

VHS Code of Conduct says students must avoid illegal functions

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lete would be suspended from play, but it will apply to all student activities, including leadership, and all situations – on and off campus – at any time. The revised Code also more clearly specifies the consequences of any infraction and the responsibilities of both students and teachers to participate in school activities.

Perhaps the most significant change is that, in order to retain eligibility for participation, a student must not "be present at any function where alcohol, drugs, or tobacco are being used in an unlawful manner." Further, if students discover such activity, "they must leave immediately." Participants are also expected to conduct themselves responsibly and with good sportsmanship on campus, in the community, and at other schools. Coaches or advisors may set additional standards for participation in a particular sport or activity, such as a curfew or dress standards. Participants in school activities will also be held to the consequences of the Code of Conduct for any violation of published school rules.

As in the past, students must maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average. A student not meeting this criterion will be placed on probation and must attend study table, which has been somewhat modified. Students on probation must attend study table at least three days per week, show improvement

in their class work and have a weekly meeting with the Athletic Director. Students who fail to meet these requirements at any time "will be deemed ineligible for the next week" and will not be able to compete. Only by making adequate progress on probation will a student be allowed to participate.

The Code of Conduct says that, "Involvement in athletic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities is a privilege." Therefore, strict standards prohibiting the use of controlled substances and requiring students to avoid places where such use occurs, are included. In addition, "potentially criminal conduct...that endangers the health, welfare, or property of others will not be tolerated." Discipline can result from any situation where the violation has been observed by a member of the coaching staff, the offender has been cited by a law enforcement official, or "the violation is determined to be founded after investigation by a district official." Further, disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct will be in addition to any disciplinary action resulting from violations occurring during normal school activities AND violations during school hours will result in discipline under the Code of Conduct.

Penalty for first offense

A first offense for use of a controlled substance will result in suspension from participation for 10 school days or two

contests, whichever is longer, and evaluation for and successful completion of a diversion program. A first offense for unacceptable conduct will result in immediate suspension from participation, however, the student may be reinstated following a conference with the coach, principal, athletic director and parents and imposition of appropriate consequences (suspension, counseling, community service, restitution, etc.).

Penalties increase for repeat offenders

A second offense will result in suspension from participation for 20 school days or the balance of the season, whichever is longer, and completion of diversion, if required. Additionally, a participant may lose any individual or team awards earned during the season. For a third offense, the participant will be suspended for 90 school days or the remainder of the school year and may have to complete diversion. In all cases, participation in the diversion/intervention program is required for any offense involving a controlled substance. Successful completion of the diversion program includes continued compliance with any recommendations of the program administrator. Not completing the program or failing to comply with recommendations constitutes another offense.

The end of a school year will

not erase violations, either, as the code provides that, "Suspensions shall carry over from season to season, and from year to year. Violations are cumulative over the student's high school career." A third offense of controlled substance rules will result in suspension of participation until the student completes or comes into compliance with the program requirements.

Diversion Plan

A plan in keeping with the educational goals of the district, has been developed and will be offered to all students required to participate. Students may also voluntarily request assistance from the school with regard to a tobacco, alcohol or controlled substance addiction, prior to being investigated or apprehended for an offense. If a student voluntarily participates and successfully completes the diversion program there will be no athletic or extra-curricular activity consequence (other than any required by law).

The diversion plan requires seven steps: Participation in a professionally conducted group addressing the use of controlled substances; reading the

material provided; interviewing a law enforcement officer or medical professional about the social and medical implication of use; writing a 5-6 page paper; making an oral presentation to their peers; meeting with a committee to evaluate completion of the program.

Other changes include:

- Students must attend the entire school day of an activity unless prior arrangements have been made for an absence.

- Students who drop out of a sport or activity after the first two weeks of the season will not be allowed to participate in any other activity during the regular season.

- The addition of an Appeals Committee, appointed by the principal, to hear both sides of a dispute and make recommendations.

Coaches Handbook

A handbook for coaches will also be presented at the meeting, along with the student handbook. The coaches handbook will define coaching responsibilities and include some provision for holding coaches to a similar standard of behavior as students.

Fishing Derby enjoyed by 88 contestants



Marissa Clement, 13, brings in another fish.

The 2003 Jamboree Fishing Derby had 88 participants.

The longest fish was 9 inches, and was caught by Bailey Morrison of Vernonia. Eli Miller from Africa caught the most fish, 18.

Other winners, by age group, are as follows:

5 and under

1st – Jacob Butcher, Vernonia
2nd – Haydn Cieloha, Vernonia
3rd – Clint Minard, Vernonia

6 - 9 years

1st – Dan Cole, Brookings
2nd – Kala Loveless, Hillsboro
3rd – Chris Loveless, Hillsboro

10 - 14 years

1st – Tara Ostrander, Vernonia
2nd – Ben Bamburg, Vernonia
3rd – Joey Ferguson, Vernonia

The Nehalem Valley Chapter of the Izaak Walton League sponsors the annual kids' fishing derby.

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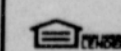
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