

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Student Activities and Honors

Extracurricular Activities--Virginia High School League (VHSL) Interscholastic Activities

This regulation supersedes Regulation 3860.6.

I. PURPOSE

To provide a procedure for the eligibility, scheduling, registering, and financing of the VHSL interscholastic activities at the high school levels.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

- A. Regulation has been revised to reflect current staff titles.
- B. Regulation has been reworded for clarity and correctness.
- C. The word club as been inserted for clarity throughout the regulation.

III. SCHEDULING OF ACTIVITIES AND ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligibility

- 1. Students wanting to participate in any extracurricular VHSL interscholastic activity must be in good standing and under no type of suspension.
- 2. Students participating in Virginia High School League (VHSL) activities must comply with all lawful requirements of that organization. Eighth grade students may not participate in high school VHSL activities or athletic programs.
- 3. Parents have the right to decline permission for their son or daughter to participate in any extracurricular activity.

B. Scheduling

- 1. VHSL interscholastic activities should be organized so that interruptions of the instructional program are avoided or minimized.
- 2. VHSL interscholastic activities should not be permitted to interfere with the individual's required instructional activities of students and staff.

IV. REGISTRATION OF VHSL ACTIVITIES

A. Registration

Any new VHSL interscholastic activity at a school shall be registered each year with the principal or his or her designee on the Registration of Student Activity form (Attachment A), which shall be submitted by the principal to the director of student activities and athletic programs for review before such activities may be conducted in a school.

B. Annual Report

By October 30 each year, the director of student activities and athletic programs shall forward to the Superintendent the list of VHSL interscholastic activities being conducted in each high school. The entire list of activities for all high schools shall be distributed to the School Board for information.

C. Notice to Parents

Each high school shall provide parents with annual notice of all active VHSL interscholastic activities at the school and of the right of parents to decline permission for their child to participate in one or more such activities. The principal shall maintain an updated, accessible list of all VHSL interscholastic activities at the school and periodically shall remind parents of the existence of the list.

V. PROCEDURE FOR ADDING A NEW VHSL-SPONSORED INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY

A. Recommendation

High school principals shall be responsible for monitoring student interest in VHSL activities.

1. When sufficient student interest is indicated in a new VHSL activity at a majority of the high schools, the principals, in consultation with the director for student activities and athletic programs and with the concurrence of the cluster assistant superintendents, may make a recommendation to the Division Superintendent regarding the addition of that interscholastic sport to the athletic program. Only those interscholastic sports listed on the current VHSL membership form will be considered.
2. All recommendations regarding new VHSL and interscholastic club sports shall address the following factors:
 - a. Student interest
 - b. Facility availability
 - c. Staffing capability

- d. Funding capability
- e. Available community programs

B. Approval

If sufficient funds are available to permit adding a new activity, the Division Superintendent will review the principal's recommendation. If the Division Superintendent concurs, he or she will forward the recommendation to the School Board for action. Each recommendation shall be accompanied by an examination of the impact on existing activities, staff members and the facilities required.

C. Currently Approved Interscholastic Activities and Interscholastic Club Sports

All currently approved VHSL-sponsored interscholastic activities and approved VHSL interscholastic club sports are listed in Attachment B.

VI. PROCEDURE FOR DELETING A VHSL-SPONSORED INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY

A. Assessment

High school principals shall be responsible for ongoing evaluation of the following factors as they pertain to school athletic programs:

1. Student interest
2. Facility availability
3. Staffing capability
4. Funding capability
5. Available community programs

B. Recommendation

When high school principals, in consultation with the director of student activities and athletic programs and with the concurrence of the cluster assistant superintendents, agree that an athletic activity no longer meets the needs of students in Fairfax County Public Schools, a recommendation may be forwarded to the Division Superintendent that such an activity be deleted from high school interscholastic offerings.

C. Approval

The Division Superintendent shall review the recommendation of the principals and, if he or she concurs, forward the recommendation to the School Board for action.

VII. FINANCING OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Subject to available funds, the School Board will be responsible for the following costs of VHSL-sponsored interscholastic athletic activities:

- A. Coaching and activity supplements, except for club sports.
- B. The School Board shall provide and maintain the facilities required in conducting the interscholastic activity program except for golf courses, swimming pools, rifle ranges, crew storage areas, and crew practice and competition sites. Swimming pool rental fees shall be provided by the School Board.
- C. Except for club sports, transportation to include transporting of all teams:
 - 1. To and from practice sessions held away from the school site.
 - 2. To and from contests.
- D. Maintenance of facilities to include the following School Board-owned items:
 - 1. Running tracks (including jumping pits and shot put and discus areas).
 - 2. Tennis courts.
 - 3. All field areas.
 - 4. Bleachers.
 - 5. Press boxes.
 - 6. All indoor facilities.
 - 7. Public address systems.
- E. Except for club sports, all start-up requirements related to the addition of new sports to be approved for the Fairfax County Public Schools athletic program are to include the following items:
 - 1. Initial uniforms and warm-up suits (home and away, when appropriate).
 - 2. Initial equipment.
 - 3. Initial supplies (balls, bats, medical supplies, etc.).

Financing of interscholastic club sports is the responsibility of the participants. Club sports must meet all the VHSL requirements for recognition and must be listed on the VHSL membership form.

VIII. LETTER AWARDS--SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Each high school shall establish a committee made up of the director and the assistant

director of student activities, the appropriate coach or sponsor, selected students, and the principal or his or her designee to review the school guidelines for letter awards. Following this review, written guidelines shall be developed and adopted for each activity that sponsors letter awards.

IX. RULES, POLICIES, AND REQUIREMENTS--NOTIFICATION OF ATHLETES

All athletic coaches shall be required annually to complete and submit, to the director or assistant director of student activities, one copy of Attachment C to ensure that all athletes are aware of the participation requirements.

**Registration Application for an Extracurricular Student Activity
High and Middle School**

Please print all information.

Check one as appropriate-

- request to registrar club or activity
- request to registrar a VHSL activity
 - activity-forensics, debate, scholastic bowl, one-act play
 - sport
 - club sport-crew, rifle, boys' volleyball

Name of Club/Activity: _____

Name of School _____

Name of faculty sponsor or coach _____

1. Brief description of club or activity or sport

2. Purpose of club or activity or sport

3. Estimated membership size

4. Grade levels

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4. Estimated number of meetings per year

5. Meeting place

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6. Activities the club or activity or sport anticipates for the coming year

7. Modes of transportation if travel is involved in club or activity or sport

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Application reviewed and supported by (signature as appropriate):

Director of student activities (signature) _____

or

After-school program specialists (signature) _____

Approval of principal _____

Date of submission _____

NOTE-

For a club or activity to be considered for approval, the following criteria must be met:

- Provide to school administration a written list of potential members
- Provide to school administration draft club constitution and by-laws

For an interscholastic sport activity, the sport must be recognized by the VHSL and listed on the membership form.

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM BY PONY TO: DIRECTOR, STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS, SUITE 5100, 8115 GATEHOUSE ROAD

For central office only:

_____ Approved _____ Not approved Reason(s): _____

Director of student activities and athletic programs

Date

Please note the following regulations:

- 5790.2 Field Trips – Planning, Conducting, Financing
- 5810.7 School Activity Funds Management

**Fairfax County Public Schools
 VHSL Recognized Extracurricular Student Activities
 High School**

FALL SPORT	WINTER SPORT	SPRING SPORT	NONATHLETIC ACTIVITIES
Football	Swim and Dive	Baseball	Forensics
Golf	Indoor Track and Field	Softball	Debate
Field Hockey	Basketball	Lacrosse	One-Act Play
Cross Country	Wrestling	Soccer	Scholastic Bowl
Cheerleading	Cheerleading	Track and Field	Creative Writing
Volleyball	Gymnastics	Tennis	Publications Evaluations

*Club Sports
Boys Volleyball-Fall
Rifle-Winter
Crew-Spring

***Club sports are VHSL recognized and operate under all applicable FCPS and VHSL policies and regulations. Club sport financing is the responsibility of the participants.**

Fairfax County Public Schools -Preseason Checklist-

The following items are to be discussed with all athletes. Return this form to the director of student activities no later than _____. Note: All students must have the following paperwork completed and turned in to the coach or student activities office prior to tryout: **VHSL Athletic Participation, Parent Consent, Physical Examination Form** (give to the school's athletic trainer regardless of whether the student makes the final team roster) and the FCPS **Emergency Care Card**.

Sport: _____ Level(s): Varsity _____ JV _____ Fr. _____

Items to Be Discussed	Date Discussed
1. Individual Virginia High School League eligibility requirements. (see page 1 of VHSL form)	
2. FCPS and local school extracurricular participation policies--student and parent or guardian written acknowledgement needed.	
3. Individual team and coach's rules and expectations. Reviewed by DSA prior to distribution.	
4. Tryout expectations, requirements, and criteria. Criteria should be in writing and follow FCPS guidelines.	
5. Expectations on attendance at practice and events to include holidays and weekends.	
6. Practice and event schedules to include Saturdays and holidays.	
7. Awards and lettering requirements. Criteria should be in writing, follow FCPS guidelines, and be reviewed by DSA.	
8. The importance of time management, good study habits and academics. Share FCPS procedures for monitoring the academic progress of students involved in athletics	
9. Information on good personal health care to include steroid use, sport drinks, supplements, weight loss and gains, and sleep.	
10. The importance of good sportsmanship.	
11. Hazing and acceptable behavior in and out of school.	
12. Communication. School hot lines, web sites, Keep in Touch.	

CERTIFICATION

All items have been discussed with athletes.

Additionally, we have read and understand School Board Regulation 4430, Conflict of Interest.

All coaches must sign-

Varsity coach's signature _____
 JV coach's signature _____
 Freshman coach's signature _____
 Assistant coach's signature _____

