

High School Eligibility and Code of Conduct

Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

Participation in athletics and other extracurricular activities is regarded as an important privilege for students at FCHS and FMS. Participation in such activities supports each student's personal growth and achievement and also gives students the opportunity to be representatives of and ambassadors for their school. Fluvanna County Public Schools is committed to developing and maintaining a high level of confidence in the student body and the school community. Therefore, students who desire to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities are expected to meet standards in three major areas: academics, attendance, and conduct. Failure to meet appropriate standards in any one of these areas will result in a student losing the privilege of participating in athletics and extracurricular activities.

I. Policies related to this regulation

- Student Conduct
- Discipline
- Substance Abuse
- Possession and/or use of Tobacco on School Premises

II. Definition of Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to: participating in athletics and other competitive activities; event or activity practices; and other student activities performing in public beyond the class culminating performances. Activities that are a part of a credit bearing class do not constitute extracurricular activities.

III. Introduction

- A. This regulation is in effect from the first day a student begins participation in a high school or middle school sport or other extracurricular activity and continues throughout the remainder of the season or the extracurricular activity period.
- B. This regulation establishes a minimum code of conduct for student-athletes and other students who desire to participate in extracurricular activities offered by Fluvanna County Public Schools. This regulation shall be administered by the high/middle school through its principal/designee in conjunction with the athletic director, coach(es) or other sponsors. This regulation does not supersede the School Board's discipline policies.
- C. Prior to participating in a school sport or other extracurricular activity, the student and his/her parents or guardian will be required to sign a statement acknowledging that the student shall comply with and abide by the terms and conditions of this regulation.
- D. This regulation applies to all high school students in grades 9-12 as well as any 6th, 7th or 8th grade students who are permitted to participate in high/middle school sports or other extracurricular programs.

IV. Academic and Behavioral Expectations

A. General Standards, Guidelines and Information

- A student shall be enrolled as a full-time student in good standing under School Division policy and Virginia High School League rules and regulations in order to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Students who fail to meet appropriate academic, attendance or behavioral standards may be withheld or dismissed from participation in athletics or other extracurricular activities.
- Any student who is ineligible but participates in a contest/activity while ineligible may cause the team/group to forfeit that contest/performance in accordance with this regulation.
- A specific team membership, athletic position, performance role, leadership position, etc. may or may not be available for the student to resume upon regaining eligibility.
- Each elementary and middle school may have specific guidelines and requirements for one or more of the extracurricular activities offered at that school.

B. Students participating in athletics and other extracurricular activities are expected to pass and successfully meet the academic and attendance goals and objectives established by the School Division in order to be eligible. Students are also expected to meet the behavioral standards of their school and School Division. This requirement is in addition to the Virginia High School League rules and regulations.

C. Students are ineligible to participate in practice or in a contest, competition or other activity if they have been placed on suspension from school. Students must be in school all day in order to participate. Exceptions are prearranged absences, doctor appointments, school-related absences or other cases as authorized by school administration.

D. If a student tries out for a sport or other activity and quits or is dismissed because of disciplinary reasons, he/she is ineligible to try out for another sport or activity without the approval of the athletic director and/or principal/designee.

V. Misbehavior

A. The admission of facts involving student misconduct, whether on campus or off campus, which constitutes a criminal offense or conviction of a criminal offense, either felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations) may result in suspension from athletic or other extracurricular activities for a period of time to be determined by the principal/designee after investigation and consultation with the Division Superintendent/designee.

B. Disciplinary action may result in denial of participation in athletic competition or other extracurricular events.

C. Students who have received out-of-school suspension shall be prohibited from participation in all athletics or other extracurricular or interscholastic practices, events, activities or competitions for the duration of such out-of-school suspension.

VI. Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco

- A. No student involved in a sport or other extracurricular program shall knowingly possess, distribute, transmit or be under the influence of alcohol, performance enhancing drugs, inhalants, tobacco products, devices or controlled substances of any kind (except as prescribed by a medical professional or as otherwise authorized by this regulation) during the athletic season or other extracurricular program.
- B. The unauthorized possession distribution, transmittal or being under the influence of alcohol, performance enhancing drugs, inhalants, tobacco products, devices or controlled substances of any kind (except as prescribed by a medical professional) by a student during the athletic season or other extracurricular program will subject the student to the following consequences (in addition to any school disciplinary and/or other applicable sanctions).
- C. First offense in student's high school level participation:
 - 1. A minimum of two weeks suspension from participation in the athletic or other extracurricular program, including practice and competition, from the date that the possession, use, transmittal, distribution or being under the influence became known to the school official.
 - 2. A student who agrees (with parental consent) to participate in a drug/alcohol counseling and/or assessment program offered at school or at a school-approved community agency may be reinstated to the athletic team or other extracurricular program at the end of the two week period. Any student who does not agree to participate in such counseling and/or assessment program shall be suspended from all athletic teams or other extracurricular programs for thirty (30) days of participation or for the remainder of the season or program, whichever is longer.
 - 3. Reinstatement of the student to the athletic or other extracurricular program is contingent upon the student complying in all material respects with the recommendations made by an alcohol or other substance abuse counselor or other appropriate person, as well as approval of the principal/designee for reinstatement to the team or program.
 - 4. Successful completion of any recommendations by the alcohol or other substance abuse counselor or other appropriate person will be evaluated by the principal/designee.
- D. Second offense in student's high school level participation:
 - 1. A minimum of four (4) weeks of suspension from participation in the athletic or other extracurricular program, including practice and competition, from the date that the possession, use, transmittal, distribution or being under the influence became known to a school official.
 - 2. A student who agrees (with parental consent) to participate in a drug/alcohol counseling and/or assessment program offered at school or at a school approved community agency may be reinstated to the athletic team or other extracurricular program at the end of the (4) week period. Any student who does not agree to participate in such counseling and/or assessment program shall be suspended from all athletic teams or other extracurricular programs for sixty (60) days of participation or for the remainder of the season or program, whichever is longer.

3. Reinstatement of the student to the athletic or other extracurricular program is contingent upon the student complying in all material respects with the recommendation made by an alcohol or other substance abuse counselor or other appropriate person as well as the approval of the principal/designee for reinstatement to the team or program.
 4. Successful completion of any recommendation by an alcohol or other substance abuse counselor or other appropriate person will be evaluated by the principal/designee.
- E. Third or subsequent offense in student's high school level participation:
1. Full suspension from all athletic activities and competition and other extracurricular programs for a 365 day period.
 2. The student may be required to undergo a current drug/alcohol assessment at school or at a community agency offering such assessments. Prior to reinstatement at a future date, the student will follow and comply with all recommendations from the assessment report, including participation in an approved school based or community alcohol or other drug education program.
 3. The student may petition for reinstatement after the end of the 365 days period. The decision whether to reinstate the student shall be at the sole discretion of the principal/designee after consultation with the Division Superintendent/designee.
- F. In cases involving a first or second offense only, students who voluntarily request assistance from school officials in connection with an alcohol, drug or tobacco incident may receive disciplinary consequences under this regulation at the discretion of the principal, provided that the request comes from the student or his/her parents/guardians no later than the first day after the incident involving the unauthorized use of alcohol, performance enhancing drugs, inhalants or controlled substances of any kind, or tobacco.

VII. ADDITIONALLY:

- This regulation shall not be construed to prohibit students from participating in a bona fide religious ritual, ceremony or other religious activity in which alcohol is served under the supervision of their parents or guardians. In such cases, the use or consumption of small amounts of alcohol as part of a bona fide religious ritual, ceremony or activity, such as Passover Seder, Communion or other religious services or observance, shall not constitute a violation of this regulation.
- In accordance with VA.Code 22.1-276.3, as amended, or other applicable law and Virginia High School League rules and regulations, any student who is a member of a school athletic team shall be deemed ineligible for two school years to compete in interscholastic athletic competition if it has been determined by the Division Superintendent and principal that the student used anabolic steroids during the training period immediately preceding or during the sport season of the athletic team, unless such steroid was prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition.