

# REGULATION

VERNON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM  
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Athletic Competition  
Oct 07  
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## R2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION

### Procedures

1. All participants must have a physical and signed parental permission form on file with the school nurse. All participants must have an Athletic Team Policy Form signed and on file with their coach.
2. Athletes must meet all eligibility requirements set by the School District and NJSIAA.
3. Athletes must abide by all school policies in order to participate.
4. All injuries are to be reported immediately to your coach for proper examination and report filing. The student is to check with the coach the following day to insure that an accident report has been filed.

### Conduct

1. Athletes are representatives of Vernon Township High School and at all times will present themselves in a proper manner. All Athletes will show proper respect for other athletes, coaches and officials at all times.
2. Bus behavior will be beyond reproach. A reasonable volume is to be maintained at all times. No foul language or distasteful behavior will be permitted. This includes the late buses at the end of the practice day.
3. Hazing: Hazing is a form of harassment and will not be tolerated in conjunction with the Vernon Township High School athletic program. Hazing is defined as a “willful act, occurring on or off school grounds, directed against a player or players or a prospective member(s) of a school-sponsored team, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a player or prospective team member for the purpose of initiation, admission into, or continued membership on any such team.” Any form of HAZING or such harassment of any kind between students shall be dealt with in the

severest of fashions to include, but not limited to: IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION, OR REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM. Hazing in any form is a disrespectful act that will not be tolerated. Students having knowledge of the planning or occurrence of a specific hazing activity and who fail to report it to the required officials may be subject to discipline as stated above.

### Responsibilities

1. Athletes are responsible for all equipment issued and its care. Equipment and uniforms are to be worn and used at Vernon Township High School events only. Remuneration may be required for misused or unreturned clothing.
2. Team members will be required to return to the school from away contests as a unit, using the school provided transportation. Exceptions will be granted through advance written parental permission and coaching staff approval.
3. On game dates when the contest goes beyond the late bus departure, all participants are to have prearranged transportation home.
4. Failure to comply with requirements stipulated in the Vernon Township Student Handbook or any of the above rules and regulations as well as any specific rules by the coaching staff regarding curfews, detentions, etc. will result in disciplinary action including suspension or dismissal for a designated time as determined by the head coach.

### Tobacco

Our Board of Education recognizes that the use of tobacco presents a health hazard that can have serious implications and damaging effects. Since the use of tobacco products is detrimental to physical conditioning and athletic performance, any use of tobacco products is prohibited for Vernon Township High School athletes while in season, both in and out of school.

A first violation of this rule will result in a three week/minimum two game suspension. However, if the student self admits to a violation, the suspension is subject to being reduced to a period of one week/minimum one game. A suspended player may not participate in interscholastic contests; however, a suspended player is required to participate in all practices.

A second violation during the school year will result in dismissal from the season in which the infraction occurred and the forfeiture of rights to a varsity letter or other recognition.

A third violation will result in forfeiture of eligibility to participate in athletics for the remainder of the school year and further review by the district may eventuate if deemed appropriate.

### Alcohol and Drugs

The use of all alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs (controlled dangerous substances as defined in N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, without a physician's prescription, referred to as "CDS") is strictly prohibited. Likewise, attendance at parties or gatherings where alcoholic beverages or CDS are present, or remaining in the company of others who are using alcoholic beverages or CDS, is strictly prohibited. Students must depart from such affairs or situations immediately upon discovering that CDS or alcoholic beverages are present. This rule does not restrict students from attending family functions where alcoholic beverages are present, nor does the restrict the rights of parents or adults to consume alcoholic beverages at such functions or in the family setting.

A first violation of this rule will result in a three week/minimum two game suspension. However, if the student self admits to a violation, the suspension is subject to being reduced to a period of one week/minimum one game. A suspended player may not participate in interscholastic contests; however, a suspended player is required to participate in all practices.

A second violation during the school year will result in dismissal from the season in which the infraction occurred and the forfeiture of rights to a varsity letter or other recognition.

A third violation will result in forfeiture of eligibility to participate in athletics for the remainder of the school year.

For each violation of the above drug and alcohol policy, the athlete must submit to a drug and alcohol evaluation according to established school policy and follow the recommended program of treatment. The individual(s) providing the evaluation shall be certified by The New Jersey State Board of Examiners as a Certified Alcohol Counselor (CAC) or a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (CADAC).

The athlete in violation remains ineligible for future participation in athletics until the athlete successfully completes the recommended program of treatment. It is our desire to promote a comprehensive support system if a problem does exist.

### Other Requirements for Athletic Participation

1. No student is to participate unless the above requirements of parent's permission, M.D. physical and approval, are all acceptable and in force prior to the first practice.

2. Students must be physically present at, and successfully participate in at least six practice sessions prior to any interscholastic participation.
3. Rules of participation regarding a non-strenuous sport or strenuous sport as defined in N.J.S.I.A.A. shall apply.
4. Students shall accept and comply with such rules as practices, training, team behavior, etc. as promulgated by the head coach.
5. A student retains the right to withdraw from the team. However, if the student withdraws from the team after the second game of the specified season, he/she forfeits the eligibility to participate in any other interscholastic sport for the season in question.
6. Students may participate in such unique singular or invitational meets or events as sanctioned and approved by New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and/or appropriate league.
7. If a student does not participate in physical education the day of a contest, he/she may not compete that day.
8. Students having a complaint arising out of matters attending to participation in interscholastic athletics shall follow the student complaint procedure.
9. Athletes will be on time for practice and will be prepared for practice every day.

#### Interscholastic Athletics Student Requirements

1. Anyone nineteen years of age prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> is not eligible for interscholastic athletics at any time thereafter while enrolled in high school.
2. Eligibility – Grade 9 – first semester – no credit required.
3. Eligibility – Grade 9 – second semester – 13.75 credits.
4. Eligibility – Grade 10 – first semester – 27.5 credits.
5. Eligibility – Grade 10 – second semester – 13.75 credits.
6. Eligibility – Grade 11 – first semester – 27.5 credits.

7. Eligibility – Grade 11 – second semester – 13.75 credits.
8. Eligibility – Grade 12 – first semester – 27.5 credits.
9. Eligibility – Grade 12 – second semester – 13.75 credits.
10. Any student who turns 16 prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> is eligible for high school athletics for eight consecutive semesters.
11. Student athletics will not accept money for participating in any sport; athletes must maintain a totally amateur athletic status. In order to maintain high school bowling eligibility, bowling in a league where cash prizes are awarded is not permitted. A student athlete who bowls in this league will not be permitted to try out for the high school team.
12. Participating on teams sponsored by non-school organizations during a season when the student is a team member representing the high school is only permitted upon the coach's approval of the student and a parent's written request. This is to assure team loyalty and to prevent over extension by the student resulting in possible injury and poor academic achievement.
13. In order to participate in a practice or game a student athlete must be in school by 9:50 a.m. Exceptions for religious services, legal matters, college visits, medical appointments, etc. must have prior approval by the coach, athletic director and the school administration.
14. Any student athlete suspended or assigned to Saturday detention or full day detention will not be permitted to participate in any practice, game or school athletic activity. This may be for either the immediate event that day, or week or for the entire season depending upon the nature of the offense leading to the disciplinary action.
15. Participation in high school activities is a privilege and will be extended only to those who demonstrate positive qualities of sportsmanship, attitude, cooperation and academic achievement up to their ability.

Adopted:        October 2007