INSTRUCTION

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR COACHES

I. Behavior Expectations for Coaches

As an important part of education, interscholastic athletics shall maintain a high standard of integrity and professionalism that is representative of the expectations of Prince William County Schools. Coaches and sponsors of interscholastic activities are responsible for following all rules and regulations of Prince William County Schools and the Virginia High School League (VHSL). All staff who are hired and assigned as a coach to a supplemental sport shall meet professional development program requirements for interscholastic activities.

II. Behavior Expectations for Recruiting or Proselytizing

A. According to the Virginia High School League (VHSL), no member school or group of individuals representing the school shall subject a student from another school to undue influence by encouraging him/her to transfer from one school to another for league activities.

B. According to Prince William County Schools, all staff members, including non-coaches, shall not participate in any activity that may be perceived by others as an act of recruiting or proselytizing of a student to attend a school for athletic or activity participation.

1. Coaches and team sponsors shall refrain from activities that appear to be recruiting. Coaches may serve as a community coach for recreation and Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) teams and other activities that offer open public and advertised tryouts and have at least one team member from another school. However, coaches should be aware that this participation in coaching these activities may be perceived as recruiting.

The following actions by a school representative may be perceived as recruiting:

- Initiating contact to offer the opportunity to transfer;
- Placing undue influence on a student to pressure a transfer to a favored school or program;
- Speaking poorly or “bad mouthing” coaches in front of athletes;
- Initiating contact by any member of the coaching staff, head coach, or school representative with a player that encourages an individual to transfer;
• Influencing students/athletes to transfer to play for a better coach or program that offers a greater opportunity for advancement by a community “associated” with the team; and
• Promoting “specialty” programs as a way to attend a school of choice by school staff.

2. High school coaches may interact with middle school teams and coaches according to the following guidelines:
   a. High school coaches are encouraged to offer support and assistance to middle school coaches by:
      • Work with feeder schools only;
      • Invite middle school coaches to attend games, practices, or coaches meetings; and/or
      • Offer to observe practice and meet with coach.
   b. High school coaches shall refrain from:
      • Meeting with middle school students more than twice for the purpose of preparing them to attend their school the following school year;
      • Working with middle school athletes by running drills or any part of practice; and/or
      • Communicating with or instructing individual students, other than a friendly greeting.
   c. Rising ninth grade students shall not participate in off-season high school conditioning programs until the completion of the eighth grade year.

3. A school representative shall be defined as:
   • Coaches/school employees;
   • Players;
   • Parents;
   • Coaching staff members/volunteer coaches;
   • Booster club members;
   • Scouts – support for the varsity level teams;
   • Non-school connected “community” individuals who are coaching the same sport in the community and believe they work for a particular coach or program.
4. Reporting Alleged Violations

- Any person, parent, coach, or administrator is encouraged to and may report suspected violations.
- Reports of violations shall be submitted to the school administration in writing on the form provided (Attachment A). Copies of this report will be sent to the supervisor of athletics.
- Initial investigation of alleged violations shall be conducted by the school administration as outlined in the VHSL handbook.
- Results of the investigation will be reported to the respective district chairman and the supervisor of the Office of Athletics as outlined in the VHSL handbook.

5. Violation of the expectations of this regulation will result in appropriate consequences ranging from a letter of reprimand to dismissal from the coaching/supplemental position.

III. Behavior Expectations for Out-of-Season Coaching

Out-of-Season Coaching Guidelines

According to the Virginia High School League no member school shall engage in any form of pre-season or post-season practice or pre-season or post-season interscholastic competition in any sport except as outlined in Regulation 27-8-2 of the Virginia High School League handbook. Out-of-season participation shall not be mandated of any student.

1. A coach shall be defined as:

- Any and all staff receiving supplemental pay;
- Any volunteer that is approved and considered by a school as a member of the staff.

2. All teams and VHSL sponsored sports and activities are required to follow the following guidelines:

- Conditioning activities without the use of sport-specific equipment are permitted;
- Student use of training aids must be with the coach present for supervision only;
- Equipment must be accessible to all participants;
- Coach may only provide safety instruction for use of training aids;
- Skill development/improvement instruction is prohibited;
- Skill development camps and team camps that are open to all eligible students and meet VHSL interpretation of team camps may have coach participation; and
• Community coaching permitted for recreation and Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) teams and other activities that offer open tryouts and have at least one team member from another school.

3. Open gym shall be defined as:

• Open activity that is not required or mandated for any student to attend;
• Open to all students enrolled in the school and announced to the school population through public address system and school announcements, flyers, and posters.
  (Refer to Regulation 648-5, Open Gym Activities)

4. Actions that are considered out-of-season coaching for fall and summer leagues are:

• Communicating with the team before, during, or after the games for any reason other than organization for dates, times, and transportation; and
• Providing instruction, corrections, or ideas for strategy at any time during a contest or in conversation with a participant at any time.

5. Cheerleading sideline and competition teams are required to follow these guidelines:

• Spring tryouts and practice are permissible with the new sideline team up until the last day of school;
• Open gym for non-sport specific conditioning will be permitted only until the first day of fall sports (August 1); and
• Practices begin on the VHSL start date for sideline and competition.

6. Person responsible for enforcement of out-of-season coaching guidelines:

• School administrators, directors of student activities (DSA), principals and assistant principals, coaches, and supervisor of athletics;
• DSA responsible for enforcement at the school level;
• Coaches should hold each other accountable and be willing to report violation.

7. Reporting Alleged Violations

• Any person, parent, coach, or administrator is encouraged to and may report suspected violations.
• Reports of violations shall be submitted to the school administration in writing on the form provided (Attachment A). Copies of this report will be sent to the supervisor of athletics.
• Initial investigation of alleged violations will be conducted by the school administration as outlined in the VHSL handbook.
• Results of the investigation will be reported to the district chairman and the supervisor of the Office of Athletics as outlined in the VHSL Handbook.

8. Violation of the expectations of this regulation will result in appropriate consequences ranging from a letter of reprimand to dismissal from the coaching/supplemental position.

The principal, Director of Student Learning and Professional Development, and appropriate area associate superintendent are responsible for implementation and monitoring of this regulation.

The principal, Director of Student Learning and Professional Development, and appropriate area associate superintendent are responsible for reviewing this regulation in 2010.
School: ________________________________ Date: ________________________
Principal: ________________________________
Activities Director: ___________________________

Description of alleged incident: (include location, coach, time, date, details of alleged incident, and how incident was reported)

Investigation process and findings:

Action taken: (include parties that received report of incident)

Submitting Principal ____________________________ Activities Director ____________________________

Cc: District Chairman
   Area Associates
   Office of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics