



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (FCPS) PARTICIPATION POLICY STUDENT ACTIVITIES 2013-2014

## 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 agreements 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). Students may appeal a school administrator’s decision using the process outlined later in this document; however, a school administrator’s decision to declare a student ineligible to participate in Student Activities will not be delayed while the student pursues his or her appeal.

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 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 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, Other Drugs and Steroids**

#### **Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs and Performance Enhancing Steroids**

Students will not participate in Student Activities if they violate the provisions of this policy related to alcohol, tobacco, other 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 this 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 Tobacco, Other Drugs, and Performance-Enhancing Steroids**

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

In addition to any additional consequences detailed in SR&R, students who possess or use alcohol, tobacco, other 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 attend events (non dress/ performance/compete) unless the student is suspended from school or otherwise declared ineligible to participate.
- 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 or equivalent 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 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.

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

Students charged with a crime in the community that are required to be reported to the principal by Court officials, or for crimes involving violence, tobacco, alcohol, or any other prohibited substances may be declared ineligible to from 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 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 from school (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 given to students.
- Students will not engage in hazing or harassment. Where such misconduct results in bodily injury to a student, offender(s) are subject to criminal prosecution and to disciplinary consequences outlined in SR&R, in accordance with Virginia law. School officials may recommend suspension and/or expulsion in any case of hazing 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.

The school administration shall record in writing the factors that lead to its conclusion, shall stipulate the consequence(s) to be administered, and shall recommend other interventions, such as a CSB assessment, if applicable.

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 designated by the principal. 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 may be suspended from participation in all Student Activities unless or until the charges are dismissed or the student is found not guilty. 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  
2013-2014**

**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**