

## RESPECT, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### I. ASSOCIATED REGULATION: JFCB-R: PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF HATE SPEECH, ETHNICALLY OR RACIALLY INSENSITIVE EXPRESSIONS IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### II. DEFINITION

**Sportsmanship:** Qualities of behavior, characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others, including an awareness of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity (*National Federation of State High School Associations*). A prerequisite to good sportsmanship requires one to understand that their prejudices and biases may become a factor in their behavior.

### III. GENERALLY

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) recognizes the value of extracurricular activities in the educational program and the values that students develop when they have the opportunity to participate in an organized activity outside of the traditional classroom. Achieving the true value of extracurricular activities and interscholastic competition relies upon all participants exhibiting behavior that engenders respect for the abilities and accomplishments of all people. Therefore, students and adults involved in ACPS-approved extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate the same level of responsibility and behavior at practice and competitions as is expected in the classroom.

One of the main goals of ACPS extracurricular activities and competitions is to teach the concept of sportsmanship. The concept of good sportsmanship applies beyond athletics to all extracurricular activities. It requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes fellow students, members of an opposing team, officials, coaches and spectators. In addition, extracurricular activities can:

- provide educational opportunities for students beyond the classroom;
- ensure fairness and equity through safe competitions;
- pave the way for personal growth;
- offer opportunities for students to develop teamwork and leadership skills; and
- promote respect, ethics and integrity through student activities.

Good sportsmanship includes showing courtesy and kindness towards opponents as well as team members, and recognizing that winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant reflects on the school division and community, and is outside the spirit and interest of ACPS' core values: to be welcoming, empowering, equity-focused, innovative and results-driven. The conduct of ACPS students and staff is extended to parents/guardians and fans before, during, and after extracurricular events

and competitions.

**IV. GUIDELINES**

Participation in athletics and other ACPS extracurricular activities is a privilege that carries with it varying degrees of responsibility and sacrifice. Those who choose to participate are expected to follow the rules established for that activity by ACPS and any interscholastic governing body, such as the Virginia High School League (VHSL) or the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association (VASRA). ACPS encourages the development and promotion of respect, ethics, and integrity in all phases of the educational program and in its extracurricular activities, including for administrators, participants, adult supervisors, parents/guardians, fans, spirit groups, and support/booster groups.

ACPS believes that administrators and coaches accept the responsibility of making each extracurricular competition a showcase for education, and will model that good sportsmanship is the goal, and that poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated.

Adult spectators must realize that they also must exhibit good sportsmanship at athletic events. Spectators serve as a model for their own children and for other young people in the community.

The School Board will support staff members and administrators who enforce sportsmanship rules at athletic and other extracurricular events, including administering consequences in alignment with the ACPS Student Code of Conduct, and/or evicting students or adults who violate this policy in accordance with the procedures outlined in Regulation JFCB-R.

- Adopted: December 5, 1996
- Amended: June 20, 2002
- Amended: December 19, 2013
- Affirmed: June 11, 2015
- Amended: December 16, 2021

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-208.

*Virginia High School League Policy 27-16-1, Use of Hate Speech, Ethnically or Racially Insensitive Expressions.*

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| Cross Refs.: | IGDA        | Student Organizations, Co-Curricular Programs and Extracurricular Activities                    |
|              | IGDAA       | Grade Average Requirement for Eligibility to Participate in Athletic and Co-Curricular Programs |
|              | IICA        | Field Trips   |
|              | IICA-R      | Field Trip Procedures   |
|              | JB          | Nondiscrimination in Education  |
|              | JB-R/JFHA-R | Procedures for Investigating Student Complaints of  |

JFC	Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying (PDF)
JFCB-R	Student Conduct
JFCB-R	Prohibition of the Use of Hate Speech, Ethnically or Racially Insensitive Expressions
JFCC	Student Conduct on School Buses
KG	Community Use of School Facilities
KG-R	Community Use of School Facilities Regulations and Application
KQ	Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships