public performances and/or events, these alternative assignments will replace public, outside regular school hours requirements associated with the class. As such, the student will suffer no academic penalty as a result of being declared ineligible to participate.

**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:

- SR&R.
- Compliance with VHSL rules.
- Minimum 30-school day waiting period beginning with the first date on which the student began attending classes at the school of reassignment.
- No participation in practices during the waiting period and no same-season waivers.
- Approval of the Principal of the school of reassignment, including verification that the student is in good standing. The student’s eligibility is neither assured nor guaranteed but, rather, is dependent on the student’s 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.

### **Alcohol, Tobacco, Smoking Devices, Illegal Drugs<sup>1</sup> and Steroids**

#### **Alcohol, Tobacco, Smoking Devices, Illegal Drugs and Performance Enhancing Steroids**

Students will not participate in Student Activities if they violate the provisions of this Policy related to alcohol, tobacco, smoking devices (to include nicotine vapor products, alternative nicotine products, electronic cigarettes and Hookah pens; all of which together with tobacco are collectively referred to herein as “tobacco products”), illegal drugs, and performance enhancing steroids.

- 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 used, by under aged individuals, or where legal drugs (to include prescription medication) are being used illegally or abused. If students are at a party or other event where any of the foregoing is occurring, they are expected to leave or they are subject to being declared ineligible to participate in 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 VHSL rules, in compliance with Virginia Code Section 22.1-276.3 which, in summary, bans an offending student from interscholastic athletic competition for a 2 year period.

### **Mandatory Consequences for the Use or Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco Products, Illegal Drugs, and Performance-Enhancing Steroids**

#### **Alcohol, Tobacco Products and Illegal Drugs**

In addition to any additional consequences detailed in SR&R, students who possess or use alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs, or performance-enhancing steroids, whether on or off school property, are subject to the following mandatory consequences related to Student Activities.

#### **First offense during a school year:**

The student:

- Will be ineligible to participate for 30 calendar days in club events, games, performances, productions, and co-curricular course activities that occur outside school hours and are open to the public.
- Must participate in a Community Services Board (CSB) substance abuse or equivalent assessment (if applicable).
- May practice and may attend games or events (but such attendance shall not include appearing in uniform, performing, or competing) and only so long as the student is not

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<sup>1</sup> The term “illegal drugs” as used in this Policy shall mean any drug which is unlawful under Federal or Virginia law, and includes (i) prescription drugs which are in the possession of, or used by, a student for whom the specific drugs at issue were not prescribed, and (ii) any over the counter medication or substance which is abused by the student.

suspended from school or otherwise prohibited from being on school property or attending a school-sponsored activity.

- May try out for new season, unless suspended from school or otherwise declared ineligible to participate.

### **Second offense during a school year:**

The student:

- Will be declared ineligible to participate in Student Activities for the remainder of the school year and from all student extracurricular activities and co-curricular course activities that occur outside school hours and are open to the public.
- Must participate in a CSB substance abuse assessment or equivalent (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 VHSL rules, in compliance with Virginia Code Section 22.1-276.3 which, in summary, bans an offending student from interscholastic athletic competition for a 2 year period.

### **For criminal charges:**

Students charged with a crime in the community that are required to be reported to FCPS by Court officials, or for crimes involving violence, tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any other prohibited substances may be declared ineligible to participate in Student Activities unless or until the charges are dismissed or the student is found not guilty. Students must promptly report any such charges to the coach, sponsor, or teacher who will present the facts as known to the school administrator. Failure to report such a charge may result in a student being declared ineligible to participate in 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's eligibility for Student Activities shall be restored.

## **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 the SR&R or in the Code of Virginia.

- Students suspended from school (whether in-school or out-of-school suspension) will not be permitted to participate in Student Activities 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 communicated to students.
- Students will not engage in hazing, bullying or harassment, which may lead to disciplinary consequences outlined in SR&R. Where such misconduct results in bodily injury to a student, offender(s) may be subject to criminal prosecution. School officials may suspend and/or make a referral to the Division Superintendent in any case of hazing, bullying or harassment, and students who violate this rule will lose participation privileges for Student Activities for the remainder of the school year.

**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 and Procedures when Students Violate the FCPS Participation Policy**

If the school determines that a student who is participating in Student Activities has violated the terms of this Policy, the student will be subject to consequences. Prior to making such a determination and imposing any consequence, the coach, sponsor, teacher, and/or school official shall give the student the opportunity to explain his/her actions.

Students and/or their parents may appeal in writing actions taken pursuant to this Policy by the coach, sponsor, or teacher; however, the student’s ineligibility to participate in Student Activities will remain in effect during the appeal process. The first level of appeal is to the Director of Student Activities or other administrator designated by the Principal; the decision at the first level shall be issued by Director of Student Activities or other administrator within 2 school days after receipt of the appeal or of the appeal hearing, whichever is later. The second level of appeal is to the Principal (or designee); the Principal or designee will send a written decision to the parent within 5 school days after receipt of the second level appeal or of the appeal hearing, whichever is later. Decisions rendered under this Policy cannot be appealed beyond the Principal, whose decision is final. The foregoing constitutes the exclusive appeal process in connection with the Participation Policy.

At each appeal level, the school official shall issue a written decision to the parent, shall specify the consequence(s) to be administered, and shall recommend other interventions, such as a CSB assessment, if applicable.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE  
2017-2018**

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

**Student’s Printed Name** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Student’s Signature**

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**Grade**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student ID #**

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

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