

ATHLETIC RULES

PHILOSOPHY

The Board has established a program of interscholastic athletics in cooperation with the West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission. Each student athlete represents his/her school and community. He/she sets the example and is looked to as a role model. The objectives of Athletics for Hardy County Schools shall include:

- Provide opportunities to develop skill and to experience the satisfaction of performing effectively in varied situation.
- Contribute to the development of a health and fitness attitude that will provide a carryover interest that will function during leisure time.
- Satisfy the physiological needs of the growing athlete.
- Contribute to the development of desirable social and citizenship qualities such as responsibility, harmonious and cooperative group action, and respect for individual differences.
- Contribute to the relief of emotional strains and stresses.
- Contribute to the satisfaction of certain psychological needs as well as self-understanding, self-expression, understanding of others, challenge, acceptance, recognition and approval.
- Contribute to the development of desirable character traits including persistence, determination, unselfishness, will-to-win, alertness, maximum effort, resourcefulness and tenacity.

The following rules are established to further clarify expectations of our student athletes. These policies are in addition to all current state, county, and local policies and rules.

ORIENTATION TO THE RULES TO INSURE AWARENESS OF STUDENT OF THE POLICY

In order to insure student/parent awareness of this policy:

- At the beginning of each athletic season the coach of the sport shall review with the athletes the rules for that sport, including the rules established in this policy and the penalties thereof.
- The coach shall also review the rules with any students who enroll in athletics after the season has started.
- No student shall practice for, or participate in, any athletic contest until Form SB-06, Athletic Rules, is signed and on file with the school.
- Athletic Directors shall maintain a file of the signed copies of this policy until the athlete graduates or is no longer eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

RULES FOR ATHLETES

Participation in the Hardy County Schools Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. In addition to the rules and requirements established by the Hardy County Board of Education and each school, student athletes are expected to comply with the following athletic rules both at school and away from school during the entire length of each athletic season in which they may participate.

A. Tobacco: The use or possession of tobacco is not permitted. The athlete will be disciplined according to rules as set forth in the Hardy County Schools Policy JDE, Tobacco Control.

1. For first time offenders of the tobacco policy, the athlete will be denied participation for one day of athletic participation, including practice.
2. For second time offenders of the tobacco policy, the athlete will be denied participation for 10 consecutive days of athletic participation, including practice.
3. A third offense for tobacco will result in suspension for all athletic participation for the remainder of the year.

B. Controlled Substance: The student athlete shall not possess, use, or distribute any controlled substance as defined by Hardy County File JDD.

1. For first time offenders of the controlled substance policy, the athlete will be suspended from athletics for the remainder of the specific athletic season or the semester, whichever is greater. The student shall be required to complete the requirements of Policy JDD before he/she shall be eligible to participate in any following or subsequent sport.
2. For second time offenders of the controlled substance policy, the athlete will be suspended from all athletics for one full calendar year (365 days). The student shall be required to complete the requirements of Policy JCF prior to any further participation in any sport.

C. Alcoholic Beverage: The student athlete shall not possess, use, or distribute any alcoholic beverages as defined by Hardy County File JDD.

1. For first time offenders of the alcoholic beverage policy, the athlete will be suspended from participation in the following number of contests:

Football - 4
Basketball - 8
Volleyball - 8
Baseball - 10

Softball - 10

Track - 4

Cross Country - 4

Tennis - 8

Golf - 8

Cheerleaders - the number of contests listed above for the sport for which they are cheering.

New Sports - the number of contests listed above for the sport most similar in activity and season length.

The suspensions shall carry over into tournaments or playoff games if the suspension is not fulfilled by the end of the regular season.

The student shall be required to complete the requirements of Policy JDD prior to participating in any additional or subsequent sport contests or practice.

2. For second time offenders of the alcoholic beverage policy, the athlete will be suspended from athletics for the remainder of the specific athletic season or the semester, whichever is greater. The student shall be required to complete the requirements of Policy JCF prior to any further participation in any sport.
3. A third offense for alcoholic beverage will result in suspension from all athletics for one full calendar year (365 days) from the time of the infraction. The student shall be required to complete the requirements of Policy JCF prior to any further participation in any sport.

D. Carryover of Penalties: In all cases the suspensions shall carry over from sport to sport and year to year. Penalties shall be issued cumulatively throughout the student's high school enrollment.

E. Individual Sport Rules: The head coach may establish additional rules and penalties he/she feels are important. The Principal and Athletic Director shall review and approve all such rules prior to their distribution. Additional rules established by the Coach must be in written form, read to the team, posted in the team locker room, and the Coach's office. The Athletic Director shall place a copy of the additional rules and penalties in his/her file.

F. Initiation or Hazing Activities: Initiation or hazing activities will not be tolerated and are prohibited according to Hardy County Schools Policy JDC.

V I O L A T I O N S O F A T H L E T I C R U L E S

C o a c h e s , A t h l e t i c D i r e c t o r s , a n d P r i n c i p a l s a r e t o d e t e r m i n e t h e v a l i d i t y o f a n y r e p o r t s , r u m o r s , o r c h a r g e s t h a t t h e a t h l e t e h a s a l l e g e d l y v i o l a t e d t h e A t h l e t i c R u l e s P o l i c y . I f i t i s d e t e r m i n e d t h a t t h e r e h a s b e e n a v i o l a t i o n , a p p r o p r i a t e a c t i o n s h a l l b e t a k e n p u r s u a n t t o t h i s p o l i c y .

D U E P R O C E S S P R O C E D U R E S

I n t h e e v e n t a n a t h l e t e i s a l l e g e d t o h a v e v i o l a t e d o n e o r m o r e o f t h e r u l e s c o n t a i n e d i n t h i s p o l i c y o r t h e r u l e s e s t a b l i s h e d b y t h e H e a d C o a c h , t h e f o l l o w i n g p r o c e d u r e s s h a l l b e f o l l o w e d :

A h e a r i n g s h a l l b e h e l d b e f o r e t h e H e a d C o a c h .

T h e C o a c h s h a l l i n f o r m t h e A t h l e t i c D i r e c t o r . H e / s h e m a y c o n s u l t w i t h t h e A t h l e t i c D i r e c t o r b e f o r e m a k i n g a d e c i s i o n , b u t t h e C o a c h s h a l l m a k e t h e f i n a l d e c i s i o n .

T h e p a r e n t s s h a l l b e p r o v i d e d p r i o r n o t i c e o f t h e h e a r i n g b y t h e H e a d C o a c h i n w r i t i n g o r b y t e l e p h o n e .

T h e C o a c h s h a l l t e l l t h e s t u d e n t w h a t h e / s h e i s b e i n g a c c u s e d o f a n d w h a t e v i d e n c e s u p p o r t s t h a t c h a r g e .

T h e s t u d e n t a n d / o r h i s / h e r p a r e n t s s h a l l h a v e t h e o p p o r t u n i t y t o p r e s e n t e v i d e n c e a n d w i t n e s s e s .

T h e H e a d C o a c h s h a l l i s s u e a d e c i s i o n w i t h i n 2 w o r k i n g d a y s .

A P P E A L S

T h e d e c i s i o n o f t h e H e a d C o a c h m a y b e a p p e a l e d t o t h e P r i n c i p a l , w h o s h a l l c o n d u c t a n i n v e s t i g a t i o n o f t h e m a t t e r , a s h e / s h e d e e m s a p p r o p r i a t e a n d s h a l l i s s u e a d e c i s i o n .

T h e d e c i s i o n o f t h e P r i n c i p a l m a y b e a p p e a l e d t o t h e S u p e r i n t e n d e n t w h o s h a l l c o n d u c t a n i n v e s t i g a t i o n o f t h e m a t t e r , a s h e / s h e d e e m s a p p r o p r i a t e a n d s h a l l i s s u e a d e c i s i o n .

T h e S u p e r i n t e n d e n t ' s d e c i s i o n m a y b e a p p e a l e d t o t h e B o a r d .

T h e B o a r d s h a l l c o n d u c t a h e a r i n g o n t h e m a t t e r . T h e H e a d C o a c h , o r o t h e r r e p r e s e n t a t i v e s o f t h e s c h o o l s h a l l p r e s e n t t h e e v i d e n c e a g a i n s t t h e s t u d e n t a n d m a y c a l l w i t n e s s e s i n s u p p o r t o f t h a t e v i d e n c e . T h e s t u d e n t m a y b e r e p r e s e n t e d b y c o u n s e l , s h a l l h a v e t h e o p p o r t u n i t y t o c r o s s - e x a m i n e w i t n e s s e s w h o m a y t e s t i f y a g a i n s t h i m / h e r , a n d m a y p r e s e n t e v i d e n c e a n d w i t n e s s e s o n h i s / h e r b e h a l f . F o l l o w i n g t h e h e a r i n g t h e B o a r d s h a l l i s s u e a d e c i s i o n .

Any appeal shall be made within 5 working days of the Decision at the lower level. Decisions of the Principal or Superintendent shall be made within 5 working days unless unusual circumstances prohibit. Appeals to the Board shall be heard within 10 days following receipt of the Appeal. Decisions by the Board shall be issued within 10 working days of hearing the matter. All appeals and decisions at all levels shall be in writing. All deadlines may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties. Students suspended from athletics shall not participate in contests during an appeal of that suspension.

STUDENTS SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL

Students suspended or expelled from school pursuant to Hardy County Policy JDD For infractions of county or school rules shall also be suspended from participation in all athletic practices and/or contests. The execution of student's suspension or expulsion under the Hardy County Policy JEC shall not be delayed for the purposes of allowing students to participate in athletic practices and/or contests.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

All athletic activities, including practices, strength training, and contests, involve a certain risk of injury or even death. It is the responsibility of the student athlete and his/her parents to become knowledgeable about the potential for injuries associated with the sport in which the student chooses to participate. Coaches and Athletic Directors will assist students and parents in finding the answers to questions about athletic risks when requested to do so. Coaches and Trainers take reasonable steps to minimize the potential for athletic injuries, but certain risks still remain. Therefore, student athletes who participate in Hardy County Schools' athletic programs assume the normal risks associated with participation in the particular sport chosen.

COACHES AUTHORITY

Nothing herein shall be construed so as to limit the coach's discretions as to selection of team size or membership, conditioning drills, preparation of lineups, substitution patterns, game strategy, award of honors, or any other decision normally within the discretion of a coach.

DEFINITIONS

Year = 365 days.

Semester = One-half of regular school term. Fall/Spring or per county calendar.

Sport = Individual sport participating, identified by WVSSAC and approved for participation by the Board.

Season = The length of the individual sport, identified by W V S S A C , in its calendar. Season ends upon elimination from further competition.
Athletics = Activities as defined by W V S S A C and approved for participation by the Board.

D I S C R I M I N A T I O N

As required by Federal laws and regulations, the Board does not permit discrimination as identified in Board Policy G A B .

SOURCE : Board of Education Minutes

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