

STUDENT, PARENT/GUARDIAN, COACH AND SPONSOR

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REVISED JUNE 2016



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STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

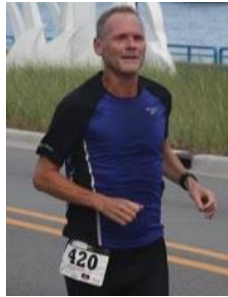
HOLLY H. HAZARD
Chair

IRENE M. EGAN
Vice-Chair

MELISSA Y. AYERS
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NANETTE KIDBY
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31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, Virginia 22554-7246
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W. BRUCE BENSON, Ed.D.
Superintendent



"Work hard. Play hard. Represent us well."

Dear Students, Parents, Coaches, and Sponsors:

Participation in athletic and extra-curricular activities is an important learning opportunity provided by Stafford County Public Schools. Participation in athletic and extra-curricular activities provides opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in a context beyond the classroom, particularly in the areas of communication, collaboration, and leadership.

We are proud to have students represent our schools and division in a manner that is highly visible and extends well beyond the classroom. As such, our expectations for excellence are high. In choosing to participate in athletic and extra-curricular activities, students are accepting additional responsibility to do the right thing for themselves, as well as their peers, teams, school community, and beyond. We expect students to exercise good judgment and conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, and respect for others at all times.

Please keep in mind that participation in athletic and extra-curricular activities is not a right. Failure to meet expectations outlined in this document, as well as in School Board Policy and the Student Code of Conduct, will result in disciplinary action.

Work hard. Play hard. Represent us well.

Sincerely,

W. Bruce Benson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW PANEL

Meeting #1- March 3, 2015

Meeting #2- March 12, 2015

Meeting #3- May 6, 2015

Alvin York Bandy Administrative Complex

Facilitator: Michael Justice

Coordinator of Health, PE, and Driver Education

MEMBER	POSITION	EMAIL
W. Bruce Benson, Ed.D.	Superintendent	bensonbw@staffordschools.net
Lisa Foeman Boatwright	Director of Employee Relations and Workforce Compliance	lboatwright@staffordschools.net
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Sue Evans	Athletic Director, DSMS	evanssss@staffordschools.net
Natalie Holland	Administrative Assistant, Instruction	hollandnj@staffordschools.net
Michael Justice	Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education	justicemd@staffordschools.net
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Greg Martin	Safety, Security and Risk Management Specialist	gmartin@staffordschools.net
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Elaina Parrish, Ed.D.	Supervisor of Assessment and Accountability	parrishen@staffordschools.net
Linda Powell	Administrative Assistant, Safety, Security and Risk Management	powelllj@staffordschools.net
Ben Stutler	Assistant Principal, NSHS	stulerbw@staffordschools.net
David O. White, Ed.D.	Chief Secondary Officer	whitedo@staffordschools.net

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES CODE OF CONDUCT SCHOOL FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Meeting #1- March 19, 2015- Colonial Forge High School
 Meeting #2- March 30, 2015- Stafford High School
 Meeting #3- April 21, 2015- Brooke Point High School
 Meeting #4- April 22, 2015- North Stafford High School
 Meeting #5- April 23, 2015- Mountain View High School

Facilitator: Michael Justice
 Coordinator of Health, PE and Driver Education

Student	Parent	Coach/Administrator
McKenzi Migliorini	Katherine Barker	Bill Brown
Josh Ball	Jennifer Muhlenbruck	Julie Spinelli
Taylor Guthrie	Nikki Chapman	Jim Hill
Taylor Hayes	Sara Stowell	Chad Lewis
Sidney King	Kevin Carnes	Daniel Tryon
Faith Allen	Tracy Watson	Janet Barham
Devon Kirby	Patti Newton	Roger Pierce
Danielle Goldstone	Jim Edwards	Chris Serafin
Erin Cheetham	George Coghill Jr.	Melissa Sowell
Jimmy Edwards	Dave Johnson	Amanda Baker Foley
Corion Window	Karen Charney	Mo Hampton
A.J. Castro	Lori Levesque	Tommy Buzzo
Kamron Wright		Kirstie McDonald
Juwan Smith		Laura Cwick
Thomas Newton		Joe Mangano
Mary Grace McGregor		Brett Lively
Lauren Graves		Greg Margheim
Harrison D'Antuono		Pattie Sullivan
		Steven Cassidy

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Thomas M. Nichols - Chief Secondary Officer

540-658-6000

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HIGH SCHOOLS



Brooke Point High School

- Roger Pierce, Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities
- piercerw@staffordschools.net; 540.658.6080



Colonial Forge High School

- Jeff Berry, Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities
- berryjk@staffordschools.net; 540.658.6115



Mountain View High School

- Greg Margheim, Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities
- margheimga@staffordschools.net; 540.658.6840



North Stafford High School

- Ben Stutler, Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities
- stutlerbw@staffordschools.net; 540.658.6150



Stafford High School

- Cessy Mallory, Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities
- mallorycl@staffordschools.net; 540.371.7200

MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Edward E. Drew Middle School

- Craig Picciafoco, Athletic Director
- picciafococa@staffordschools.net; 540.371.1415



Dixon-Smith Middle School

- Shawn Thurston, Athletic Director
- thurstoneses@staffordschools.net; 540.899.0860



T. Benton Gayle Middle School

- Shelly Jones, Athletic Director
- jonesl@staffordschools.net; 540.373.0383



H.H. Poole Middle School

- Mike Brooks, Athletic Director
- brooksmj@staffordschools.net; 540.658.6190



Rodney E. Thompson Middle School

- Angie Harding, Athletic Director
- hardingab@staffordschools.net; 540.658.6420



Shirley Heim Middle School

- Kim Lewis, Athletic Director
- lewiskj@staffordschools.net; 540.658.5910



Stafford Middle School

- Kathy Mason, Athletic Director
- masonkl@staffordschools.net; 540.658.6210



A.G. Wright Middle School

- J. B. Bryant, Athletic Director
- bryantjb@staffordschools.net; 540.658.6240

MAJOR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

(as pertaining to athletics and activities)



Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education

- Concussion Management Protocols
- Impact Concussion Management System
- Title IX
- Football Helmet Management
- Athletic Equipment Reconditioning and Replacement
- Sports Medicine
- Intramurals/Extra-curricular Activities
- Stafford County Public Schools Budget Development
- Athletic Code of Conduct
- CPR/AED/First Aid Certification/Training
- Management of the following: VHSL Online Class, Concussion Training, Heat and Hydration, County Athletics Web Page, Local Component Training, Hazing Prevention, CPR Certification, Schedule Development, Protocol and Procedure Changes/Updates, Equipment Requirements



Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities - High School

- Supervise athletic program high school
- Oversee all extra-curricular activities
- Complete coaches evaluation
- Provide coaches education
- Schedule practice times
- Schedule facility use by teams and community
- Student/Athlete eligibility compliance
- Coordinate travel
- VHSL responsibilities
- Event supervision
- Attend district/regional/state contests
- Coordinate ticket sales, security, supervision at home events
- Coordinate with officials
- Work with parent booster organizations



Athletic Director - Middle School

- Reschedule any postponed athletic events
- Reschedule referees
- Complete trip forms
- Review eligibility forms
- Prepare fields for events (in conjunction with coaches)
- Order equipment
- Review Athletic Manual with coaches
- Meet with all Athletic Directors at the beginning and conclusion of each year (end of semester and end of year)
- Check and review grades per nine-weeks
- Liaison between the coaches and the principals
- Check VHSL physicals
- Train students and parents/guardians on concussion management



Athletic Trainer - High School

- AED Checklists
- IMPACT Concussion Testing
- Documentation of injuries to be sent to central office
- Diabetes training with Epi-pen and medical administration training
- Complete/monitor VHSL Heat and Hydration Regulations
- Support team practices
- Support all home competitions
- Work with team doctors
- Assist with athletic injury case and rehabilitation
- Injury communication with parents
- Order and Stock First Aid kits for all athletic teams
- Teacher Sports Medicine I and II courses

SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

The Virginia High School League (VHSL) is an alliance of Virginia's public high schools that promotes education, leadership, sportsmanship, character, and citizenship for students by establishing and maintaining high standards for school activities and competitions.

Our high schools are members of the state high school athletic association and abide by all the rules and regulations as established by the association, especially with regard to CONDUCT, COMPETITION, and SPORTSMANSHIP.

The officials for our activities and competitions have been selected and assigned according to procedures adopted by the state high school athletic association. Their experience and integrity qualify them to ensure fair play, accurate scoring, and proper conduct during today's contest.

Welcome to Stafford County Public Schools where sportsmanship is an expectation.
So, please let the PLAYERS play.
Let the COACHES coach.
Let the OFFICIALS officiate.
Let the SPECTATORS be positive.

Stafford County Public Schools promotes good sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting participants and officials in a positive manner. Negative comments, profanity, racist, sexist, or other abusive comments and/or actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches, other spectators, or team representatives will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the facility. SCPS thanks you for your support and cooperation.

ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Our middle and high schools offer a wide range of extracurricular and co-curricular experiences for your child.

Playing sports at any level, club, intramural, or interscholastic, can be a key part of a child's educational experience and can have an immense and lasting impact on their life. Among its many benefits, participation in sports promotes socialization, the development of leadership skills, focus, and physical fitness.

Each middle school also offers a variety of intramural and club activities, in addition to competitive sports.

Clubs and intramural activities may differ from school to school. Opportunities are communicated by the Stafford County Public Schools' building administration.



MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC SPORTS (GRADES 6-8)

Key

Season: F=Fall, W=Winter, S=Spring

FEMALE	Basketball (W) Field Hockey (F) Softball (S) Track & Field (S) Volleyball (F)
MALE	Basketball (W) Football (F) Track & Field (S) Wrestling (W)

Note: 6th grade boys will not be able to try out for football due to the nature of that sport.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS INTRAMURALS (GRADES 6-8)

Each middle school offers a variety of intramural activities throughout the year. These activities vary from building to building based on student interest, available equipment, and faculty sponsors. Each middle school creates their own intramural plan in the fall and provides information via the school's website and newsletters.





HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC SPORTS (GRADES 9-12)

Key

Season: F=Fall, W=Winter, S=Spring

Available Teams: Fr=Freshman, JV=Junior Varsity, V=Varsity

COED	Cheerleading (F/W) (Fr/JV/V) Golf (Fr) (V) STEP	
FEMALE	Basketball (W) (Fr/JV/V) Cross Country (Fr) (V) Dance Field Hockey (F) (JV/V) Gymnastics (W) (V) Indoor Track (W) (V) Lacrosse (S) (JV/V) Outdoor Track (S) (V) Soccer (S) (JV/V) Softball (S) (JV/V) Swimming (W) (V) Tennis (F/S) (V) Volleyball (F) (F/JV/V)	
MALE	Baseball (S) (JV/V) Basketball (W) (Fr/JV/V) Cross Country (F) (V) Football (F) (Fr/JV/V) Indoor Track (W) (V) Lacrosse (S) (JV/V) Outdoor Track (S) (V) Soccer (S) (JV/V) Swimming (W) (V) Tennis (F/S) (V) Wrestling (W) (JV/V)	

HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES (GRADES 9-12)

A variety of curricular and co-curricular clubs and activities are offered at each high school. Student clubs are generated by student interest and are led by the students themselves. Curricular clubs have faculty sponsors and may include special events and competitions. Included in the high school extra-curricular offerings are several VHSL sanctioned organizations, such as debate, forensics, and drama.

TO THE STUDENT

According to Virginia High School League (VHSL), in order to participate in athletics and activities in SCPS, a student must meet the following criteria:

- The Virginia High School League, Stafford County School Board, and the individual schools are responsible to ensure all student athletes remain a student in good standing, as defined below to continue participation in all activities.
- The Virginia High School League (VHSL) Regulation 28-1-1, Bona Fide Student Rule, requires that “the student shall be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school which he/she represents.”
- As with all privileges, there are responsibilities a student accepts when he/she agrees to become a member of an athletic team or participate in an extracurricular activity including:
 - Being a good citizen;
 - Abiding and comply by all school and team rules, school division policies and regulations, and with state and federal laws;
 - Maintaining expected levels of excellence in behavior both in and out of school;
 - Meeting all VHSL eligibility requirements as defined.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the long and proud tradition of athletics and activities in Stafford County Public Schools is an honor and privilege, not a right. It is our hope that all participants experience personal growth, academic achievement, and success in their chosen sport or activity.

As a Stafford County Public Schools student-athlete and/or activity member, you have significant responsibilities. You are among the most visible students in your school and in the wider community. You are expected to behave as a respectful member of your school team in a manner that is consistent with the values of Stafford County Public Schools. You have made a commitment to the principles of self-discipline, fair play, self-control, collaborative effort, team building. You are to be an ambassador for SCPS both on and off the field. You are expected to exercise good judgment and conduct yourself with honesty, integrity, and respect for others at all times. By signing the following agreement, you accept this responsibility, as well as any consequences associated with not meeting these expectations.

Social Media Precautions

The most popular forms of social media were originally intended to provide a platform for the following:

- Sharing ideas
- Connecting a face to a name
- Communicating about an event quickly
- Creating awareness about a social issue
- Providing short, efficient exchanges of information with the people in your social circle



When social media sites are used in the manner for which they are intended, they can be a beneficial communication tool that brings people together.

With the increase in popularity of these sites, we have seen a variety of misuses and disadvantages when not used in the manner in which they were designed. Unintended, inappropriate, and disadvantageous of social media sites include the following:

- Loss of privacy
- Sexual predators
- Cyber-bullying
- Harassment
- New mental disorders such as “Internet Addiction Disorder”



The misuse of social media sites has led to the creation of new laws and the enforcement of consequences connected to cyber-threats, cyber-bullying, sexting, and harassing behaviors.

Stafford County Public Schools encourages the appropriate use of social media sites. The inappropriate use of social media sites associated with any extracurricular program offered by SCPS that is deemed to be hurtful, inappropriate, derogatory, or harassing will not be tolerated. In addition, threats, inappropriate pictures, teasing, and racist or sexist comments will not be tolerated.

Students, parents/guardians, and other spectators associated with this type of negative behavior are subject to warning, suspension, or dismissal from that activity. Parents engaging in this type of behavior will be asked to cease; if the behavior continues, their attendance and participation as a spectator will be revoked.

STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
31 STAFFORD AVENUE
STAFFORD, VA 22554

**ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

STUDENT

Students should review the following, initialing each statement and signing at the bottom.

Initial

I have received and reviewed the Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct and the Stafford County Public Schools Code of Conduct (Policy 2401) and agree to meet expectations outlined within. _____

I accept that I have a responsibility to represent my school and community in a positive manner and will conduct myself with honesty, integrity, and respect for others at all times. _____

I understand that I must be in attendance at school in order to practice, compete, or participate in athletics or extracurricular activities and will provide written notice, signed by my parent/guardian, when I need to miss practice, meeting, or any event. _____

I agree to follow all expectations outlined in the Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct as well as the Stafford County Public Schools' Student Code of Conduct. _____

I will not engage in and will not be tolerant of violent acts, including assaults on persons or property, abusive language, harassment, hazing, stalking, sexual violence, or any other conduct prohibited by law. If I witness such acts perpetrated by others, I will report them to my coach, sponsor, or administrator. _____

I will not engage in any act, including via social media, that subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to abuse, mistreatment, humiliation, harassment, or intimidation. If I witness such acts perpetrated by others, I will report them to my coach, sponsor, or administrator. _____

I will not consume or use alcoholic beverages, energy drinks, dietary supplements, anabolic steroids, tobacco, or illegal drugs. _____

I will follow all locker room rules and meet locker room behavioral expectations at all times. _____

If I observe a fellow student in distress of any kind, I will notify a coach or activity sponsor immediately. _____

I understand that failure to conduct myself responsibly, as stated and implied in the Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct, Stafford County Public Schools' Student Code of Conduct, and in the above statements, may result in sanctions, ranging from limited participation up to and including suspension or dismissal from the team, and suspension or expulsion from Stafford County Public Schools. _____

School

Grade

Sport/Activity

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

TO THE PARENT

Your child's success or lack of success in sports does not indicate what kind of parent you are.

But having an athlete that is coachable, respectful, a great teammate, mentally tough, resilient, and tries their best **IS a direct reflection of your parenting.**

Your child has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and activities. Supporting policies that govern school competition and the conduct and training of school athletes enables our community to create programs with positive opportunities and experiences for all students.

Participation in athletics and activities is an extension of a student's school experience and provides many valuable life lessons to young student-athletes. Stafford County Public Schools is committed to providing a challenging, meaningful, and positive extra-curricular experience for students, parents, and coaches.

For example:

- Athletics and extra-curricular activities compliment, support, and extend a student's overall academic experiences.
- Involvement in athletics and activities provides opportunities to develop character, discipline, leadership, responsibility, and skill.
- A successful athletics and activities program requires the cooperation and support of coaches, athletes, parents/guardians, students, community members, and school personnel.

Middle School Programs may have students in the 8th grade and those 7th and 6th grade students who are considered eligible to compete according to the requirements contained in the middle school athletic manual.

- Football will not be an option for participation for 6th grade students due to the physical nature of that particular sport; however, 6th grade students may serve as managers or help on game days.

We recognize that the revision of the middle school athletic participation guidelines will provide, at best, limited opportunity for inclusion of 6th graders on our athletic teams; as such this policy modification will not take the place of continued development, support and/or enhancement of a strong intramural program. An organized intramural program, which supports the interests of the entire student population is still the main avenue for athletic skill and fitness development for the majority of students.

Freshman and Junior Varsity Programs are developmental in nature. These experiences allow students to prepare for participation on the varsity teams by learning skill development, sportsmanship, advanced strategies, teamwork, competition, conditioning, and maturity which are necessary for athletes to advance to higher levels of competition.

- There are no guarantees that all athletes will participate in all games.
- Playing time is the sole decision of the head coach.
- Coaches are encouraged to give each student the opportunity to participate in as many competitions as possible.
- These programs are designed to prepare athletes for participation at the varsity level of competition.

Varsity Programs in Stafford County Public Schools encourage each team at each school to represent itself at the highest possible standard in every component of competition by teaching the importance of the following:

- Dedication
- Sports etiquette
- Sportsmanship
- Ethics
- Effort
- Academics
- Behavior on and off the field that is consistent with this Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct and that reflects honor upon the team
- Leadership skills

The varsity program is intended for the student who possesses a high degree of skill, talent, and commitment in the sport of their choice. It is through the athletic program that much of a school's spirit is generated.

PARENT REQUIREMENTS

Expectations of Parents

- Provide an encouraging environment centered around a consistent routine and expectations concerning homework, behavior, open communication, proper nutrition, and proper rest.
- Enable your child to satisfy VHSL academic requirements for athletic participation which are as follows (28A-5-1):

The student shall:

(a) For the first semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation; and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding year or the immediately preceding semester for schools that certify credit on a semester basis; and

(b) For the second semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation; and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding semester.

Note:

Credit for courses must be recognized by the State Department of Education. Such credit is to be awarded for the semester in which the work is scheduled to be completed. Credit for summer school work must be applied on the immediately preceding semester or year.

In addition to the VHSL Scholarship rules, coaches may institute higher expectations connected to playing time as long as the Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities and Building Principal approve the practice and student-athletes and parents are reasonably informed of the higher standard.

High school grade eligibility is based on semester grades and middle school grade eligibility is based on 9-week grades.

- The VHSL Physical Form is used for both middle school and high school sports teams due to your child's coach.

- Parent/Coach Relationship
 - Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children.
 - As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

- Coach's Expectations of Communication
 - Concerns expressed directly to the coach
 - Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
 - Understanding of a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
 - As your children become involved in the programs with Stafford County Public Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.
 - Team concerns/questions should be communicated in the following order: Coach, School Assistant Principal for Athletics, School Principal, then Coordinator of Health, PE, Driver Education and Athletics at Central Office. If the Coordinator is contacted first, the parent will be redirected to the school.
 - Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches include playing time, team strategy, play calling, and other student-athletes (except to report violation of the Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct).
 - These are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These interactions are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

- Anonymous letters and phone calls will not be responded to at any level unless reported to the Tip Hotline provided by SCPS partnered with the Stafford County Sheriff's Department.

- Communication Timeframe Expectation
 - Please allow 24 hours to receive return of all phone calls and 48 hours for returned emails from the coach/sponsor, middle school Athletic Director, and/or Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities.

- Transportation
 - Parents/guardians may only pick up their child after an away game with written communication provided to the head coach prior to the game. Parents may only transport their child home at the conclusion of the away competition.
 - Parents/guardians may not transport other students from an away event.

- NCAA Clearing House - A small percentage of high school athletes will have the opportunity to participate in college athletics. If this is a goal, consider the following:
 - Selection of classes
 - NCAA Eligibility Center
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Clean discipline record
 - Realistic outlook and expectations
- The procedure to appeal athletic eligibility transfer issues is as follows:
 - Request is reviewed by the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities.
 - All appeals must be submitted in writing.
 - If eligibility is not granted, an appeal may be made to the District Chair Principal.
 - If eligibility is not granted by the District Chair Principal, an appeal may be made to the Virginia High School League (VHSL).
 - If eligibility is not granted, then an appeal may be sent to the Division Superintendent.
 - There is no level of appeal beyond the Division Superintendent.
- Attend with your child the Parent Information Night to receive information from the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities, the Athletic Trainer, and the Head Coach/Sponsor of your child's sport or activity.
- Any questions or concerns should be addressed with the coach or sponsor first.
- If questions or concerns are not addressed by the coach or sponsor, contact the Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities for further assistance.
- Understand that if you are attending a high school outside of your attendance zone, athletic eligibility may not automatically transfer.
- Negative comments and unsportsmanlike behavior toward other parents, athletes, coaches/sponsors, or officials will not be tolerated, and may result in removal from that event, possibly for the remainder of the season.
- Stafford County Public Schools maintains high expectations for parents/guardians and student-athlete behavior. Parents play a key role in the physical, emotional, and behavioral development of children participating in athletics and activities. Stafford County Public Schools assists in the positive development of these qualities. As with many other undertakings, it requires a team approach to reach one's life goals. By working as a team, we can assure the continued success of these program offerings.

- In order to practice or compete, students must be in school no later than half-way through 1st block unless approved by the building principal or designee (example: early morning dental appointment).
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to volunteer for special team events and fundraising activities.



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
31 STAFFORD AVENUE
STAFFORD, VA 22554

**ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

PARENT/GUARDIAN

After reading and reviewing the sections pertaining to your child's level of participation in extracurricular activities offered by Stafford County Public Schools, please indicate your understanding by initialing the statements below.

In effect during all extracurricular activities are the Stafford County Public Schools' Student Code of Conduct (Policy 2403), Extra/Co-Curricular Participation (Policy 3502), and Related Notices, rules, expectations, and requirements.

I received a copy of the Stafford County Public Schools' Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct.	Initial _____
I read and agree to the sections pertaining to my level of participation, including guidelines and expectations, in Stafford County athletics and activities.	_____
I will follow all protocols associated with my participation in SCPS athletics and activities.	_____
I acknowledge that Stafford County Public Schools has informed me that supplemental accident insurance is available from a third party carrier to cover my child.	_____
I understand my child must submit completed Student Statement of Understanding and Parent Statement of Understanding forms at least one day prior to the first contest in order to participate.	_____
I realize that by not following proper behavior requirements while attending an athletic/activity event, I may be removed from that activity and possibly the remainder of the events associated with that sport or activity.	_____
I agree to be a positive supporter of my child's participation in athletics/activities. I agree to allow coaches to coach and sponsors to lead.	_____
If I have a question or concern, I will communicate in the following sequence: coach or sponsor, assistant principal for athletics and activities or middle school athletic director, building principal, and lastly central office contacts listed in this document.	_____

_____ School	_____ Grade	_____ Sport/Activity
_____ Student Name (print)		
_____ Parent/Guardian Name (print)	_____ Parent/Guardian Signature	_____ Date

**Please sign and return to your student's head coach, activity sponsor, or
Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities.**

TO THE COACH AND SPONSOR

Stafford County Public Schools offers a wide variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular program experiences for students to provide rich experiences for all of our students and families. By deciding to lead our students in these activities, there are various requirements that must be completed. By deciding to become involved in these activities, you have committed to deliver an educational experience that extends beyond the classroom. For many students, these activities may offer an opportunity for self-expression, development of team work, feeling of belonging, accomplishment, social development, discipline, time management and leadership. It is extremely important that our coaches and activity sponsors remain focused on the primary mission of these program opportunities: the enhancement of the school experience. Therefore, transparency of program requirements, expectations for involvement, open communication, organization, fairness, and being cognizant that you are there for the student and not yourself is paramount to program's success.

COACH AND SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

- Complete all Virginia High School League requirements to become a VHSL-certified coach (high school).
- Complete the National Federation of High Schools' concussion online class (middle/high school).
- Complete the Virginia High School League approved local component (high school).
- Attend the Coach's Education Meeting prior to each session (middle school).
- Create a parent information document outlining team rules, try-out expectations, consequences for rule violations, competition schedules, contact information, etc.
- Hold a parent/student information meeting approved by middle school athletic director or high school assistant principal of athletics and activities.
- Maintain an open line of communication at all times with building administration.

- Ensure athlete eligibility list is accurate (middle/high school).
- Collect all physicals (middle/high school).
- Collect concussion information forms (middle/high school).
- Collect heat and hydration forms (high school).
- Communicate all injury reports to the athletic trainer and school nurse for proper care and documentation (middle/high school).
- Conduct annual equipment inventory to meet reconditioning requirements.
- Request and inform building administration and Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, Driver Education, and Athletics of major equipment needs.
- Meet with athletes concerning locker room behavior, bullying and hazing policies, and report any infractions to Athletic Director or Assistant Principal of Athletics as well as School Principal.
- Ensure proper locker room rule and behavior expectation (middle/high school).
- Create a plan for locker room supervision and ensure all assistant coaches are aware of expectations (middle/high school)
- Have an organized, and meaningful, and proactive plan each day to develop the skill level of all athletes on the team to eliminate idle time.
- Involve as many students as reasonable in all competitive events.
- Involve as many athletes in middle school, freshman, junior varsity teams and varsity competitions as game conditions allow.
- Respond within 24 hours to all phone calls and within 48 hours to all emails during normal operating days.
- Act as role models for your athletic teams.
- Build character and prepare students for competition, as appropriate
- Train scorers and timers for athletic contests.

- Ensure that an administrator or school designee is in attendance at all athletic contests to maintain order.
- Work with administration and the athletic trainer to report and submit accident reports to the Department of Safety, Security, and Risk Management within 48 hours whenever athletes are sent to the Emergency Room or if 911 has been called to provide assistance.
- Report all incidents that may be criminal or have potential liability immediately to the Department of Safety, Security, and Risk Management.
- Report inappropriate student behaviors during extracurricular activities to the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities. If deemed necessary, the principal/designee may conduct a further investigation. Each offense shall be considered fully in determining reasonable corrective actions/disciplinary consequences. Recommendations regarding corrective actions/disciplinary consequences may be appealed to the principal. The decision of the building principal is final and not subject to appeal.

CLUB AND ACTIVITY SPONSOR GUIDELINES

There are many opportunities for students to become involved in extracurricular activities. In addition to sport programs, there are other VHSL governed activities for students to explore.

These activities provide opportunities for students to work with faculty sponsors outside of the classroom setting, provide a deeper experience and may offer an opportunity for students to compete with other schools.

In addition to the VHSL sponsored activities, our schools also offer a variety of clubs that extend curricular experience or may simply be a student led club for like-minded students.

Participation and membership in a club can be an extremely rewarding experience that will enhance time in high school and broaden education past the classroom. Involvement in these types of activities shows future employers and universities that students have made the most of time in high school by seeking out additional opportunities for personal growth, leadership, goal attainment, and teamwork.

Club offerings may differ between schools due to faculty expertise and student interest.

The majority of clubs exist at the high school level. Clubs in our high schools fall into two different categories: curriculum related clubs that are supported by school services and are publicly funded, and student led-organizations.

Curriculum-related clubs are led by faculty members. These clubs are permitted to use and access to various services, such as: school announcements, inclusion in the yearbook, announcements and information posted on the school website, access to the building for meetings and activities, and reduced rental rates for school buses for trips.

In addition, these clubs may receive additional funding through grants and/or business partnerships.

Any group seeking recognition as a student organization is required to submit a written application for approval by the principal or designee. A sample application is included in this section. There are several requirements that must be met which are detailed in the application process.

- Depending on whether the club is classified as having a curricular connection or a student-led organization, there will need to have a faculty sponsor or supervisor respectively.
- These activities must reapply each year to continue to exist.



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
31 STAFFORD AVENUE
STAFFORD, VA 22554

**ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING**

COACH/SPONSOR

Initial

After reading and reviewing the section pertaining to your level of participation as a coach/sponsor of extracurricular activities offered by Stafford County Public Schools, please indicate your understanding by initialing the following statements:

I received, read, and will enforce the Stafford County Public Schools' Athletic and Activity Code of Conduct and all links/attachments contained within this document. _____

I agree to follow all protocols and contractual obligations associated with my participation in Stafford County Public Schools' Athletics and Activities.

I understand that failure to follow and enforce the requirements in this Code of Conduct may adversely affect my evaluation at the end of the season/school year. _____

I understand that I am expected to comply with all VHSL and SCPS coaching requirement. (ie. online concussion course, CPR/AED/First Aid certification, VHSL online coaches education class, VHSL local component requirement, Human Resources employment coaching requirements.) _____

I understand, at the conclusion of each season, high school coaches are expected to meet with their assistant principal of athletics and activities to review their coach's evaluation.

_____ School	_____ Grade	_____ Sport/Activity
_____ Coach/Sponsor's Name (printed)	_____ Coach/Sponsor's Signature	_____ Date

Please sign and return to your assistant principal for athletics and activities.

Stafford County Public Schools Student Club and School Organization Application Process

Purpose: Any group seeking initial recognition as a student organization shall submit a written application. Activities beginning in first semester are due June 1; second semester activities are due October 31 to the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities (SCPS Policy 2419 and Regulation 2419-R, Student Clubs and Organizations).

A written application for a proposed new student organization shall include:

Name of Organization;

Name of the faculty sponsor or supervisor;

- A general statement of the purpose of the organization;
- Proposed constitution and bylaws;
- A description of the qualifications for membership, if any;
- A statement of the relation of the organization to the regular school curriculum, if applicable;
- A list of proposed officers;
- A list of at least ten (10) students who wish to serve as members;
- A tentative meeting schedule, including dates and locations; and
- Name/grade level of student submitting application.

The application, including all components, should be submitted to the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities.

**Stafford County Public Schools
Student Club and School Organization
Initial Application Form**

Club/Organization Name: _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____

Proposed Club Officers:

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Treasurer _____

Secretary: _____

Other: (Name of Office and Officer) _____

Other: (Name of Office and Officer) _____

Meeting Date(s): (Day of the Week/Monthly) _____

Time: _____ **Location:** _____

Required Attachments:

- A general statement of the purposes of the organization;
- Proposed constitution and bylaws;
- A description of the qualifications for membership, if any;
- A statement of the relation of the organization to the regular school curriculum, if applicable;
- A list of at least ten (10) students who wish to serve as members;
- A tentative meeting schedule, including dates and locations; and
- Name/grade level of student submitting initial application.

Student Submitting Application: _____ **Grade:** _____

Date Submitted: _____ **School Year:** _____

Stafford County Public Schools Student Club and School Organization Application/Renewal Process

Renewal Process:

Any group seeking to extend its recognition as a student organization shall submit a written renewal form to the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities prior to June 1 for activities beginning in the first semester; second semester activities are due October 31 of the preceding year. All information outlined in the application phase must be on file prior to submitting the renewal application to be eligible for consideration of renewal (SCPS Policy 2419 and Regulation 2419-R, Student Clubs and Organizations).

The **renewal form** shall include the following information:

- Name of Organization;
- Any proposed or actual changes in the initial application that was submitted for initial recognition as a student organization;
- Copies of any changes that have been made to constitution or bylaws;
- A list of proposed officers;
- A list of students members; and
- A tentative meeting schedule, including dates and locations.

Changes to the Organization's Information:

If any student organization has changes to its meeting schedules, officers, constitution, bylaws, or other changes from its original application or renewal form, such organizations are required to file such information with the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities within **two weeks** of the beginning of the semester.

The application, including all components, should be submitted to the Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities.

**Stafford County Public Schools
Student Club and School Organization
Renewal Form**

Club/Organization Name: _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____

Proposed Club Officers:

President: _____

Vice President: _____

Treasurer _____

Secretary: _____

Other: (Name of Office and Officer) _____

Other: (Name of Office and Officer) _____

Meeting Date(s): (Day of the Week/Monthly) _____

Time: _____ **Location:** _____

Required Attachments:

- Any proposed or actual changes in the initial application that was submitted for initial recognition as a student organization;
- Copies of any changes that have been made to constitution or bylaws;
- Current Constitution;
- A list of student members; and
- Name of Student Submitting Renewal Application and Grade.

Student Submitting Application: _____ **Grade:** _____

Date Submitted: _____ **School Year:** _____

RESOURCE SUMMARY

The following information describes national and state athletic guidelines and requirements.

VHSL Eligibility Rules

Define the requirements for participation in VHSL-sanctioned activities in public schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These rules are non-negotiable. If you have questions regarding eligibility, you may contact your child's principal or athletic director.

VHSL Most Commonly Questions and Answers

Compiles the most frequently asked VHSL questions and answers.

NCAA College Eligibility Standards

Outlines the NCAA academic requirements for high school athletes who aspire to participate in athletics at the collegiate level, including: high school course requirements, scoring requirements for the SAT and ACT, and GPA requirements.

Virginia Code for Parental Responsibility and Involvement and Residency

Regulates parental responsibility, involvement, and residency requirements in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Stafford County Public Schools' Tip Hotline

The Tip Hotline is designed for crisis prevention and to provide a safe and secure school environment conducive to learning. If students know of an unsafe situation in school, they can anonymously pass the information through the Tip Hotline. The Tip Hotline is monitored by the Stafford County Sheriff's Office 911 center 24/7. Depending on the nature of the call, the 911 center notifies either the Sheriff's Office or the school division to initiate immediate and appropriate action.

VHSL Heat Guidelines and SCPS Policy and Regulations for Management of Concussions/Brain Injuries

Requires parental/guardianship and athlete signatures of understanding in order to participate in any athletic or extra-curricular activity.

Student Accident Insurance

Scholastic Insurors offers accident insurance at an annual premium. Even if families have insurance plans, this accident insurance plan may help pay co-payments and deductibles for medical and dental expenses. Enrollment information and forms may be found online at www.staffordschools.net.

IMPORTANT LINKS

Policies and Regulations

From the Stafford County Public School Board and Document Site, enter the policy and regulation number to access the desired document.

2103-R Student Transfers

2401-R Code of Student Conduct

2404-R Anti-Bullying

2419-R Student Clubs and School Organizations

3501-R Interscholastic Athletic Programs

3502 Extra/Co-Curricular Participation

3503-R Extra and Co-curricular Concussion Management and Education

4104-R Filling of Vacancies Procedures for the Employment of an “Outside” Coach

Forms

[SCPS Student Accident Insurance \(RS-1995 C2\)](#)

District, State and National Links

[Employee/Student Tip Hotline](#)

[SCPS Athletic Page](#)

[Virginia High School League \(VHSL\)](#)

[VHSL Physical Form](#)

[National Federation of State High School Associations \(NFHS\)](#)

LOCKER ROOM RULES AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS



1. The locker room is for changing clothes only.
2. No food, gum or glass containers.
3. No running in the locker room.
4. **Zero tolerance** for the following behaviors: snapping of towels, touching, slapping, hitting and any other like behavior. These behaviors may be considered harassment, assault and/or battery.
5. Stafford County Public Schools' Bullying and Hazing actions will not be tolerated in the locker room or any other area on school grounds.
6. Do not touch any property that does not belong to you without permission.
7. Lock up all valuables in your locker.
8. Do not share your locker or locker combination with anyone.
9. Report all injuries to your physical education teacher or coach immediately.
10. If you notice someone who may need assistance, notify a teacher or coach immediately.
11. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
12. All clothing must be taken home on a regular basis to be cleaned.
13. Please help keep the locker room clean by picking up your litter.
14. To prevent loss, damage, or personal injury, store jewelry in lockers during physical activity.
15. Defacement of locker room is subject to disciplinary action and financial restitution.
16. Any electronic device capable of capturing photography and/or videography must be powered off and secured in your locker. Such devices are only permissible for possession if staff has instructed use for class activity. Devices must remain powered off in locker room at all times.

REPORTING TIPS

Stafford County Public Schools in Partnership with Stafford County Sheriff's Department and Stafford Crime Solvers offers a Tip Hotline.

TIP HOTLINE

IN CASE OF
EMERGENCY
Call **911**

You can help keep our schools safe...

Our school district needs your help! Everyone is responsible for an orderly and safe school environment. Information you provide can help.

PREVENT



STOP

BOMB THREATS

STOP

WEAPONS

STOP

BULLYING

STOP

GANG ACTIVITY



540-658-2020

STAFFORD
CRIME
SOLVERS



ONLINE

Text Tip (Stafford + Tip) to CRIMES (274637)

Stafford County Public Schools' Department of Safety, Security and Risk Management in partnership with the Stafford County Sheriff's Department and Stafford Crime Solvers offers this anonymous opportunity to ensure a safe school environment.
staffordschools.net

The Tip Hotline is designed for crisis prevention and to provide a safe and secure school environment conducive to learning. If students know of an unsafe situation in school, they can anonymously pass the information through the Tip Hotline. The Tip Hotline is monitored by the Stafford County Sheriff's Office 911 center 24/7. Depending on the nature of the call, the 911 center notifies either the Sheriff's Office or the school division to initiate immediate and appropriate action.

Stafford County Public Schools
Policy 3502
Teaching and Learning
Title: Extra/Co-Curricular Participation

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for student participation in extra/curricular activities

Introduction

Participation in before and after school extra/co-curricular activities is a privilege extended to students and not a right and is dependent upon compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. A minimum requirement of all students for participation is good citizenship. Students are expected to abide by all school and team rules, policies, and regulations and to comply with state and federal laws. As with all privileges, there are responsibilities a student accepts when he/she agrees to become a member of an athletic team and/or club. The coaching staff and sponsors strive to continue the level of accomplishment and the reputation of excellence that the division now holds. Specific guidelines for students assist them in maintaining expected levels of excellence in behavior both in and out of school. Therefore, participation in extra/co-curricular activities is dependent upon compliance with all applicable rules and regulations.

The information in this policy establishes the division's definition of a student in good standing. The Virginia High School League (VHSL), Regulation 28-1-1, Bona Fide Student Rule, requires that "the student shall be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school which he/she represents."

School Attendance

- Students must attend all classes on the day of a practice, competition or activity to be eligible to participate in extra/co-curricular activities on that day. Exceptions may be approved by the principal/designee.
- Classroom behavior is expected to be exemplary.
- A student who is suspended from school may not participate in practices, meetings, or other school sponsored activities during the suspension.

Rules of Conduct

Court Disciplinary Action - School officials may suspend a student from extra/co-curricular activity participation who has been charged by a law enforcement officer with an act which would be a crime if committed by an adult involving any of the following violations taken from the Code of Virginia:

- A firearm offense
- Homicide
- Felonious assault and bodily wounding

- Criminal sexual assault
- Manufacture, sale, gift, distribution or possession of Schedule I or II controlled substances manufacture, sale or distribution of marijuana
- Arson and related crimes
- Burglary and related offenses
- Robbery

The student or parent must report the incident to the coach/sponsor. The coach/sponsor will present the facts as known to the Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities who will determine participation eligibility. School officials may suspend the student until disposition of charges not to exceed the current school year.

School officials may deny participation in all extra/co-curricular activities to any student convicted or found “not innocent” of any of the offenses listed above. The student may appeal the decision of the Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities to the Principal, whose decision is final. The term of suspension from extra/co-curricular activities is not to exceed the current school year.

Substance Abuse - The administration, coaching staff, and sponsors of activities in the division believe that all participants who represent this division should be alcohol, drug, and tobacco free at all times. We hold this belief because such use is illegal by minors in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and it is our desire to promote healthy, chemical-free lifestyles.

The division’s Code of Student Conduct addresses the fact that the possession and consumption of performance-enhancing supplements is illegal and subject to disciplinary action. If the school administration determines that a student who is participating in, or wishes to participate in, extra/co-curricular activities is engaged in alcohol, drug, or tobacco possession, use, or distribution, the student will be subject to consequences in accordance with the Extra/Co-Curricular Participation Policy and the Code of Student Conduct, if applicable.

Penalties for On-School Premises Policy Violations

Note: On-school premises is on-school grounds, on a school bus, or while at the school bus stop and includes all school-sponsored events and activities.

a. First Violation for Athletics and Activities

The student will be suspended from all extra/co-curricular activities for the remainder of the VHSL season (fall, winter, or spring), including post-season competitions-activities.

b. Second Violation Athletics and Activities

The student will be suspended from all extra/co-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year including post-season competitions-activities.

Penalties for Off-School Premises Policy Violations

Note: Off-school premises applies to non-school hours and non-school events.

a. First Violation for Athletics:

The student shall be suspended from play for a period equivalent to that number of games representing not less than 20 percent of the total number of contests scheduled to be played during the regular season. (e.g., 2 games of a 10-game schedule, 3 games for an 11-15 game schedule, 4 games for an 18-20 game schedule). The penalty will be applied to the immediate next game(s) including playoffs, and/or to the next sport season in which the student athlete participates within the current school year. During the suspension period, the student will be able to attend practices and contests; however, the student will not be permitted to dress in team uniform for games or competitive events.

b. First Violation for Activities:

The student shall not participate in club and/or activities for a period of 30 calendar days or 20 percent of scheduled student activities, the lesser of which shall be the penalty.

c. Second Violation for Athletics and Activities

A second violation during the same school year, even if in another sport or activity, will permanently exclude the student from all extra/co-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year.

Other Violations

Other violations of the division's Code of Student Conduct or rules and regulations specific to each extra/co-curricular activity not covered under the Rules of Conduct will result in penalties. Disciplinary action taken by the coach/sponsor may range from a conference with the student for violating team/club rules to dismissal from the activity depending on the nature and severity of the violation. As defined in the Code of Student Conduct or in Team/Activity Rules, incidents in which the consequence may result in suspension from the team/activity or school, must be referred to the Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities for appropriate disposition.

Due Process

Prior to making a determination and imposing an exclusionary consequence, the coach/sponsor or school authorities shall give students the right to explain their conduct. The school administration shall record in writing the factors which led to the decision to exclude the student from extra/co-curricular activities and shall stipulate the consequence(s) to the student. Students and their parents/guardians may appeal decisions related to the Extra/Co-

Curricular Participation Policy using the procedures outlined below:

Appeals of disciplinary actions taken for student violation of the Extra/Co-Curricular Participation Policy are as follows:

- Appeal-Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities
- Final Appeal-Principal (The decision of the principal is final.)

Appeals of disciplinary actions taken for student violations of the division's Code of Student Conduct follow procedures as outlined in SCPS Policy 2401 and Regulation 2401-R, Code of Student Conduct except that the student shall not participate in practices, activities, or events as described below.

Students appealing disciplinary action under the Extra/Co-Curricular Participation Policy 3502 that involve suspension from school or under the Code of Student Conduct shall not be allowed to participate in athletic events, practices, or student activities until after the appeal is heard by the appropriate authority. Students appealing disciplinary action under Policy 3502 that does not involve suspension from school are eligible to participate in practices but not attend or participate in games or competitive events until the appeal is heard by the appropriate authority.

Students appealing disciplinary action according to the due process procedures established in this policy will be permitted to attend practices; however, he/she will not be permitted to dress in team uniform and attend games or competitive events. In the event that the disciplinary action is overturned on appeal, absences from athletic events, practices, or student activities shall be considered excused, and shall not be considered by the coach or sponsor when determining awards or honors for which the student may be eligible.

Adopted: 06/24/08

Edited by Superintendent: 11/4/2013

Readopted: 12/12/13

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §16.1—260,
Regulations of the Virginia High School League

Stafford County Public Schools
Policy and Regulation 3503-R
Teaching and Learning
Title: Extra and Co-Curricular Concussion Management and Education

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines and procedures regarding the identification and care of concussion-related injuries.

The Board provides many opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular sports and activities. It is the desire of the Board to improve the education of parents, coaches, and student who participate in extra-curricular sports and activities where there is risk of concussion, by increasing participant awareness, the “how and why” of concussion injuries, recognition of the signs and symptoms of concussions, and the importance of reporting suspected injuries. To that end, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to implement such regulations and practices that shall educate all athletes, parents, and coaches as to the risks, symptoms, and care protocols of concussion-related injuries. High school athletes participating in high-risk concussion sports and activities shall be required to undergo baseline testing prior to participation. Protocols and procedures shall be developed to inform parents, ensure coaches have basic knowledge of concussion management, and establish a communication plan to help provide symptom information to the medical community.

Responsibilities of Parents

- In order to participate in any extracurricular physical activity each student-athlete and the student-athlete’s parent or guardian shall review, on an annual basis, information on concussions provided by the school. After having reviewed materials describing the long- and short-term health effects of concussions, each student-athlete and the student-athlete’s parent or guardian shall sign a statement acknowledging receipt of such information.
- Parents/guardians will be provided the opportunity to receive injury identification, care and prevention information by attending preseason athletic meetings at the middle and high school. (Mandatory for high school athletes and parents/guardians as required by state law.) (Code of Virginia – Student Athlete Protection Act)
- Parents will be provided a copy of “Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports” developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHSA).
- Parent/guardians shall initial and sign the “Stafford County Public Schools Student-Athlete and Parent/Guardian Concussion Statement” and return to the coach in order for the student-athlete to participate.
- Middle school parents/guardians will be provided the opportunity to watch the “Play Smart” Understanding Sports Concussion video, read the National Federation Concussion Guidelines and initial and sign the Stafford County Public Schools’ Concussion Statement.
- Parents of middle and high school athletes shall be asked to complete an addendum to the VHSL physical stating whether their child plays on a non-school team (Parks and Recreation football, travel soccer, lacrosse, or field hockey, AAU football, club wrestling, etc.) in

addition to the school team. Parents shall also be required to divulge whether or not the athlete has sustained a concussion like injury within the past year.

Responsibilities of Student-Athletes

- In order to participate in any extracurricular physical activity each student-athlete shall read, initial and sign the National Federation Concussion Guidelines.
- High School athletes participating in high-risk concussion sports and activities shall be tested every two years using IMPACT Concussion Management Program to determine a baseline for normal brain functioning. This test determines the individual's baseline cognitive performance without injury.
- Athletes shall communicate any/all concussion-related symptoms to the coaches or athletic trainers.
- Athletes shall be encouraged to communicate to their coach or athletic trainer if they notice a teammate displaying signs or symptoms of a concussion-related injury.

Responsibilities of Coaches

- Coaches shall complete the online National Federation High School Concussion Class, Concussion in Sport, on an annual basis.
- Read and understand Stafford County Public Schools' Concussion Management Plan.
- Provide students and parents with the Concussion Management Information and collect signed copies.
- Have a plan in place to report concussions to parents/guardians, the school nurse and athletic trainer or medical doctor.
- Coaches shall not "play" athletes suspected of a brain injury or who were not cleared for participation.
- The high school athletic trainer has the "final say" when an athlete is ready to return to competition.
- Middle school coaches will work with the medical community, school nurse, and parents to manage concussion-related injuries.
- Coaches will use the Stafford County Public School's Concussion Signs and Symptoms Evaluation Form (in the absence of an Athletic Trainer) to document suspected concussion related injuries.
- Coaches shall provide parents the Concussion Communication Form which contains a list of symptoms, "Do's & Don'ts" and recommendations to aid in the care and management of concussion-related injuries.
- Coaches shall always use, *Recognize, Remove, and Refer*, when working with suspected concussion injuries.

Responsibilities of the High School Certified Athletic Trainer

- The Athletic Trainer shall provide concussion education training to coaches.
- The Athletic Trainer shall provide concussion education training to parents and athletes.
- Manage the use of the IMPACT Concussion Management System.
- Administer the Post-Concussion IMPACT test for all suspected concussion related injuries.
- Review concussion-related test data with the athlete and the parent.
- Communicate with the athlete's physician, if needed.
- Educate teachers on classroom modifications that may be necessary for a student's return to learn protocol.
- Identify key individuals at their school that would play a role in a student-athlete's return to learn progress.
- Notify the school nurse, counselors, teachers, and administration of student-athletes that are being treated for a concussion.
- In coordination with the parent/guardian and or physician, the athletic trainer shall manage and determine when an athlete is able to return to play.
- The Athletic Trainer shall apply the standard of "When in doubt, hold them out."
- The Athletic Trainer shall follow the return to play guidelines in the Stafford County Public Schools' *Protocols and Procedures for Management of Sports-Related Concussion* based on recommendations published in the consensus statement on concussions in sport from The 4th International Conference on Concussions in Sports held in Zurich, fall 2012.

Responsibilities of the School Nurse

- The school nurse shall provide school day medical care of reported concussions and coordinate with athletic trainers if the injury occurred during evening sports.
- Coordinate any classroom modifications with parents/guardians, teachers and the athletic trainer that may be beneficial to the student-athlete's cognitive recovery.
- Perform primary assessment documentation (nature, location, time, mechanism of injury).
- Complete the *SCPS Health Services Head Injury* documentation form.
- Communicate with parents by phone and the "*SCPS Regional Head Injury Parent Letter*" as health services protocol requires.

Responsibilities of Assistant Principals of Athletics and Activities and the Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education

- The Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities and the middle school athletic directors shall work with the Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education to ensure that all football helmets are within the 10 year age limit or less. (High schools receive 15 new helmets and middle schools receive 5 new helmets annually to ensure compliance with the *Athletic Reconditioning* guidelines. Older helmets are removed from inventory and damaged helmets are rejected.)
- Coaches' education shall be delivered by the Assistant Principal for Athletics & Activities and the Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education.

- The Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education shall ensure that high school athletic trainers have access to the IMPACT Concussion Management System to provide baseline cognitive data for athletes in high-risk concussion sports and activities; football, field hockey, cheerleading, gymnastics, lacrosse, baseball, softball, high jump, pole vault, wrestling, and basketball.
- Assistant Principals and middle school Athletic Directors shall ensure all football helmets are reconditioned and inspected annually by a licensed reconditioning company.
- Assistant Principals shall ensure all high school coaches annual participation in the National Federation of State High School Association (NFSHSA) concussion online class.
- Assistant Principals and the Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education shall meet with the Athletic Trainers on a regular basis to discuss concussion management and protocols and procedures. (Assistant Principals will meet with the Athletic Trainer located at their site. The Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education shall meet with all Athletic Trainers.)

Responsibilities of Third Party User Groups Using SCPS Athletic Facilities

- Any third party user group including Stafford County Parks, Recreations and Community Facilities sponsored organizations, holding athletic practices and competitions on or at SCPS owned property/courts/fields shall provide documentation as part of their application process of an existing concussion management plan including an education component, procedures to identify suspected concussions, care and communication with parents/guardians/medical community and a return to play protocol.
- Any third party user group who does not have a concussion management plan may adopt the concussion procedures and protocols of SCPS provided they produce documentation of their implementation plan.
- The Assistant Superintendent of Operations shall ensure the existing Joint School Board/Board of Supervisors Facilities Use Agreement and the SCPS Community Use of Facilities/Equipment Policy and Regulation has similar supporting concussion management plan requirements.

Adopted: 12/09/14
 Legal Reference: Appropriate legal reference

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION

Concussions can appear in many different ways. Listed below are some of the signs and symptoms frequently associated with concussions. Most signs, symptoms and abnormalities after a concussion fall into the four categories listed below. A coach, parent or other person who knows the athlete well can often detect these problems by observing the athlete and/or by asking a few relevant questions of the athlete, official or a teammate who was on the field or court at the time of the concussion. Below are some suggested observations and questions a non-medical individual can use to help determine whether an athlete has suffered a concussion and how urgently he or she should be sent for appropriate medical care.

1. PROBLEMS IN BRAIN FUNCTION:

- Confused state – dazed look, vacant stare or confusion about what happened or is happening.
- Memory problems – can't remember assignment on play, opponent, score of game, or period of the game; can't remember how or with whom he or she traveled to the game, what he or she was wearing, what was eaten for breakfast, etc.
- Symptoms reported by athlete – Headache, nausea or vomiting; blurred or double vision; oversensitivity to sound, light or touch; ringing in ears; feeling foggy or groggy; dizziness.
- Lack of sustained attention – difficulty sustaining focus adequately to complete a task, a coherent thought or a conversation.

2. SPEED OF BRAIN FUNCTION:

Slow response to questions, slow slurred speech, incoherent speech, slow body movements and slow reaction time.

3. UNUSUAL BEHAVIORS:

Behaving in a combative, aggressive or very silly manner; atypical behavior for the individual; repeatedly asking the same question over and over; restless and irritable behavior with constant motion and attempts to return to play; reactions that seem out of proportion and inappropriate; and having trouble resting or "finding a comfortable position."

4. PROBLEMS WITH BALANCE AND COORDINATION:

Dizziness, slow clumsy movements, inability to walk a straight line or balance on one foot with eyes closed.

IF NO MEDICAL PERSONNEL ARE ON HAND AND AN INJURED ATHLETE HAS ANY OF THE ABOVE SYMPTOMS, HE OR SHE SHOULD BE SENT FOR APPROPRIATE MEDICAL CARE.

CHECKING FOR CONCUSSION

The presence of any of the signs or symptoms that are listed in this brochure suggest a concussion has most likely occurred. In addition to observation and direct questioning for symptoms, medical professionals have a number of other instruments to evaluate attention, processing speed, memory, balance, reaction time, and ability to think and analyze information (called executive brain function). These are the brain functions that are most likely to be adversely affected by a concussion and most likely to persist during the post concussion period.

If an athlete seems "clear" he or she should be exercised enough to increase the heart rate and then evaluate if any symptoms return before allowing that athlete to practice or play.

Computerized tests that can evaluate brain function are now being used by some medical professionals at all levels of sports from youth to professional and elite teams. They provide an additional tool to assist physicians in determining when a concussed athlete appears to have healed enough to return to school and play. This is especially helpful when dealing with those athletes denying symptoms in order to play sooner.

For non-medical personnel, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also developed a tool kit ("Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports"), which has been made available to all high schools, and has information for coaches, athletes and parents. The NFHS is proud to be a co-sponsor of this initiative.

PREVENTION

Although all concussions cannot be prevented, many can be minimized or avoided. Proper coaching techniques, good officiating of the existing rules, and use of properly fitted equipment can minimize the risk of head injury. Although the NFHS advocates the use of mouthguards in nearly all sports and mandates them in some, there is no convincing scientific data that their use will prevent concussions.

Prepared by NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. 2009

References:

NFHS. Concussions. 2008 NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook (Third Edition). 2008: 77-82.
NFHS. <http://www.nfhs.org>.

National Federation of State High School Associations

PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
Phone: 317-972-6900 | Fax: 317.822.5700
www.nfhs.org

National Federation of State
High School Associations



SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSION IN SPORTS

**EVEN SEEMINGLY MINOR CONCUSSIONS
CAN HAVE DEVASTATING RESULTS**

INTRODUCTION

Concussions are a common problem in sports and have the potential for serious complications if not managed correctly. Even what appears to be a "minor ding or bell ringer" has the real risk of catastrophic results when an athlete is returned to action too soon. The medical literature and lay press are reporting instances of death from "second impact syndrome" when a second concussion occurs before the brain has recovered from the first one regardless of how mild both injuries may seem.

At many athletic contests across the country, trained and knowledgeable individuals are not available to make the decision to return concussed athletes to play. Frequently, there is undue pressure from various sources (parents, player and coach) to return a valuable athlete to action. In addition, often there is unwillingness by the athlete to report headaches and other findings because the individual knows it would prevent his or her return to play.

Outlined below are some guidelines that may be helpful for parents, coaches and others dealing with possible concussions. Please bear in mind that these are general guidelines and must not be used in place of the central role that physicians and athletic trainers must play in protecting the health and safety of student-athletes.

SIDELINE MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSION

- 1. Did a concussion take place?** Based on mechanism of injury, observation, history and unusual behavior and reactions of the athlete, even without loss of consciousness, assume a concussion has occurred if the head was hit and even the mildest of symptoms occur. *(See other side for signs and symptoms)*
- 2. Does the athlete need immediate referral for emergency care?** If confusion, unusual behavior or responsiveness, deteriorating condition, loss of consciousness, or concern about neck and spine injury exist, the athlete should be referred at once for emergency care.
- 3. If no emergency is apparent, how should the athlete be monitored?** Every 5- 10 minutes, mental status, attention, balance, behavior, speech and memory should be examined until stable over a few hours. If appropriate medical care is not available, an athlete even with mild symptoms should be sent for medical evaluation.
- 4. No athlete suspected of having a concussion should return to the same practice or contest, even if symptoms clear in 15 minutes.**

MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIONS AND RETURN TO PLAY

(See "SIDELINE DECISION-MAKING" Below)

Increasing evidence is suggesting that initial signs and symptoms, including loss of consciousness and amnesia, may not be very predictive of the true severity of the injury and the prognosis or outcome. More importance is being assigned to the duration of such symptoms and this, along with data showing symptoms may worsen some time after the head injury, has shifted focus to continued monitoring of the athlete. This is one reason why these guidelines no longer include an option to return an athlete to play even if clear in 15 minutes and why there is no discussion about the "Grade" of the concussion.

Any athlete who is removed from play because of a concussion should have medical clearance from an appropriate health care professional before being allowed to return to play or practice. The Second International Conference on Concussion held in Prague recommends an athlete should not return to practice or competition in sport until he or she is asymptomatic including after exercise.

Recent information suggests that mental exertion, as well as physical exertion, should be avoided until concussion symptoms have cleared. Premature mental or physical exertion may lead to more severe and more prolonged post concussion period. Therefore, the athlete should not study, play video games, do computer work or phone texting until his or her symptoms are resolving. Once symptoms are clear, the student-athlete should try reading for short periods of time.

When 1-2 hours of studying can be done without symptoms developing, the athlete may return to school for short periods gradually increasing until a full day of school is tolerated without return of symptoms.

Once the athlete is able to complete a full day of school work, without PE or other exertion, the athlete can begin the gradual return to play protocol as outlined below. Each step increases the intensity and duration of the physical exertion until all skills required by the specific sport can be accomplished without symptoms. These recommendations have been based on the awareness of the increased vulnerability of the brain to concussions occurring close together and of the cumulative effects of multiple concussions on long-term brain function. Research is now revealing some fairly objective and relatively easy-to-use tests which appear to identify subtle residual deficits that may not be obvious from the traditional evaluation. These identifiable abnormalities frequently persist after the obvious signs of concussion are gone and appear to have relevance to whether an athlete can return to play in relative safety. The significance of these deficits is still under study and the evaluation instruments represent a work in progress. They may be helpful to the professional determining return to play in conjunction with consideration of the severity and nature of the injury; the interval since the last head injury; the duration of symptoms before clearing; and the level of play.

SIDELINE DECISION-MAKING

1. No athlete should return to play (RTP) on the same day of concussion.
2. Any athlete removed from play because of a concussion must have medical clearance from an appropriate health care professional before he or she can resume practice or competition.
3. Close observation of athlete should continue for a few hours.
4. After medical clearance, RTP should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based on return of any signs or symptoms.

MEDICAL CLEARANCE RTP PROTOCOL

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as skating or running, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. If athlete remains asymptomatic, he or she may return to game/play.

A. ATHLETE MUST REMAIN ASYMPTOMATIC TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

B. IF SYMPTOMS RECUR, ATHLETE MUST RETURN TO PREVIOUS LEVEL.

C. MEDICAL CHECK SHOULD OCCUR BEFORE CONTACT.

Stafford County Public Schools
**Statement of Participation in Outside of School Athletics
and Concussion/Brain Injury History**

In order to provide the safest possible environment for your child to participate in extracurricular activities in Stafford County Public Schools, please answer the following:

- Is your child currently participating on an athletic team outside of SCPS? **Yes or No**
 - If so, please indicate the sport. _____
- Has your child ever suffered a concussion like brain injury? **Yes or No**
 - If so, what was the date of the latest concussion like injury? _____

Our coaches, nurses, and athletic trainers work diligently to provide the proper care for any concussion/brain injury, whether it occurs on a Stafford County Public Schools athletic team, or non-school activity/sports team.

It is extremely important that if an injury occurs outside of SCPS activities that the school nurse, coach and/or athletic trainer is notified immediately.

School Name _____

School Sport _____

Non-School Activity/Sport _____

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

VIRGINIA CODE

NOTICE OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INVOLVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The Code of Virginia contains provisions addressing parental responsibility and involvement that are intended to promote proper student conduct. With this law, the General Assembly has asserted its position that parents do not relinquish their responsibility for disciplining or managing their children while they attend public schools. Rather, parents must work in partnership with school administrators to maintain a safe and orderly school environment. The Code of Virginia provides:

§ 22.1-279.3 Parental responsibility and involvement requirements.

A. Each parent of a student enrolled in a public school has a duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and compulsory school attendance in order that education may be conducted in an atmosphere free of disruption and threat to persons or property, and supportive of individual rights.

NOTICE: MISDEMEANOR TO MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS AS TO RESIDENCY

The Code of Virginia provides that under certain circumstances it shall be a misdemeanor for any person to knowingly make a false statement concerning residency.

§ 22.1-264.1. Misdemeanor to make false statements as to school division or attendance zone residency; penalty.

Any person who knowingly makes a false statement concerning the residency of a child, as determined by § [22.1-3](#), in a particular school division or school attendance zone, for the purposes of (i) avoiding the tuition charges authorized by § [22.1-5](#) or (ii) enrollment in a school outside the attendance zone in which the student resides, shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor and shall be liable to the school division in which the child was enrolled as a result of such false statements for tuition charges, pursuant to § [22.1-5](#), for the time the student was enrolled in such school division.

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE (VHSL) INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

To be eligible to represent your school in any VHSL interscholastic athletic contest, you—

- must be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school you represent.
- must be enrolled in the last four years of high school (Eighth-grade students may be eligible for junior varsity).
- must have enrolled not later than the fifteenth day of the current semester.
- for the first semester must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding year or the immediately preceding semester for schools that certify credits on a semester basis. (Check with your principal for equivalent requirements). **Athletes may not repeat courses for eligibility purposes for which credit has been previously awarded.**
- for the second semester must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding semester (Check with your principal for equivalent requirements).
- must sit out all VHSL competition for 365 consecutive calendar days following a school transfer unless the transfer corresponded with a family move. (Check with your principal for exceptions).
- must not have reached your nineteenth birthday on or before the first day of August of the current school year.
- must not, after entering the ninth grade for the first time, have been enrolled in or been eligible for enrollment in high school more than eight consecutive semesters.
- must have submitted to your principal before any kind of participation, including tryouts or practice as a member of any school athletic or cheerleading team, an Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form, completely filled in and properly signed attesting that you have been examined during this school year and found to be physically fit for athletic competition and that your parent's consent to your participation.
- must not be in violation of VHSL Amateur, Awards, All Star or College Team Rules (Check with your principal for clarification in regard to cheerleading).

Eligibility to participate in inter-scholastic athletics is a privilege you earn by meeting not only the above-listed minimum standards but also all other standards set by your League, district and school. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility or are in doubt about the effect an activity might have on your eligibility, **check with your principal for interpretations and exceptions provided under league rules.** Meeting the intent and spirit of league standards will prevent you, your team, school and community from being penalized.

LOCAL SCHOOL DIVISIONS AND VHSL DISTRICTS MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STANDARDS TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE.

SPECIAL PERMISSION AND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY FAQS ON VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE (VHSL) TRANSFER RULE

1. *If I am a currently enrolled high school student and I voluntarily choose to attend a high school different from my home school, will I remain eligible for VHSL athletics?*

ANSWER: No. The VHSL Transfer rule (28-6-1) prohibits a current high school student from transferring without a corresponding change in his/her parents' residence. This period of ineligibility lasts for 365 consecutive calendar days.

2. *I heard that the school system can grant a "waiver" so I can remain eligible for VHSL athletics?*

ANSWER: A waiver may be considered for transfers that are required or mandated by the school system or are for the welfare of the student or school system Stafford County Public Schools, but not for athletic/activity reasons.

3. *I am a rising 9th grade student and I would like to apply for special permission to transfer to a high school other than my home high school for next year. If I file during the period for filing applications will I be eligible for VHSL athletics at the other high school?*

ANSWER: Yes. A student's eligibility for VHSL athletics/activities begins when they enter the 9th grade for the first time. A student remains eligible at the high school they enter as a 9th grader for 8 consecutive semesters as long as they remain continuously enrolled at the high school. If you did not like your transfer high school and wanted to return to your home high school the following year, then you would be ineligible for 365 consecutive days. If however, you were prevented from attending the transfer high school the following year because the high school no longer had capacity, then a waiver may be considered.

4. *What happens if a student is mistakenly allowed to play in VHSL athletics even though he or she is actually ineligible due to the Transfer Rule?*

ANSWER: The high school that allowed the student to play when he or she was ineligible will forfeit all of the games in which the student played. Other sanctions are possible against the school depending on the situation.

Routing

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

Revised March 2013

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VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE, INC.
1642 State Farm Blvd., Charlottesville, Va. 22911



Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form

Separate signed form is required for each school year May 1 of the current year through June 30 of the succeeding year.

For School Year _____

PART I - ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

(To be filled in and signed by the student)

Male _____

Female _____

PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____ Student I.D. # _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Home Address _____

City/Zip Code _____

Home Address of Parents _____

City/Zip Code _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

This is my _____ semester in _____ High School, and my _____ semester since first entering the ninth grade. Last semester I attended _____ School and passed _____ credit subjects, and I am taking _____ credit subjects this semester. I have read the condensed individual eligibility rules of the Virginia High School League that appear below and believe I am eligible to represent my present high school in athletics.

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

To be eligible to represent your school in any VHSL interscholastic athletic contest, you--

- must be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school you represent.
- must be enrolled in the last four years of high school. (Eighth-grade students may be eligible for junior varsity.)
- must have enrolled not later than the fifteenth day of the current semester.
- for the first semester must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding year or the immediately preceding semester for schools that certify credits on a semester basis. (Check with your principal for equivalent requirements). **May not repeat courses for eligibility purposes for which credit has been previously awarded.**
- for the second semester must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding semester. (Check with your principal for equivalent requirements.)
- must sit out all VHSL competition for 365 consecutive calendar days following a school transfer unless the transfer corresponded with a family move. (Check with your principal for exceptions.)
- must not have reached your nineteenth birthday on or before the first day of August of the current school year.
must not, after entering the ninth grade for the first time, have been enrolled in or been eligible for enrollment in high school more than eight consecutive semesters.
- must have submitted to your principal before any kind of participation, including tryouts or practice as a member of any school athletic or cheerleading team, an Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form, completely filled in and properly signed attesting that you have been examined during this school year and found to be physically fit for athletic competition and that your parents consent to your participation.
- must not be in violation of VHSL Amateur, Awards, All Star or College Team Rules. (Check with your principal for clarification in regard to cheerleading.)

Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics is a privilege you earn by meeting not only the above-listed minimum standards, but also all other standards set by your League, district and school. If you have any question regarding your eligibility or are in doubt about the effect an activity might have on your eligibility, **check with your principal for interpretations and exceptions provided under League rules.** Meeting the intent and spirit of League standards will prevent you, your team, school and community from being penalized. Additionally, I give my consent and approval for my picture and name to be printed in any high school or VHSL athletic program, publication or video.

LOCAL SCHOOL DIVISIONS AND VHSL DISTRICTS MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STANDARDS TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Providing false information will result in ineligibility for one year.

The pre-participation physical examination is not a substitute for a thorough annual examination by a student's primary care physician

Page 2 of 4

PART II - - MEDICAL HISTORY- Explain "Yes" answers below

This form must be completed and signed, prior to the physical examination, for review by examining practitioner.

Explain "Yes" answers below with number of the question. Circle questions you don't know the answers to.

GENERAL MEDICAL HISTORY	Yes	No	MEDICAL QUESTIONS (cont)	Yes	No
1. Has a doctor ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	29. Do you have groin pain or a painful bulge or hernia in the groin area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you currently have an ongoing medical condition? If so, Please identify: <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Infections <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30. Have you had mononucleosis (mono) within the last month?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Have you ever spent the night in the hospital?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	31. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or other skin problems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Have you ever had surgery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	32. Have you ever had a herpes or MRSA skin infection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU	Yes	No	33. Are you currently taking any medication on daily basis?	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out DURING or AFTER exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion? If so, date of last injury:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Have you ever had discomfort, pain, or pressure in your chest during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35. Have you ever had numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs after being hit or falling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Does your heart race or skip beats during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	36. Do you have headaches with exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Has a doctor ever told you that you have (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure <input type="checkbox"/> A heart murmur <input type="checkbox"/> High cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> A heart infection <input type="checkbox"/> Kawasaki disease <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	37. Have you ever been unable to move your arms or legs after being hit or falling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Has a doctor ever ordered a test for your heart? (For ex: ECG/EKG, echocardiogram)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	38. When exercising in heat, do you have severe muscle cramps or become ill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you get lightheaded or feel more short of breath than expected during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	39. Has a doctor told you that you or someone in your family has sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Have you ever had an unexplained seizure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40. Have you had any other blood disorders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY	Yes	No	41. Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected sudden death before age 50 (including drowning, unexplained car accident, or sudden infant death syndrome)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	42. Do you wear glasses or contact lenses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Does anyone in your family have a heart problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43. Do you wear protective eyewear, such as goggles or a face shield?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Does anyone in your family have a pacemaker or implanted defibrillator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44. Do you worry about your weight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Does anyone in your family have Marfan syndrome, cardiomyopathy, or Long Q-T?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45. Are you trying to or has any professional recommended that you try to gain or lose weight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Has anyone in your family had unexplained fainting, unexplained seizures, or near drowning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46. Do you limit or carefully control what you eat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BONE AND JOINT QUESTIONS	Yes	No	47. Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with a doctor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Have you ever had an injury, like a sprain, muscle or ligament tear, or tendonitis that caused you to miss a practice or game?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48. What is the date of your last Tdap or Td(tetanus) immunization? (circle type) Date:		
18. Have you had any broken or fractured bones or dislocated joints?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	49. Do you have an allergy to medicine, food or stinging insects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Have you had a bone or joint injury that required x-rays, MRI, CT, surgery, injections, rehabilitation, physical therapy, a brace, a cast, or crutches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FEMALES ONLY 50. Have you ever had a menstrual period?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Have you ever had an x-ray of your neck for atlanto-axial instability? OR Have you ever been told that you have that disorder or any neck/spine problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	51. Age when you had your first menstrual period? _____		
21. Have you ever had a stress fracture of a bone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	52. How many periods have you had in the last 12 months? _____		
22. Do you regularly use a brace or assistive device?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EXPLAIN "YES" ANSWERS BELOW: # _____ » _____ # _____ » _____ # _____ » _____ # _____ » _____ # _____ » _____ # _____ » _____ # _____ » _____ # _____ » _____ *List medications and nutritional supplements you are currently taking here:		
23. Do you currently have a bone, muscle, or joint injury that bothers you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
24. Do any of your joints become painful, swollen, feel warm, or look red?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
25. Do you have a history of juvenile arthritis or connective tissue disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
MEDICAL QUESTIONS	Yes	No			
26. Do you cough, wheeze, or have difficulty breathing during or after exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
27. Do you have asthma or use asthma medicine (inhaler, nebulizer)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
28. Were you born without or are you missing a kidney, an eye, a testicle, spleen or any other organ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

☀ **Parent/Guardian Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____ **Athlete's Signature:** _____

**PART III – PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**(Physical examination form is required each school year dated after May 1 of the preceding school year and is good through June 30th of the current school year)**

NAME _____ Date of Birth _____ School _____

Date of EXAMINATION:					
Height	Weight	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female		
BP	/	Resting Pulse	Vision R 20/	L 20/	Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Appearance		
Eyes/ears/nose/throat		
Lymph nodes		
Heart		
Pulses		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Genitourinary (males only)		
Skin		

Neurologic		
MUSCULOSKELETAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder/arm		
Elbow/forearm		
Wrist/hand/fingers		
Hip/thigh		
Knee		
Leg/ankle		
Foot/toes		
Functional		

Medical Practitioner to School Staff (please indicate any instructions or recommendations here)Emergency medications required on-site ☐ Inhaler ☐ Epinephrine ☐ Glucagon ☐ Other: _____**Comments:**

I have reviewed the data above, reviewed his/her medical history form and make the following recommendations for his/her participation in athletics.

- ☐ **CLEARED WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS**
- ☐ **CLEARED WITH FOLLOWING NOTATION:** _____
- ☐ Cleared **AFTER** documented further evaluation or treatment for: _____
- ☐ Cleared for **Limited participation** (check and explain “reason” for all that apply): “*Limited Until Date*” when appropriate
- ☐ Not cleared for (specific sports) _____ Until Date: _____
- Reason(s): _____

- ☐ **NOT CLEARED FOR PARTICIPATION Reason** _____

*By this signature, I attest that I have examined the above student and completed this pre-participation physical including a review of Part II – Medical History.*Physician Signature: _____ (*MD, DO, LNP, PA) . Date** _____
Circle one

Examiner's Name and degree (print): _____ Phone Number _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*** Only signatures of Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed to practice in the United States will be accepted**

Rule 28-9-1 (3) Physical Examination Rule/Transfer Student (10-90) – When an out-of-state student who has received a current physical examination elsewhere transfers to Virginia and attaches proof of that physical examination to the League's form #2, the student is in compliance with physical examination requirements.

PART IV -- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK AND INSURANCE STATEMENT

(To be completed and signed by parent/guardian)

I give permission for _____ (name of child/ward) to participate in any of the following sports that are not crossed out: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming/diving, tennis, track, volleyball, wrestling, other (identify sports). _____

I have reviewed the individual eligibility rules and I am aware that with the participation in sports comes the risk of injury to my child/ward. I understand that the degree of danger and the seriousness of the risk varies significantly from one sport to another with contact sports carrying the higher risk. I have had an opportunity to understand the risk inherent in sports through meetings, written handouts, or some other means. He/she has student medical/accident insurance available through the school (yes__ no__); has athletic participation insurance coverage through the school (yes__ no__); is insured by our family policy with:

Name of Medical Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____ Name of Policy Holder: _____

I am aware that participating in sports will involve travel with the team. I acknowledge and accept the risks inherent in the sport and with the travel involved and with this knowledge in mind, grant permission for my child/ward to participate in the sport and travel with the team.

By this signature, I hereby consent to allow the physician(s) and other health care provider(s) selected by myself or the school to perform a pre-participation examination on my child and to provide treatment for any injury or condition resulting from participating in athletics/activities for his/her school during the school year covered by this form. I further consent to allow said physician(s) or health care provider(s) to share appropriate information concerning my child that is relevant to participation in athletics and activities with coaches and other school personnel as deemed necessary.

Additionally I give my consent and approval for the above named student's picture and name to be printed in any high school or VHSL athletic program, publication or video.

PART V - EMERGENCY PERMISSION FORM

(To be completed and signed by parent/guardian)

STUDENT'S NAME _____ GRADE _____ AGE _____ DOB _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____ CITY _____

Please list any significant health problems that might be significant to a physician evaluating your child in case of an emergency

Please list any allergies to medications, etc. _____

Is the student currently prescribed an inhaler or Epi-Pen? _____ List the emergency medication: _____

Is student presently taking any other medication? _____ If so, what type? _____

Does student wear contact lenses? _____ Date of last Tdap or Td (tetanus) shot _____

EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION: In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to physicians selected by the coaches and staff of _____ High School to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and to order injection and/or anesthesia and/or surgery for the person named above.

Daytime phone number (where to reach you in emergency) _____

Evening time phone number (where to reach you in emergency) _____

Cell phone _____

☀▶▶ Signature of parent or guardian _____ Date _____

Relationship to student _____
*Emergency Permission Form may be reproduced to travel with respective teams and is acceptable for emergency treatment if needed.

I certify all the above information is correct _____

☀▶▶ Parent/Guardian Signature

The pre-participation physical examination is not a substitute for a thorough annual examination by a student's primary care physician

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE (VHSL)

HEAT GUIDELINES

HEAT INJURIES CAUSE MULTIPLE DEATHS EACH YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS.

Heat illness and injury can range from simple muscle cramps to life-threatening heat stroke. Catastrophic heat injuries are preventable. By following the recommendations included in this document, the risk of heat injuries can be reduced significantly. The most important components in preventing heat injury are the prevention of dehydration and limiting activity when temperature and humidity make it near impossible for the body to cool through the evaporation of sweat.

The body produces heat at rest; this heat production increases 10 to 20 times with exercise. Evaporation is the major method of cooling the body during exercise. Evaporation of sweat dissipates the heat from the core of the body, keeping internal organs cool. Exercising in a dehydrated state reduces the ability to sweat, compromising the body's ability to cool. Dehydration also causes a reduction in blood volume, compromising cardiac output. Air temperature and humidity have a direct effect on the efficiency of this cooling process. Based on the effects of dehydration and exercise in heat and humidity, the following guidelines provide administrators, coaches, and athletic training staff with a sound plan to prevent heat injury. It is strongly recommended that each school system develop and adheres to specific heat guidelines appropriate for their student activity population and facilities based on scientific research. Guidelines should also apply to activities like marching band, and for gyms and indoor facilities without air conditioning.

Signs and Symptoms of Heat Problems:

The following are common signs and symptoms related to heat illness, but are not intended to represent a complete list. In the event an athlete is suffering from one or more of the following, the athlete should be referred to appropriate allied health care or medical professional for full evaluation.

- Muscle spasms/cramps
- Heavy or profuse sweating
- Flushed or cool and pale skin
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Rapid pulse, nausea, weakness
- Disorientation, confusion
- Elevated body core temperature
- Cessation of sweating
- Red, dry skin
- Shallow breathing and rapid pulse
- Loss of consciousness

Heat Illness/Injury Facts:

- Adolescents take longer to acclimate to heat than adults.
- Weight loss of water greater than 3% of body weight significantly increases the risk of heat related illness.
- 1.5 times the amount of water lost must be consumed to replace lost weight.
- Unrelated illnesses causing vomiting and/or diarrhea will increase risk of heat-related illnesses. These conditions should be brought to the attention of the ATC and/or coaching staff prior to participation. Close monitoring of these individuals should take place during practice sessions and competition.
- Athletes taking certain medications including diuretics, antihistamines, beta blockers and anti-cholinergics are at higher risk for heat illnesses.
- Light colored, breathable clothing can assist the body in cooling.
- Athletes who are overweight, poorly conditioned, recovering from illness, lacking in sleep, or taking medication are increased risk for heat illnesses and should be monitored closely and/or have their participation level modified.

Recommendations for Fluid Replacement:

- All schools should establish a Fluid Replacement Protocol for their facility (see recommendations below).
- All athletes should inform their coaches and/or athletic training staff of any pre-existing heat illness, gastro-intestinal condition and/or medical complication prior to exercising in the heat.
- Weigh athletes before and after each practice during hot weather. Athletes should conform to a restricted activity schedule, if weight is not within 1% of the previous day PRE-EXERCISE weight.
- Replace fluids at a rate of 24 fluid ounces for every pound of body weight lost after exercise.
- Athletes should be educated in the process of hydrating themselves as a 24 hour a day process.
- Athletes should begin every athletic activity well hydrated.
- During exercise, the average person should drink 8 to 12 ounces of fluid every 20 to 30 minutes.
- Urine color is an easy method to determine hydration status. Light yellow to clear urine indicates a well-hydrated athlete.
- Water should be available to athletes at all times and never be withheld from exercising individuals.

National Athletic Trainers Association's Recommendations on Fluid Replacement:

- Educate athletes on the effects of dehydration on physical performance.
- Inform athletes on how to monitor hydration status.

- Convince athletes to participate in their own hydration protocols based on sweat rate, drinking preferences, and personal responses to differing fluid quantities.
- Encourage coaches to mandate rehydration during practices and competitions, just as they require other drills and conditioning activities.
- Have a scale accessible to assist athletes in monitoring weight before, during, and after activity.
- Provide the optimal oral rehydration solution (water, CHOs, electrolytes) before, during, and after exercise.
- Implement the hydration protocol during all practices and games and adapt it as needed.
- Encourage event scheduling and rule modifications to minimize the risks associated with exercise in the heat.

Journal of Athletic Training Vol. 35 N2, June 2000
Full text can be found on NATA's website: www.nata.org

Acclimating to Heat:

Another way to help prevent heat stress is to become acclimatized to the weather.

Acclimatization means becoming adapted to the weather or climate. The process takes 7 to 12 days. Studies have shown adolescents take longer to acclimatize to heat than adults. As a result of acclimatization, the sweating mechanism of a person is enhanced:

- Onset of perspiration occurs earlier
- Perspiration increases
- Increase in blood volume with the more training an individual does
- Improves supply of oxygen to the muscles
- Heart rate decreases
- Core body temperature does not rise as high during exercise.

Other Facts about Heat Illnesses and Exercising in the Heat:

- Dehydration of 1% to 2% of body weight begins to impact athletic performance
- Dehydration greater than 3% of body weight may increase an athlete's risk of heat illness
- Sports drinks should contain 6% carbohydrate. Carbohydrate content greater than 6% compromises the rate of gastric emptying and should be avoided
- Wear light weight and light colored clothing. Avoid wearing articles that prevent water absorption
- Early morning commonly produces a humid environment and lower temperatures. Usually, as the sun rises, temperature and humidity will decrease. As the evening hours approach, the temperature decreases and the humidity will rise. Often, the most critical times to monitor athletes ability to exercise in hot weather occurs when the temperature rises quickly during the early morning, prior to the sun burning off the humidity; or during storms when the humidity remains high due to cloud cover, etc.

- A mild breeze can reduce the humidity on a particular field, as well as improve the evaporative process.
- Field watering after practice sessions are complete can help reduce the ambient humidity on or near an athletic field, thus reducing the heat stress on athletes.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY DURING EXTREME HOT AND HUMID WEATHER POLICY USING WET BULB THERMOMETER

Courtesy of Fairfax County Public Schools

It should be noted that wet bulb readings represent the temperature including the effect of evaporative cooling. These readings are more commonly acquired using a digital psychrometer available through medical suppliers for under \$100. The use of these devices allow for more accurate monitoring of actual conditions found at an athletic facility.

Level	FWBT	Duration	Attire	Fluid Consumption	Comments
1	Less than 60°	3 hours maximum	Full Gear	Insist that adequate fluid be ingested	Never restrict water consumption
2	60.1° - 65.9°	3 hours maximum	Full Gear	Insist that adequate fluid be ingested	Provide minimum of 2 water breaks per hour
3	66° - 74.9°	3 hours maximum	Full Gear	Insist that 4-6oz minimum fluid be ingested every 20 minutes	Provide minimum of 3 water breaks per hour
4	75° - 76.9°	3 hours maximum	Remove helmets unless active in drill	Insist that 6-8oz minimum fluid be ingested every 20 minutes	Monitor athletes, rest as needed.
5	77° - 78.9°	3 hours maximum every 45 minutes of work > 15 minutes of rest each hour*	Protective equipment removed for non-contact drills	Insist that 8-10oz fluid be ingested every 15 minutes	Removal of helmet unless active in drill, removal of pads (ie: shoulder pads) when teaching or non-contact portions of practice exceed 10 minutes in length
6	79° - 80.9°	3 hours maximum every 45 minutes of work > 15 minutes of rest each hour*	Shirt, shorts only No helmets or equipment	Insist that 8-10oz fluid be ingested every 15 minutes	Reduce intensity of activity, no equipment or helmets
7	81° - up	NO OUTDOOR PRACTICE		Re-hydrate 24oz for every pound of body weight loss per day	Practices conducted indoors must follow the Heat Policy

The Heat Policy also applies to indoor practice

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Fluid replacement should be at a rate of 24 ounces for every pound of body weight lost after exercise.

- Light-colored, loose clothing is suggested during activity in hot weather.
- Athletes are encouraged to wear sunscreen on exposed skin during hot, sunny conditions.
- Adequate fluid supply should be readily available at all times during activity in hot weather.
- Individuals poorly acclimatized or poorly conditioned are at increased risk for heat related illness/injury and should be monitored closely or placed on a modified participation schedule.
- Athletes having a pre-existing dehydrated state (recent fever or gastro-intestinal illness) or pre-existing heat injury are at a much higher risk for heat related illness/injury and should be monitored closely or placed on a modified participation schedule.
- Medications including diuretics, antihistamines, beta blockers and anti-cholinergics increase the risk of heat illness/injury.
- Overweight athletes are at increased risk for heat illness/injury and should be monitored closely.
- Energy, ergogenic, and dietary supplements, such as Creatine, may cause an increase in dehydration and heat related illness and/or injury.



Stafford County Public Schools

Heat and Hydration Statement of Understanding

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to another athletic season in Stafford County Public Schools! As the coaching staff prepares for practice, you and your child should read the following important information carefully.

Many high school athletes appear for workouts physically unprepared to cope with the stress that heat can place on their bodies. The challenge of hard work during conditioning increases this stress. For these reasons, it is imperative that athletes spend time getting acclimated to the heat and humidity before reporting for their first practice.

For our part, the coaching staff and sports medicine team will be vigilant in monitoring players for the signs and symptoms of heat illness and providing players opportunities to rest. We will incorporate regular fluid breaks to promote proper hydration and will encourage players to speak up if they are feeling bad. Here is what you can do to help keep your child safe during their athletic experience in Stafford County Public Schools:

PRE-SEASON EXERCISE – Your child should start with 15-20 minutes of continuous exercise two weeks prior to the season. Add 5-10 minutes each day, which should be enough to make and maintain a steady sweat throughout activity. Many of our coaches have pre-season conditioning programs to address this issue.

NUTRITION – Please provide your son/daughter with well balanced meals. The best advice is to follow the Food Guide Pyramid. You can find more information at the following website: <http://www.pyramid.gov>. McDonald's and other fast foods are fine in moderation, but most are not healthy choices. As young men and women, student athletes need the proper fuel to run their bodies. Excess grease and fat will only slow them down and contribute to heat-related illnesses and other injuries.

HYDRATION – Please monitor your student-athlete's drinking habits at home. Water, PowerAde and Gatorade are the drinks of choice. As a guideline, an athlete should drink 20 oz. of water/PowerAde/Gatorade for each pound of weight lost during activity. In general, each player should be drinking 20-60 ounces of fluid each night after practice to replenish fluids lost throughout the day. All caffeinated beverages are bad for athletes. Caffeine is a diuretic, causing rapid fluid loss and in turn leading to dehydration. **ENERGY DRINKS are particularly BAD!** No athlete should be consuming these due to high amounts of caffeine and sugar. For more information visit <http://www.gssiweb.com>.

PROPER REST – Athletes should get proper rest following workouts. Encourage your son/daughter to go to bed early. Rest allows the body to recharge.

HEAT vs. ICE – Always apply ice directly after an injury. It will stop swelling and help reduce recovery time. Ice should continuously used 2-4 days after the injury, depending on severity. Applying heat after an acute injury will increase swelling, in turn limiting range of motion and increasing healing time. Heat is great for sore muscles, but bad for acutely injured tissues. Always consult your physician, if you have any questions.

TEAM PHYSICIAN – The athletic trainers have a close relationship with their team physicians. Should your son/daughter need to see an orthopedic doctor, you can schedule an appointment by stating he/she is high

school athlete. If they cannot schedule an immediate appointment (2-3 days), please contact the athletic trainer to expedite the process.

COMMUNICATION – Please feel free to contact the athletic trainer at any time concerning the health and well-being of your son/daughter. Many times, students do not report injuries to the Certified Athletic Trainer. If you notice symptoms of limping or pain while at home, encourage your son/daughter to see the athletic trainer. The athletic trainer is here to make sure your son/daughter plays safe and gets the proper care for any type of injury. Please feel free to contact the athletic trainer with any concerns.

STEROIDS AND SUPPLEMENTS – Steroids are illegal and have no place in high school athletics. The punishment for steroids is a two year suspension from all high school sports. Please visit <http://vhs1.org/medicine.html> for information on steroids and supplements. If your son/daughter is taking any supplements, please make sure that they know exactly what they are taking and the effects that supplements can have on their bodies. Feel free to consult the athletic trainer to answer any questions that may arise from any type of supplements.

Paying attention to these guidelines will decrease the risk of serious injury.

Please complete and detach the form below. The form must be returned to your head coach before an athlete can participate in athletics. Please retain a copy of this information for your reference.

We are looking forward to a safe and winning season. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Assistant Principal of Athletics and Activities or your Certified Athletic Trainer at your school.

Sincerely,

Assistant Principals of Athletics and Activities; Certified Athletic Trainers

Student Name (Print): _____ , _____
Last First

I have read and understand the information provided regarding the topics of heat illness, hydration, steroids and proper health care for student-athletes.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

NCAA COLLEGE FRESHMAN ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

All potential college student-athletes must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse and meet NCAA academic requirements. Excerpts from the Eligibility Standards are provided on this page. Please see your school counselor for additional information.

Core Courses

- **NCAA Divisions I and II require 16 core courses.** See the breakdown of this 16 core-course requirement.
- **Beginning August 1, 2016, NCAA Division I will require 10 core courses** to be completed **prior to the seventh semester** (seven of the 10 must be a combination of English, math or natural/physical science that meet the Stafford County Public School division requirements below). These 10 courses become “locked in” at the seventh semester and cannot be retaken for grade improvement.
 - *Beginning August 1, 2016, it will be possible for a Division I college-bound student-athlete to still receive athletic aid and the ability to practice with the team if he or she fails to meet the 10 course requirement, but would not be able to compete.*

Test Scores

- **Division I** has a sliding scale for test score(s) and core grade-point average.
- **Division II** has a minimum SAT score requirement of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.
- The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes **only** the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used.
- The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a **sum** of the following four sections: English, mathematics, reading and science.
- **When you register for the SAT or ACT, use the NCAA Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure all SAT and ACT scores are reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center from the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used.**

Grade-Point Average

- Only core courses are used in the calculation of the grade-point average.
- **Be sure** to look at your high school’s list of NCAA-approved core courses on the Eligibility Center’s website to make certain that the courses being taken have been approved as core courses. Only courses that appear on your school’s List of NCAA Courses will be used in the calculation of the core GPA. Use the list as a guide. The Eligibility Center’s website is www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- **Division I** GPA required to receive athletics aid and practice on or after August 1, 2016, is 2.000.
- **Division I** GPA required to be eligible for competition on or after August 1, 2016, is 2.3000.
- **The Division II** GPA requirement is a minimum 2.000.

DIVISION I 16 CORE-COURSE RULE	DIVISION II 16 CORE-COURSE RULE
16 Core Courses: 4 years of English 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher) 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school) 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science 2 years of social science 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, world language, or comparative religion/philosophy).	16 Core Courses: 3 years of English 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher) 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab offered by high school). 3 years of additional English, mathematics, or natural/physical science 2 years of social science 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, world language or comparative religion/philosophy).

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Students enrolling at an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first time need to also complete the amateurism questionnaire through the Eligibility Center website. Students need to request final amateurism certification prior to enrollment.

For more information regarding the rules, please go to www.ncaa.org. Click on “Academics and Athletes”, then “Eligibility and Recruiting.” Or visit the Eligibility Center website at www.eligibilitycenter.org.

Please call the NCAA Eligibility Center if you have questions: Toll-free number: 877/262-1492.

CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAM

High school students who have failed an academic core course can take a district adopted/approved online course that is self-paced and based on a mastery of individual units. Participation requires approval by the principal. The purpose of credit recovery is to provide an opportunity for each student who failed a course to accelerate and complete courses based on individual needs, and to meet specific graduation requirements. Students must pass the online examination to earn credit and will receive a pass/fail grade.

(The grade of pass/fail will not be calculated into a student's GPA.)

Please note: This course does not meet the NCAA Eligibility Center Requirements. If you plan to participate in collegiate athletics, the eligibility center has not approved this class to count towards the NCAA eligibility standards.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Class Taken: _____

Date: _____

**National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)
POSITION STATEMENT ON ANABOLIC STEROIDS**

EXISTING POLICIES/STANDS

The NFHS strongly opposes the use of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing substances by high school student-athletes. Such use violates legal, ethical and competitive equity standards, and imposes unreasonable long-term health risks. The NFHS supports prohibitions by educational institutions, amateur and professional organizations and governmental regulators on the use of anabolic steroids and other controlled substances, except as specifically prescribed by physicians for therapeutic purposes.

BACKGROUND

Anabolic, androgenic steroids (AAS) are synthetic derivatives of the male hormone testosterone. Natural testosterone regulates, promotes and maintains physical and sexual development, primarily in the male, Stafford County Public Schools with effects in the female as well. Like testosterone, AAS have both an anabolic effect (increase in muscle tissue) and an androgenic effect (masculinizing effects that boys experience during puberty). No AAS is purely anabolic. As a result, the use of AAS won't lead to muscle growth without also leading to other unintended, undesirable side effects.

According to national surveys, the use of AAS among high school students has been decreasing since about 2001. There are no national studies that measure the extent of AAS use by high school student-athletes, although some states publish statewide prevalence data. Nearly one-third of high-school age steroid users do not participate in organized athletics and are taking AAS primarily to modify their physical appearance. Athletes who use AAS do so for two main reasons: 1) to gain strength and 2) to recover more quickly from injury.

AAS are controlled substances and are illegal to use or possess without a prescription from a physician for a legitimate medical diagnosis. Some AAS are used by veterinarians to treat pigs, horses and cows. In humans, medical uses of AAS include weight gain in wasting diseases such as HIV-infection or muscular dystrophy, absent gonadal function in males, and metastatic breast cancer in women. AAS should not be confused with corticosteroids, which are steroids that doctors prescribe for medical conditions such as asthma and inflammation. AAS are prohibited by all sports governing organizations.

FACTS ABOUT ANABOLIC STEROIDS

- Anabolic steroids are controlled substances and are illegal to possess or sell without a prescription for a legitimate medical condition by the prescribing physician.
- Androstenedione, norandrostenedione and other similar prohormones, at one time available over the counter as dietary supplements, are now defined as controlled anabolic steroids.
- Athletes who have injected anabolic steroids in high school have tested positive in collegiate drug tests – months after they stopped injecting.
- Athletes who have injected anabolic steroids are at greater risk for infections, HIV and hepatitis.

POTENTIAL NEGATIVE SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE USE OF ANABOLIC STEROIDS

- Decreased eventual height if consumed before growth plates have fused in pre-pubertal youngsters
- Secondary sex characteristic changes
- Increased acne
- Growth of body/facial hair in girls
- Loss of hair in boys
- Permanent voice-lowering in girls
- Violent, combative behavior
- Sexual dysfunction and impotence
- Mood swings, loss of sleep, paranoia
- Depression upon stopping use
- Organ damage and death from heavy use

PREVENTING ATHLETES FROM TAKING ANABOLIC STEROIDS

- School personnel, coaches and parents can reduce steroid abuse by speaking out against use.
- Talk with your athletes about frustrations they may have about how they look or how they are performing in their sport. Help them establish healthy expectations of their bodies.
- Talk to athletes about realistic performance standards.
- Focus on proper nutrition and hydration. Work with a registered dietician to develop a plan for appropriate weight gain and/or weight loss.
- Don't trust Internet marketing messages about quick fixes.
- Restrict athletes' access to environments where steroid use might occur and to people who are involved with anabolic steroids.
- Don't subscribe to publications such as muscle magazines that depict unrealistic pictures of men and women.
- Help athletes understand that using anabolic steroids not only is illegal but also is cheating.
- Consider initiating a formal performance-enhancing, drug-education program to educate athletes and deter use.

References:

American Academy of Pediatrics. Policy Statement on Use of Performance-Enhancing Substances. 115; 1103-1106 (2005).

American College of Sports Medicine. ACSM's Position Stand, "The Use of Anabolic-Androgenic Steroids in Sports." 1987. <http://www.acsm-msse.org>.

Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004. 2004 Amendment to Sec. 102 of 21 U.S.C. 802.

Green, Gary, M.D., The Prevalence of Anabolic Steroid Use by Southern California High School Athletes. Final Report Submitted to the LA84 Foundation, November 2007.

Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth. <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org>.

National Federation of State High School Associations. <http://www.nfhs.org>.

Taylor Hooton Foundation, <http://www.taylorhooton.org>.

The National Center for Drug Free Sport, Inc. <http://www.drugfreesport.com>.

U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, Guide to Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods of Doping. 2008, <http://www.usantidoping.org>.

Revised and Approved in April 2009

**National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)
POSITION STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF ENERGY
DRINKS BY YOUNG ATHLETES**

Background: Energy drinks have become increasingly popular among adolescents and young adults in recent years. In 2006, nearly 500 new brands were introduced to the market place, and over 7 million adolescents reported that they had consumed an energy drink. These beverages are particularly popular among young athletes who see the consumption of energy drinks as a quick and easy way to maximize athletic and academic performance.

The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee's position on energy drinks:

The NFHS SMAC strongly recommends that:

- 1) Water and appropriate sports drinks should be used for rehydration as outlined in the NFHS Document **"Position Statement and Recommendations for Hydration to Minimize the Risk for Dehydration and Heat Illness."**
- 2) Energy drinks should not be used for hydration.
- 3) Information about the absence of benefit and the presence of potential risk associated with energy drinks should be widely shared among all individuals who interact with young athletes.
- 4) Energy drinks should not be consumed by athletes who are dehydrated.
- 5) Energy drinks should not be consumed without prior medical approval, by athletes taking over the counter or prescription medications.

WARNING: There is no regulatory control over energy drinks, thus their content and purity cannot be insured. This may lead to adverse side-effects, potentially harmful interactions with prescription medications (particularly stimulant medications used to treat ADHD), or positive drug tests.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an energy drink?

An energy drink is a beverage marketed to both athletes and the general public as a quick and easy means of relieving fatigue and improving performance. In addition to water, nearly all energy drinks contain carbohydrates and caffeine as their main ingredients. The carbohydrates provide nutrient energy while the caffeine acts as a stimulant to the central nervous system.

What are the differences between an energy drink and a sports drink?

Sports drinks are designed to provide re-hydration during or after athletic activity. While contents vary, most sports drinks contain a 6-8% carbohydrate solution and a mixture of electrolytes. The carbohydrate and electrolyte concentrations are formulated to allow maximal absorption of the fluid by the gastrointestinal tract.

Energy drinks contain a higher concentration of carbohydrate (usually 9-10%), and thus a larger number of calories than sports drinks. They also contain high amounts of caffeine and, in some cases, other nutritional supplements.

Energy drinks are not designed to re-hydrate athletes during activity and should not be used in such circumstances.

What ingredients are found in energy drinks?

Carbohydrates- Most energy drinks have from 18g to 25 g of carbohydrate per 8 ounces. The high carbohydrate concentration will impede absorption of fluid in the gastrointestinal tract.

Caffeine- Nearly all energy drinks contain some amount of “natural” or synthetic caffeine. The caffeine concentration may range from the equivalent to an 8 ounce cup of coffee (85mg) to more than twice that amount.

Herbs- Many energy drinks include herbal forms of caffeine such as guarana seeds, kola nuts, and Yerba mate leaves, in addition to synthetic caffeine. The “performance enhancing” effects and health benefits of other herbs like Astragalus, Echinacea, Ginko biloba, ginseng, and countless other herbs have not been well established by scientific studies.

Vitamins- Athletes with even reasonably good diets should be assured that they are not at risk for vitamin deficiency and do not need supplementation. There is no evidence to suggest that vitamin supplementation improves athletic performance. Female athletes may benefit from iron and calcium supplementation, but these are more easily and inexpensively obtained in pill form rather than energy drinks.

Protein and amino acids- Only a small amount of protein is used as fuel for exercise. Carbohydrates are utilized as the primary fuel source. No scientific evidence exists to support claims that amino acids enhance athletic performance. Protein, and the amino acids which compose it, are available less expensively in food.

Other ingredients- With the hundreds of energy drink brands that are available, the potential ingredients which they may contain are virtually unlimited. Possible additions include pyruvate, creatine, carnitine, medium-chain triglycerides, and even oxygen.

What are the possible effects of using energy drinks?

Central nervous system- Caffeine often has the effect of making a person feel “energized.” Studies have shown some performance-enhancing benefits from caffeine at high doses (6mg/kg of body weight). Such high doses of caffeine may produce light headedness, tremor, impaired sleep and difficulty with fine motor control, and may exceed drug testing caffeine thresholds.

Gastrointestinal system- The high concentrations of carbohydrates found in energy drinks may delay gastric emptying, resulting in a feeling of being bloated. Abdominal cramping may also occur. Both carbohydrates and caffeine in the high concentrations found in most energy drinks can cause diarrhea.

Dehydration- Energy drinks should not be used for the purposes of hydration or re-hydration. The high carbohydrate concentration results in slow absorption from the gastrointestinal tract and may cause diarrhea. Caffeine acts as a diuretic and, therefore, results in increased fluid loss.

Positive drug tests- Like all nutritional supplements, there is little or no regulatory oversight of energy drinks. The purity of the products cannot be assured and it is possible that they may contain banned substances.

Approved October 2008

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)
SUPPLEMENTS POSITION STATEMENT

The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) strongly opposes the use of dietary supplements for the purpose of athletic advantage. Research data shows widespread use of dietary supplements by adolescent and high school athletes, despite considerable safety concerns. Dietary supplements are marketed as an easy way to enhance athletic performance, increase energy levels, lose weight, and feel better. It is proven that adolescents are more susceptible to advertising messages and peer pressure, increasing the risk of dietary supplement usage. This can create a culture more concerned about short term performance rather than overall long term health.

The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 removed dietary supplements from pre-market regulation by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Thus, many of the substances that can be obtained from nutrition stores and the internet are not subject to the same strict tests and regulations as “over the counter” and prescription medications. The companies that produce dietary supplements do not need to test their safety or effectiveness before they are available to consumers. In fact, dietary supplements cannot be removed from the marketplace unless they present a significant or unreasonable risk of illness or injury.

MYTHS regarding dietary supplements:

- If a substance is natural, it must be safe and beneficial.
- Athletes that consume a well balanced diet still have nutritional deficiencies.
- Since dietary supplements may be purchased at a store or over the internet, they must be safe and legal.

The NFHS SMAC discourages the use of supplements by athletes due to the lack of published, reproducible scientific research addressing the benefits and documenting long term adverse health effects of the supplements, particularly in the adolescent age group. Dietary supplements should be used only upon the advice of one’s health care provider. School personnel and coaches should never recommend, endorse or encourage the use of any dietary supplement, drug, or medication for performance enhancement.

We recommend that coaches, athletic directors, and school personnel develop strategies that address the growing concerns of using dietary supplements. Such strategies may include conversations with athletes and their parents about the potential dangers of dietary supplement use. Athletes should be encouraged to pursue their goals through hard work and good nutrition, not dietary shortcuts.

Dietary supplements receive no FDA regulation:

- There is no guarantee the true amount or concentration of ingredients is listed on the label.
- There is no guarantee the substance is pure, as studies have found lead and arsenic in supplements.

- There may be other compounds not listed on the label in the dietary supplement which may be illegal or banned substances.
- There is minimal evidence that dietary supplements enhance performance for most high school sports.
- There is even less evidence supporting their use in adolescents.
- School personnel, coaches, and parents should allow for open discussion about supplement use, but strongly encourage optimal nutrition and a well-balanced diet.
- Remind athletes that no supplement is harmless and free from consequences.
- Remind athletes that there is no short cut to improved performance, it takes hard work.
- Because they are not regulated, dietary supplements may contain impurities and illegal substances not listed on the label.
- Adolescents that use dietary supplements are more likely to use steroids, continue usage into adulthood, and to engage in other high risk behaviors like smoking, drinking, and using drugs.

References:

American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). Nutrition and Athletic Performance Position Statement. March 2009.

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McKeag DB, Moeller JL. *ACSM's Primary Care Sports Medicine*. 2nd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2007.

National Federation of State High School Associations. <http://www.nfhs.org>.

The National Center for Drug Free Sport, Inc. <http://www.drugfreesport.com>

United States Anti-Doping Agency. <http://www.usantidoping.org/>

Revised and Approved April 2009

Stafford County Public Schools' Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct

DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

With collaboration from members of the review panel and high school focus groups, the Coordinator of Health, Physical Education, and Driver Education used the following process to create the Athletics and Activities Code of Conduct:

October-November 2014

- Reviewed existing athletic documents and coach's letters in middle and high schools.
- Researched existing documents from other school divisions.
- Create a document framework.

December 2014-February 2015

- Inserted major topics and language into framework.
- Received feedback from Assistant Principals for Athletics and Activities.
- Created a multi-disciplinary review panel.

March-April 2015

- Convened review panel three times.
- Held one-on-one meetings with review panel members.
- Met with focus groups at each high school consisting of students, parents/guardians, coaches, and sponsors to review the document and solicit written comments and recommendations.
- Incorporated revisions into document based on focus group recommendations.

May 2015

- Inserted approved student photographs provided by athletic directors and coaches.
- Finalized draft for superintendent's review.
- Submitted final draft to School Board for review.
- Presented to School Board during public meeting.

June 2015

- Received feedback, language suggestions, and recommendations from School Board members.
- Inserted recommendations from School Board into document.
- Re-submitted final revisions to School Board for approval.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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