

1 **RESPECT, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

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

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7 **II. DEFINITION**

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

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17 **III. GENERALLY**

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

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

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

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

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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 Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying (PDF) |

93	JFC	Student Conduct
94	JFCB-R	Prohibition of the Use of Hate Speech, Ethnically or
95		Racially Insensitive Expressions
96	JFCC	Student Conduct on School Buses
97	KG	Community Use of School Facilities
98	KG-R	Community Use of School Facilities Regulations and
99		Application
100	KQ	Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and
101		Partnerships
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