

**HAYFIELD SECONDARY
SCHOOL ATHLETIC
PARTICIPATION POLICY**

HAZING POLICY

PLEASE RETURN THE LAST THREE PAGES

WITH SIGNATURES

DUE DATE AUGUST 10, 2005

*****A/B, AND HAZING FORMS MUST
BE RETURNED*****

**HAYFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL
ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION POLICY**

INTRODUCTION

Participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is considered an important part of the overall program at Hayfield Secondary School. Students participating in these activities, who represent not only themselves, but also Hayfield Secondary School, are required to abide by all school, team, and activity rules, and regulations and to comply with all county and state laws.

BACKGROUND

Hayfield Secondary School's Extracurricular/Co-curricular Participation Policy, governing the conduct of students involved in these activities, was established during the 1993-94 school year. The policy is a combined effort of teachers, coaches, sponsors, students, parents, and administrators.

DEFINITIONS

Extracurricular refers to those events/activities/athletics that do not fall within the scope of the regular curriculum. They are officially recognized and sanctioned by the School Board, but are not part of the student's grades.

Co-curricular refers to those events/activities that are outside of, but complement, the regular curriculum, including band, chorus, drama, and orchestra. Students are graded on their participation in these events/activities.

Event/Activity/Athletics refers to all those listed above, whether it be sports, clubs, musical groups, etc.

ATHLETIC CODES OF CONDUCT

On School Grounds or as Part of a School Activity

Any athlete who violates the Fairfax County Public Schools policy (Regulation 2150) pertaining to use of alcohol or other illegal drugs will incur a five-day out-of-school suspension and a thirty-day suspension from all school activities.

Violation of the Fairfax County Public Schools policy (Regulation 2601) pertaining to the use and/or possession of tobacco will incur the following:

For a **first offense** related to tobacco products, a student shall participate in an alternative education program (tobacco intervention seminar) in lieu of suspension. A student who violates the regulation may be referred to the police for a civil offense charge.

For a **second offense** a student shall receive two days out of school suspension or eight (8) hours school service.

For a **third offense** a student will receive a three (3) day out-of-school suspension.

Should changes in penalties occur per FCPS regulations, the change(s) will supersede the above penalties.

The student may incur additional penalties for violation of individual team rules and policies as set forth by the coach of each sport. (See Attachment A)

Hazing

Students may not engage in hazing or other mistreatment, which results in injury to another student. Where such results in bodily injury to a student, the offending student or students are subject to criminal prosecution in the courts and to expulsion by the School Board, as mandated by Virginia law. Of course, school officials may recommend suspension and expulsion in any case, and students will lose extra-curricular privileges whenever they violate this rule.

Out-of-School (while not involved in a school function/activity)

Drug and Alcohol use by students in extracurricular activities:

If the school administration determines that a student who is participating in, or wishes to participate in, extracurricular activities is engaged in alcohol or other drug use, the student may be subject to consequences in accordance with the extracurricular policy. **Prior to making this determination and imposing any exclusionary**

consequence, the coach or school authorities shall give the student the right to explain his or her conduct. The student, with his or her parents' permission, may voluntarily submit to an appropriate drug test (if applicable) to attempt to establish that he or she has not violated the policy. The school administration shall record in writing the factors which led to the school's conclusion, shall stipulate the consequences to be administered, and shall attempt to inform the students' parents or guardian of the option of submitting to a drug test. The results of any such testing shall be kept confidential but shall be communicated to the student and his or her parent or guardian and appropriate school authorities.

Prior to the season, coaches of each sport will establish penalties for the violation of alcohol, other illegal drugs, and tobacco. The penalties may range from no less than the minimum nor exceed the maximum penalty listed below. (See Attachment A)

Minimum Penalty: Loss of participation for the next two games/events (i.e. a twelve game schedule would mean suspension of two games and half of a third) or twenty percent of all scheduled games/events whichever is less.

Maximum Penalty: Loss of participation for the remainder of the sports season and forfeiture of all awards and recognition.

Court Disciplinary Action

Any student-athlete charged with a misdemeanor or felony involving violence, weapons, alcohol, and/or substance abuse, will receive an indefinite suspension from the team. The suspension may last until the disposition of the case by the courts. The coach and Director of Student Activities will meet within 72 hours to decide on an appropriate course of action, depending on the severity of the infraction.

The building Principal may deny participation in all extracurricular activities to any student convicted or found "not innocent" of a misdemeanor involving violence, weapons, alcohol, and/or substance abuse or any felony charge. The student may appeal to the Principal for reinstatement the following semester.

School Attendance

In order for a student-athlete to participate in an athletic contest, including practice, he/she must either:

- Be in attendance for all class periods of the school day. Only doctors visits accompanied by a doctor's notes, and family emergencies. Approval of unusual circumstances must go through student activities in order to participate in practice and or games on the day in question..
- Be serving an Alternate Instructional Arrangement (AIA).

A student may **NOT** participate in an athletic contest, including practice if:

- The absence is unexcused
- The student is serving an out-of-school suspension
- The student has not been in attendance at least two (2) class periods (two blocks or one block and one imbedded) of the school day
- The coach, prior to the season, establishes an unexcused class period absence rule

A coach may choose to have individual rules stronger than the above. If the coach chooses to do so, the rules must be in writing, explained to the student prior to the season and signed by BOTH the student and parent(s). A copy of the signed rules must be kept on file by the coach for the remainder of the school year.

Appeal Procedure

The student-athlete may appeal any decision of the Athletic Department (Coach and/or Director of Student Activities) to the Principal. The appeal will require the following:

- The written appeal must be presented to the Director of Student Activities within 24 hours of the initial ruling.
- The Principal shall render a decision within 24 hours of the appeal conference, in writing, to the student-athlete and his/her parents or guardians.
- Decisions under this policy may not be appealed beyond the Principal. The Principal's decision will be final.

STUDENT/PARENT PLEDGE

A student-athlete **must** sign the "Student/Parent Pledge" (Attachment B) as a precondition of his/her participation.

The student-athlete's signature on the pledge signifies the commitment to abide by the conditions of the Hayfield Secondary School Athletic Participation Policy and to remain free of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs at all times.

The parent/guardian's signature on the pledge signifies that the parent/guardian has read and understands the pledge.

H A Z I N G

Paul Jansen, Coordinator, Student Activities and Athletic Programs
Fairfax County Public Schools

In Athletics, hazing in any form is not acceptable. Hazing is also against the law.

"Hazing is any intentional action taken, situation created, or any conduct or method of initiation into any school organization, club, or team which denies a person his or her individual rights or results in mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, or endangerment whether occurring on public or private property."

The following are examples of conduct that constitutes hazing. This list is not meant to be exhaustive or to limit the school's ability to discipline any conduct that it determines to be inappropriate.

Subtle hazing includes initiations and the like which manipulate, coerce, or in other respects seek to deny the rights of the individuals. Typically this involves psychological pressures on an individual to agree to certain action in order to be more fully accepted, whether or not performance of this action has any bearing on actual membership status. Harassment hazing involves actions that cause mental anguish or physical discomfort. Typically, this involves persistent physical or verbal actions that threaten, irritate, demean, or inflict pain. Hazardous hazing includes action that endangers life or mental health, which have the potential of causing bodily injury or which subject a person to severe mental stress.

The following list is provided for the purposes of clarifying what actions constitute an act of hazing. This is intentionally not broken down in to the three categories of hazing since any or all may be done in varying degrees of severity. Hazing includes but is not limited to the following:

- x Assigning pranks such as stealing, painting objects, harassing another group or club
- x Modifying one's appearance such as partial or total haircuts, shaving of eyebrows
- x Tattoos, and drawing on skin with magic markers
- x Engaging in public stunts and buffoonery
- x Consumption of undesired foods or liquids
- x Apparel which embarrasses or which is lewd
- x Playing game where the loser must perform some humiliating action
- x Agreeing to be demeaning tasks for others (servitude)
- x Scavenger hunts, quests, treasure hunts carried on outside the confines of a house or meeting room
- x Taping, spanking or swatting
- x Yelling at the students
- x Throwing in shower, dousing, powdering. Etc.
- x Requiring that they accept verbal abuse, name-calling
- x Road trips and kidnapping
- x Interfering with study time
- x Misleading students about a falsehood which would cause mental anguish if it were true
- x Sitting or standing in uncomfortable or embarrassing positions especially for any length of time
- x Spreading rumors about individuals
- x Pushing, shoving or tackling associates
- x Testing emotional stability
- x Calisthenics which are more than simple warm up exercises
- x Simulation of death or burials
- x Use of any weapon or object which could be used as a weapon to threaten or inflict harm

Some of the more recent, local hazing "headlines" include

In Ohio, "Powder Puff Gone Wrong"

In Maryland, "Reservoir Issues Hazing Suspensions"

In Pennsylvania "DA Says School District Is Stonewalling Hazing Investigation"

Every school should have an ongoing program to help educate coaches, athletes and parents about what constitutes hazing, the dangers of hazing and how to report incidents of hazing. Schools should also be prepared to directly address reported incidents of hazing, no matter how trivial it may appear. What was acceptable once as "good natured teasing" or "a rite of passage" is in reality against the law.

Let's all do our part to keep children safe

STUDENT/PARENT PLEDGE

As a participant in the athletic program at Hayfield Secondary School, I pledge to remain free of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs and to exhibit good citizenship at all times. I understand that violation of the Hayfield Secondary School Athletic Participation Policy and/or Fairfax County Public Schools "Prevention of Substance Abuse by Students" document, Regulation 2150 and Student Responsibilities and Rights (Regulations 2601 and 2610), might result in my exclusion from athletic activities by decision of the coach/Director of Student Activities (with the right of appeal to the Principal).

Section A: To be completed by Student

ALL LEVELS OF HAYFIELD FOOTBALL

(Sport)

(Student's Signature)

(Date)

Student's Name - Please **PRINT**

Section B: To be completed by Parent/Guardian

My signature below signifies that I have read and understand the Hayfield Secondary School Athletic Participant's Pledge.

(Parent's/Guardian's Signature)

(Date)