

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES &amp; ATHLETIC/VHSL PARTICIPATION

**Introduction**

Extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletic programs are part of the total school program which provide opportunities for students to supplement their classroom experiences. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. School administrators may suspend student participation in extracurricular activities and athletic programs for inappropriate conduct regardless of whether that conduct occurs during the school day, evenings, weekends or holidays.

All participants in Virginia High School League (VHSL) activities will abide by the rules and regulations established by the Mathews County School Board, Mathews High School, the VHSL, and any team rules established by the coach or activity sponsor. Coaches and activity sponsors will distribute activity rules and regulations at the beginning of each season to student participants and parents, as well as, discuss and clarify their expectations in regard to school-wide participation rules and regulations.

**Athletic Participation Regulations**

*(Participation in non-VHSL extracurricular activities are exempt from the VHSL Section 28A-7-1 Transfer Rule.)*

In addition to the rules and regulations outlined in the VHSL Handbook and the Mathews High School Student Handbook, all participants in athletic/VHSL activities shall abide by the following:

- 1. Conduct of Participants.** Mathews High School expects all students to conduct themselves properly and to be aware that they are representing Mathews High School when participating in athletic/VHSL activities. Participants shall practice good citizenship and respect the property rights of others. Any participant, who exhibits unsportsmanlike conduct or any form of inappropriate conduct before, during, or after an event, is subject to suspension for a minimum of one contest.
- 2. Academic Eligibility.** Students must abide by VHSL participation guidelines in order to maintain academic eligibility and must pass five classes in the semester preceding the activity to be eligible. Students failing two or more classes during the posting of grades during the 4th and 9th week of a grading period in which the activity occurs, will be immediately suspended from participation in that athletic/VHSL activity (participation in contests) until a passing grade is obtained.
- 3. Attendance.** In order to participate in any extracurricular activity that takes place after school hours, the student must be present the entire school day unless otherwise authorized.
- 4. Sports Seasons.** A transfer from one activity to another activity during the same season is subject to administrative review. Students who try-out for one activity and quit after participating for two weeks or more, will not be allowed to be involved in any subsequent activities until the original activity of involvement has ended for the season.
- 5. Other Rules and Procedures.** All students participating in an athletic/VHSL sport or activity will be required to follow any additional rules established by the Head Coach or Sponsor of the sport or activity.
- 6. Athletic Participation Fee.** All students who participate in an athletic/VHSL sport will be required to pay an Athletic Fee of \$40, not to exceed the amount of \$100 for multiple participation in VHSL sports.

**Use of Tobacco**

Any student found to be using tobacco of any type during the sports or activity season, will be suspended from that sport or activity for the remainder of the season.

**Use of Alcohol and Drugs**

Any student found to be using or in possession of alcohol or drugs on school grounds or at any school event, will be suspended from all VHSL activities for the remainder of the school year. Coaches who are made aware of and confirm the use or possession of drugs or alcohol by a student off-campus, will dismiss the student from that sport or activity for the remainder of the season.

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Adopted: July 15, 2008

Amended: July 20, 2010

Amended: August 16, 2011

Amended: July 16, 2013, July 15, 2014 & Aug. 16, 2016

Amended: July 18, 2017