

**MATHEWS HIGH SCHOOL
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES POLICY**

Introduction

Extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletic programs are part of the total school program and 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 established in the Extracurricular Activities Policy, 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 policies at the beginning of each season to student participants and parents and will discuss and clarify their expectations regarding school-wide participation policies.

Athletic Participation Regulations

In addition to the rules and regulations outlined in the VHSL Handbook and the Mathews High School Student Handbook, all participants in extracurricular 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 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 activity (practice and play) until a passing grade is obtained.
3. ***Attendance.*** Students must be in attendance the entire school day in order to practice or participate in an event. Students arriving to school after 8:30 a.m. or leaving before 2:50 p.m. must have an excused absence per School Board Policy in order to participate in practice or a scheduled interscholastic activity.
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. ***Awards Program.*** All Mathews High school students who participate in VHSL activities must attend the awards program for their sport or activity in order to maintain eligibility for any awards or letters unless excused by the coach.
6. ***Out-of-season Conditioning.*** Mathews High School and Thomas Hunter Middle School students who will be involved in a VHSL activity may participate in off-season conditioning programs if a current physical is on file. Students already involved in an existing activity are excluded from pre-season conditioning programs.
7. ***Criminal Charges.*** Any student charged with a criminal offense will be suspended from all extracurricular activities until adjudication of charges. Conviction of a criminal offense will result in suspension from the activity for the remainder of the school year.
8. ***Other Rules and Procedures.*** All students participating in VHSL sports or activities are required to follow any additional rules established by the Head Coach or Sponsor of the activity.
9. ***Activity Participation Fee.*** All students who participate in a VHSL activity will be required to pay a fee of \$45, not to exceed the amount of \$100 for multiple participation. Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will be required to pay a fee of \$15.

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.