

Staunton High School Activities Handbook

Staunton High School Administration

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STAUNTON
HIGH SCHOOL

2020- 21 School Year

Staunton High School
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Patron Code of Conduct

Staunton City Schools Staunton, Virginia

Parents, Citizens of Staunton, Visitors, and Other Patrons of the School Division:

Adults are considered essential to the academic success of the students who attend school in the Staunton City Schools. Because of their unique role in the lives of young people, all adults must conduct themselves at all times as an appropriate role model.

As Patrons of the School Division, it is expected that all persons will:

- Conduct themselves with appropriate language, self-control, and proper demeanor at all times, including athletic contests, performances, or any school program;
- Ensure that all oral and written communication on the part of all adults, both patrons and school personnel, is respectful and appropriate;
- Be respectful of others and their opinions;
- Acknowledge that school transportation is a privilege and as such, each adult is to assist the schools by supporting safety at bus stops and on buses;
- Show an appreciation and understanding for the smooth and effective operation of the school, and do nothing that would impact negatively on that operation;
- Be responsive to school personnel in regard to conduct, as discretion of appropriate patron behavior will be vested in them; and
- Instill in your child the importance of appropriate conduct and an appreciation for the value of learning.

Following these expectations will ensure a pleasant school experience for all students and patrons. It is hoped you will be a frequent patron at Staunton City School events.

**Approved by Staunton City School Board
June 2011**

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Overview

The extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and organizations) of Staunton High School provide opportunities for the student body and community to develop positive, responsible, and personal enrichment from the respective programs provided. The activities of our school should be a positive force in preparing our youth for an educational and vital role in life. *Participation is a PRIVILEGE not an inherent right; therefore eligibility for involvement is determined by the Staunton City School District in conjunction with the Virginia High School League.* Integrity, commitment, and leadership are the cornerstones upon which success is built. Students are successful because they are able to learn from failure and then reach beyond their past limitations. Each individual must support and motivate their peers and inspire excellence in others. All of the following guidelines are revised becoming effective for the 2019-20 academic school year.

The overall objective of extra-curricular activities within the Staunton City School Division is to provide an opportunity for student participation in properly supervised and controlled activities under guidelines established by the Virginia High School League and the Staunton City School Board. The school division's programs encourage and support broad participation for as many boys and girls as possible without sacrificing sportsmanship, scholarship, and general welfare of the school and student.

Our Beliefs

Staunton High School believes that:

- Involvement in extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and organizations) is a partnership among students, parents, and school personnel;
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities helps foster success in an honest and sportsmanlike manner;
- Extra-Curricular activities mirror events students will face in the real world, and help students prepare for adulthood;
- Students involved in extra-curricular activities should represent the highest ideals of any school;
- Students should balance participation and academic responsibility.

Requirements and Responsibilities

High School Academic Requirements

For all VHSL sponsored activities a student shall for the first and second semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than three courses, or equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation and have passed three courses, 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 For all other activities a student needs to be enrolled at Staunton High School

For VHSL sponsored activities a student has four years of eligibility. All students entering the ninth grade are automatically eligible for their fall semester. A student-athlete's eligibility begins upon entry into the ninth grade and continues for four consecutive years.

Athletic academic eligibility/ineligibility is determined on the date each semester ends in accordance with the School Board's annual academic calendar.

Each coach/sponsor has the right to set higher academic standards throughout the school year. A participant must attend school for at least a half of the school day to be eligible to practice or participate in any extra-curricular event. Extenuating circumstances may be presented to the Activities Director or Principal.

For VHSL activities a student must not have reached his or her 19th birthday on or before the first day of August of the current school year to remain eligible.

Behavior Requirements

Students involved in extra-curricular activities are required to follow behavior requirements established for all students in Staunton City Schools in accordance with School Board Policy. Because of the leadership status afforded these students by their peers, coaches/sponsors require higher behavior standards. Participation in practices, games, and other events and continued membership depends largely on the athlete's behavior. Administrators, coaches, and sponsors have authority to decide appropriate disciplinary actions for their athletes. Any student serving in-school (Full Day) or out of school suspension for violation of school rules will be ineligible to participate in their activity each day while he/she is serving the punishment, including Saturdays.

From the time a student becomes involved in extra-curricular activities he/she is a member 24/7 during the duration of the activity. Students have the responsibility to self-report to the school Activities Director any inappropriate behavior, including any legal charge or complaint, conviction, or deferred disposition or any other student handbook violation.

If a student involved in extra-curricular activities is found to possess, use or distribute any of the restricted substances listed, or referred to, in consequence 34 (page29) of the SCS Code of Conduct he or she will be removed from that activity for the remainder of the season or year (depending on the activity) and will be placed in Poor School Standing for not less than 30 days and not more than 45 days. See corrective actions on page 22 of the SCS Code of Conduct.

Event and Practice Attendance

Students are expected to be present for all games, events, practices and competitions. Exceptions are not made for vacations, Saturdays, work schedules or other non-school related activities.

There are no consequences for students who miss a practice or event for absences due to religious reasons, school-sponsored trips or other academic activities **required** by the school.

For all other missed games, events, practices and competitions, the consequence is at the discretion of the coach or sponsor; in such cases, consequences may include dismissal from the team or activity.

Sportsmanship

SCS students are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship during practices, games, events and competitions. Sportsmanship refers to the ethical framework and standards of conduct that define the honorable pursuit of victory in competitive activities. Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship are the six core principles embodied in the concept of sportsmanship. (Arizona Sports Summit Accord)

Consequences for poor sportsmanship:

- a. Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in suspension from the team.
- b. Observed offenses may result in suspension of future competitive events.
- c. Ejections/Removals from game.
- d. **Technical ejection** – addressed by VHSL regulations.
- e. **Referee ejection/coach removal** – the student-athlete may be suspended from future competitive events.
- f. Gross unsportsmanlike conduct, such as fighting:
 - i. **First Offense** – If the athlete is ejected for fighting, the athlete will be removed from good standing for up to 30 days.
 - ii. **Second Offense** – the student-athlete will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the sports season.

Profanity and other forms of inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated. Students who exhibit this type of behavior will be disciplined by their coach, sponsor and/or the Principal or designee.

Transfer Eligibility for VHSL Sponsored Activities

Any student-athlete who moves into the SCS boundaries or to another school division may not be immediately eligible for participation at the new school. For more information, please see the school's Activities Director or <http://vhsl.org>.

Transportation

All students must ride in school division vehicles to and from athletic events that are held off school grounds when transportation is provided by the school division. Failure to comply with this policy will result in immediate suspension of the student from the activity pending a meeting with the Activities Director.

In an emergency, which includes injury, illness, family problems, and/or an unusual academic situation, only a parent/guardian may secure permission from the coach/sponsor to transport his/her student. Identification will be required by the coach/sponsor. A parent/guardian must sign students out with the coach or sponsor to leave events if the student is not riding on the activities bus. Students will not be allowed to leave with another student.

Athletic Uniforms/Equipment

Sports uniforms are selected by the Activities Director and Coach with the approval of the Principal. Any change of style must be approved by the Activities Director. Any uniforms, warm-ups, or spirit wear must be approved by the Activities Director before purchase.

All uniforms and equipment issued to student-athletes must be returned within a week after the conclusion of the season. Student-athletes and their families assume financial responsibility for missing, lost, or damaged equipment or uniforms, and students may not participate in other sports and activities until equipment obligations are met. Students will not be permitted to participate in any other sport until all fees are paid.

Energy Drinks

Student-athletes may not consume energy drinks during participation in VHSL practice and competition. Rationale: Potential serious safety and health issues.

Concussions

The Staunton City School Division recognizes that concussions and head injuries are a commonly reported injury in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activity. Further, the Staunton City School Division supports the need to ensure that its staff, its students and the community are aware of the seriousness of brain injuries and concussions and how they can affect a student's abilities in the educational setting, in accordance with Section 22.1-271.5 of the Code of Virginia.

Concussion Training and Literature will be provided for students and parents prior the beginning of each sports season.

Other Rules and Regulations

For activities making roster cuts, students are required to attend tryouts. Exceptions to this rule may include new students who were not enrolled during try-outs, students with specific medical conditions, and student-athletes who have not completed the school sports season that precedes the try-out period (medical documentation may be required by the Activities Director).

Student-athletes must pass a physical examination and submit a completed VHSL physician's certificate and parental consent form as required by the Virginia High School League before trying out for an athletic team. Providing or offering false information regarding a student-athlete's physical condition shall result in suspension from VHSL activities for that school year. Physicals must be dated on or after May 1, 2019.

Student-athletes may not participate in more than one sport during a sports season unless the athlete has the approval of the two coaches, and the two coaches have met with and received approval from the Activities Director. Student-athletes who are given permission will be monitored academically on a more frequent basis to assess their success maintaining dual participation status.

Any student-athlete who quits or is dismissed from a team after tryouts may not play or practice out of season for another team during the same season.

Athletic Participation Fees and Collection Schedule

The Staunton City School Division's approved operating budget for the 2018-2019 school year includes an athletic participation fee of \$25 per student, per season. Fees collected by the division will be used to defray the cost of equipment, supplies, officials and transportation costs.

Student-athletes who try out and become an official team member will be required to pay the participation fee prior to the first official contest scrimmage in order to be eligible to compete. **(If your sport doesn't have try outs cuts you must pay prior to first practice.)** There is no relationship between athletic fees and a guarantee of student playing time. Playing time for student-athletes is at the sole discretion of the head coach and his/her staff. The athletic participation fee is non-refundable.

- a. There will be no waiver of the athletic participation fee for any student-athlete.
- b. Student-athletes must pay the fee prior to playing in the first game, the student may still continue to practice. The student may make several partial payments if needed.

- c. Student-athletes will pay the fee to the Lee High School Bookkeeper during school hours.
- d. Paying the fee does not guarantee any playing time for the student.
- e. The bookkeeper will notify the coach or Activities Director of the fee payments.
- f. The only refund allowed will be for students who transfer out of the school system.
- g. The student-athletes at Shelburne will need to pay the fee to the bookkeeper at Shelburne. Shelburne will then send that money to the Lee High School Bookkeeper.

Coaches are aware of the rule and WILL NOT allow a student to play a game prior to paying the fee in fairness to all students who have paid.

For other athletic fees for shirts, socks, or other uniform items, the coach must work with the Activities Director to notify him of the needs. The Activities Director will notify the bookkeeper, and all fees will be paid to the bookkeeper during school hours. Coaches will not handle any money for athletic fees or uniform items.

Activities Pledge

By signing the Signature Page, the student and parent/guardian affirm that they have read and understand all the rules, regulations, and expectations listed in the SCS Activities Handbook. Further, it is agreed that all students and parents/guardians must abide by the rules.

The student and parent/guardian are advised that participation in interscholastic practice and competition can be dangerous. Furthermore, it is understood that no amount of protective equipment will eliminate the potential for injury. Even under the safest and most secure conditions, some athletic activity may result in serious, and possibly fatal, injuries. If a student-athlete exhibits unusual symptoms, he or she should immediately stop playing and report the conditions to the coach, Athletic Trainer, and his/her parent/guardian. The student-athlete will not return to a game or practice until all symptoms are eliminated, the student-athlete has received medical clearance and has met VHSL guidelines. Ignoring this warning may lead to more serious or fatal injury. Remember, anyone deciding to compete in an athletic program does so with a clear understanding of this risk of injury. Additional questions about such risks should be directed to the coach or Activities Director prior to participation in practice or competition.

Parents and supporters of activities interfering with an event or participants of the event (student, coaches, sponsors and officials) may be subject to disciplinary action taken by the school division, the Shenandoah District, and/or the VHSL. Such actions may be taken against our students, our teams, clubs, organizations and our parent-spectators. Acceptable and appropriate sportsmanship is a fundamental component of our activities program. Parents are advised to direct questions and concerns about their student to the following individuals: (1) team coach/sponsor; (2) Activities Director (AD); (3) Principal. Please start with the Coach/Sponsor before speaking with the Activities Director or Principal.

Parents are not to approach coaches or sponsors during or after any activities. If there is a concern to discuss with the coach/sponsor:

- a. The student should talk to the coach or sponsor.
- b. The parent should set up a meeting with the coach/sponsor.
- c. A telephone call should be made to set up an appointment with the Activities Director to discuss your concerns.

Parent and Coach/Sponsor Relationship

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

Communications you Should Expect from your Child's Coach/Sponsor

1. Philosophy of the coach/sponsor
2. Expectations and goals the coach/sponsor has for your child as well as for the activity for the season or year
3. Locations and times of all practices and events
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning program
5. Procedure if your child is injured during participation
6. Rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions
7. Lettering criteria (VHSL activities only)
8. Team or activity selection process

Communications Coaches/Sponsors Expect from Students and Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach/sponsor
2. Notification of any schedule conflict in advance
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible

As your child becomes involved in the program at Staunton High School, he or she 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 and your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach/sponsor is encouraged. It is the first and most integral step to understanding resolution.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches/Sponsors

1. The treatment of your child
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

For athletic teams it can be difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved. As you can see, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. **Other things, such as those listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach and not topics for discussion with a coach.**

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the player, or coach/sponsor and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all the parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedures should be used to help resolve any concerns

If you have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach/Sponsor.....

Please Follow this Procedure:

1. Contact the coach/sponsor to set up an appointment. The Staunton High School telephone number is 540-332-3926.
2. If the coach/sponsor can't be reached, contact the school's Activities Director, David Tibbs. He will set up the meeting for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach/sponsor before or after an activity. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach/sponsor. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

The Next Step

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach/sponsor did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Activities Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- a. Make sure your child understands that win or lose, you support him/her.
- b. Be realistic about your child's physical ability.
- c. Help your child set realistic goals.
- d. Emphasize "improved" performance, not winning.
- e. Provide a safe environment for training and competition.
- f. Don't relive your own athletic past through your child.
- g. Control your emotions at games and events.
- h. Be a "cheerleader" for your child and other players on the team.
- i. Respect your child's coaches. Communicate with them in a positive way. Encourage others to do the same.

- j. Be a positive role model.

For all activities at Staunton High School if you have to be asked to leave an event you will lose your privilege to attend Staunton activities home or away in the future. So please be sensible, reasonable and keep your priorities in order. There is a lot more at stake than a win or loss record.

Your signatures on the signature page indicate that you have read and agree to comply with the contents of conduct, philosophy, and eligibility expectations herein, and that you agree that the student will attend all practices and events in which his or her high school activity participates. This implies that the high school activities take precedent over any non-school club or recreational activity

Virginia High School League Regulations
VHSL regulations state the following: "Final authority and the ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to interscholastic activities of each school, both athletic and non-athletic, shall be vested in the principal who acts under the authority granted by the division superintendent of schools."