

Newport News Philosophy

It shall be the philosophy of the athletic program in the Newport News Public Schools to provide an opportunity for those students endowed with the physical and mental ability to compete at a level higher than that offered in the normal instructional program. This program will allow the talented athletes to develop their skills and knowledge to a higher degree of competency on the practice field and offer them the laboratory of the playing field to measure their accomplishments in competition with their peers.

One of our school division's major goals is high academic achievement for all students. We are committed to helping them achieve to their fullest potential and our student-athletes are no exception. Just as an athlete must expend a tremendous amount of time and effort to be successful on the playing field, our athletes must bring that same discipline and dedication to the classroom. The practices established by both successful students and successful athletes would be extremely valuable throughout their school years and beyond.

In addition to the development of these physical skills, the athletic program will offer the athlete the opportunity to become a more useful and loyal member of society by developing a desire to achieve excellence but with the willingness to make personal sacrifices for the benefit of the team. Close contact with teammates and opponents will develop a sense of loyalty and dedication as well as a respect for the dignity of others.

The enrichment of the total being through contributions to their educational, social, moral, emotional and physical development shall be the underlying principle of the school athletic program.

Goals and Objectives

- All student-athletes will maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or above.
- The athletic program will contribute to the physical fitness and development of athletic skills of participants through teaching and presenting a sound program of conditioning and practice.
- The athletic program will teach the values of sportsmanship through the Virginia High School League Sportsmanship Code in order that participants may learn to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- The athletic program will teach self-discipline to participants by requiring them to adhere to a lifestyle that will contribute in a positive way to team effectiveness.
- The athletic program will teach the compatibility of self-reliance and cooperation through activities designed to give recognition to contributions of individual athletes and showing that success of the program depends on team effort.
- The athletic program will unify the school by providing common goals, involving all students and creating a common purpose; thereby generating school spirit and building alumni loyalty.
- The athletic program will provide a wholesome environment for athletic participation and will provide carry-over value through teaching positive attitudes and the recreational value of participation.
- The athletic program will provide opportunities to achieve educational and personal goals for students/athletes through counseling participants to establish goals consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.

Newport News Public Schools Students Academic Standards for Participating in Virginia High School League Activities

All students participating in any Virginia High School League sponsored activity will have to meet academic standards established by the school board.

1. Students participating in any VHSL sponsored activity must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) before participating in any VHSL sponsored activity. They may meet this requirement in two (2) ways:
 - Students may maintain a **cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher**
 - Students may have a 2.0 GPA or higher the **previous semester average**.
2. Students must continue to meet all VHSL eligibility requirements (PASS 5 SUBJECTS FROM PREVIOUS SEMESTER), in addition to the 2.0 GPA minimum.
3. Students also have the option of taking a **one-time waiver** from the 2.0 requirement for one semester for any reason during their time in high school **but still must meet all VHSL standards**. Forms can be obtained from the high school athletic directors.
4. Students who lose their academic eligibility while participating in a VHSL activity in which the season or district competition extends beyond the semester will be allowed to continue participating until the particular season ends, but will not be able to participate in other extracurricular activities until academic eligibility is restored.
5. Transfer students' academic eligibility for participation in a VHSL activity will be determined initially by their incoming GPA. This eligibility criteria will apply through and include the student's first semester of attendance in Newport News Public Schools. Transfer students who do not meet the academic requirements for the school year in which they enter will be denied academic eligibility during their first semester in Newport News Public Schools. After their first semester as a student in the Newport News Public Schools, the GPA requirements in item 1 shall apply.
6. Summer school grades will be averaged in with second semester grades.
7. A special education student who is working toward a **special diploma/certificate** must make standard progress in those courses taken as determined by the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).
8. A special education student who is working toward a **standard diploma** must meet the same academic standards for participation in VHSL activities and extracurricular activities that are required for all students.
9. If there are differences between the school board policy and Virginia High School League (VHSL), the provision that establishes the stricter rule will apply. If either the school board policy or the VHSL regulations contain a condition or requirement that the other one does not, the stated condition or requirement will apply.

Revised July 2014

Magnet School – General Information

In general, eighth grade students who wish to participate in VHSL activities are expected to attend their attendance-zone school. Students enrolled in magnet programs who indicate intent to return may participate at the school at which the magnet program continues.

Magnet Program Deselection Procedures – Voluntary and Involuntary

A student who has been selected for a magnet program or deselected from a magnet program for any reason and who has officially practiced or participated in a VHSL activity, during the scheduled season, is ineligible to participate in that activity in another school for the remainder of that academic year.

Appeals to this process can be made in writing to the assistant superintendent for administrative and alternative services or his/her designee.

Revised July 2014