

CLUB SPORTS

Purpose: To provide guidelines for establishing, conducting, supervising, and financing club sports teams and to establish eligibility standards for participation in club sports.

Definition

A club sport is an extracurricular program established to promote and develop the interests and skills of their members in a particular sport. Some clubs are individual-oriented while others are team-oriented.

Establishing a Club Sport

Requests to establish club sports must be addressed to and approved by the Division Superintendent. Club sports will be reviewed on an annual basis or more frequently as deemed necessary by the Division Superintendent. Club sports shall be established and conducted consistent with applicable federal and state law.

Competition

Club sports may be competitive, instructional, and/or recreational. A club sport team may compete in regular season play against Virginia High School League (“VHSL”) school teams if the club sport team is granted permission to do so by both the Division Superintendent and the VHSL Executive Committee. Club sports may participate in local demonstrations, shows, or contests with the permission of the Principal.

Facilities and Transportation

Club sports shall utilize School Board facilities and transportation for meetings, practices, and other official club-sports events. Club sports’ sponsors/coaches shall arrange for use of School Board facilities and transportation. Club sports may only use facilities when they are not being used by the varsity and junior varsity teams and sanctioned B Teams for their regular meetings, practices, or games and are otherwise available.

Sponsor/Coach

Club sports shall be supervised by an employee of the School Board who is willing to be a club sponsor/coach. The club sponsor/coach and, if applicable, any associated stipend(s) are subject to the same recommendation and approval process as is implemented for varsity team coaches.

Equipment Acquisition and Certification

All club sport athletic equipment must meet the applicable certification standards of the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE). The acquisition and upkeep of the equipment will be the responsibility of the club.

Financial Support

Subject to available funds, the School Board shall provide and maintain the School Board facilities and transportation utilized by the club. Financing of a club sport shall otherwise be the responsibility of the participants. Such costs may include, but are not limited to, equipment and uniforms. Club sports shall reimburse the School Board for any sponsor/coaching stipends and transportation costs. All proceeds from ticket sales will be retained by the school.

Virginia High School League Rules

Club sports shall be governed by VHSL rules. Club sports teams and students who fail to comply with VHSL rules are subject to suspension and/or revocation of their right to participate in club sports.

Conduct

Students who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, who violate the *Code of Student Conduct*, or who violate rules established by the sponsor/coach will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension or removal from club sports.

Health and Safety

Club sports participants are subject to the VHSL's Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form submission requirements.

All contact club sports are required to have proper medical staff (which could include an EMT, certified athletic trainer, or a licensed physician) at practices/games/matches/contests.

Club sports participants are subject to the same policies and laws regarding participation following injury, including concussions/possible concussions, as varsity team sports.

Insurance

Bedford County Public Schools will purchase a Catastrophic Insurance Policy to cover students who participate in club sports. Each club will reimburse the school district for the cost of this insurance coverage.

Varsity Letters

Clubs sports' participants are not eligible for a varsity school letter.

Parental Permission to Participate

In addition to the VHSL Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form, parents must submit a signed permission to participate and a waiver form. The form shall include a copy of this policy and information regarding the type of insurance, if any, provided to club members by the School Board.

Policy Interpretation

The Division Superintendent shall be responsible for interpreting this policy and for promulgating necessary regulations implementing this policy.