

G. VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS POLICY HANDBOOK

*The information outlined below was obtained from the VPA website at www.vpaonline.org as of 11/03/03.
For the most complete and updated information, please visit the VPA website.*

ACTIVITY/SCRIMMAGE LIST

2350.1 B. Number of Scrimmages

A team cannot play more than 20% of the maximum number of regular season games as scrimmages with other schools (teams) up to the conclusion of the regular season. (example: Ice Hockey permits a maximum of 20 regular season games, thus 20% of 20 means that 4 scrimmages would be maximum number permitted during the regular season.

ACTIVITY NUMBER OF SCRIMMAGES PERMITTED (MAXIMUM)

Baseball 4
Basketball 4
Cheerleading: Fall 3
Cheerleading: Winter 4
Cheerleading: Spring 4
Cross Country 3
Field Hockey 3
Football 2
Golf 4
Ice Hockey 4
Lacrosse 4
Skiing 4
Soccer 3
Softball 4
Tennis 4
Track and Field 4
Wrestling 4

During the tournament period, scrimmages are not limited, but common sense should prevail.

ASSAULT UPON OFFICIALS BY COACHES

A coach who intentionally strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other aggressive physical contact with an official before, during, or after an interscholastic contest, shall be disqualified immediately and his/her coach's eligibility may be suspended for up to one full calendar year. A coach who is disqualified under this provision shall not coach in any contest, pending a hearing before the Activities Standards Committee. The Activities Standards Committee shall determine the length of the suspension, giving due consideration to all relevant factors, including the seriousness of the offense. At the end of any suspension the coach may request the reinstatement of his/her eligibility.

At this time, the Activities Standards Committee will place the request on their next meeting agenda, at which meeting the coach and principal are required to attend. The Activities Standards Committee will make the determination whether or not to reinstate the coach's eligibility.

ASSAULT UPON OFFICIALS BY STUDENTS

Any member of the team who intentionally strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other aggressive physical contact with an official before, during, or after an interscholastic contest, shall be disqualified immediately and may be ineligible to participate in all sports for up to one full calendar year. A student who is disqualified under this provision shall not play in any contest, pending a hearing before the Activities Standards Committee. The Activities Standards Committee shall determine the length of the suspension, giving due consideration to all relevant factors, including the seriousness of the offense. NOTE: Member of the team includes player, manager, score keepers, timers, and statisticians.

ASSIGNING VPA TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

For each tournament the VPA will hire an assigner(s) to provide officials for all of the games.

- a) The fee will be \$2.00 per official plus expenses (phone, postage).
- b) The assigner(s) will be Advisory Committee members.
- c) The assigner(s) will provide a list of tournament officials to our office for approval, prior to assignments being made.
- d) The assigner(s) will provide a list of officials qualified to work tournament finals to our office, for approval, prior to tournament final assignments being made.
- e) Assignment of all officials through the semi-finals shall be by region(s).
- f) Assignment of officials for all finals will be made on the basis of the highest rated officials available without consideration of region.

BOMB THREAT EVACUATION PLAN FOR ALL VPA SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

In the event of a call or notice to the effect of a bomb threat at a VPA site the following procedures shall be immediately implemented:

1. The individual who took the bomb threat call shall stay on the line with the caller as long as possible and then immediately alert security. He/she will record in writing as much as he/she can remember of the contents of the call: the exact words of the threat, possible location of the bomb, time of detonation, type of device, any background noise, and any voice characteristics of the caller (i.e., sex, age, excitement level, ethnicity or speech peculiarities).
2. The person receiving the bomb threat shall immediately notify the VPA Staff Member and Security Staff immediately of such a threat.
3. When a bomb threat is received, a pre-arranged coded statement will be given over the public address system immediately notifying VPA Staff and Security Staff of a bomb threat potential.

4. The VPA Staff Member, Security, and Site Administration Staff shall proceed to evacuate the building immediately.
5. While spectators and participants are evacuating, security will quickly check for any unusual or suspicious items.
6. A systemized building search will be conducted by local fire and law enforcement officials in accordance with local or site policy.
7. A bomb threat shall result in all participants in the VPA sponsored event being evacuated immediately to their busses. A public announcement will be made that the activity is suspended and will be completed at a time and date to be announced by the VPA and that the site is to be evacuated immediately.
8. All contacts made by the media shall be handled by the VPA Tournament Staff Member. While every effort should be made to cooperate with the media, activities associated with assuring the safety of spectators and participants shall receive priority attention.
9. The VPA will adhere to all local policies regarding bomb threat protocols.
10. Where possible, team and spectator busses should remain on the tournament site.

COACH REPLACEMENT DURING A CONTEST

1. Prior to the start of any athletic contest the head coach must identify the adult who is designated to replace him/her in the event he/she is unable to complete the contest, i.e., illness, ejection, etc.
2. When a coach is unable to continue, his/her team shall forfeit the contest if a replacement was not named prior to the start of the contest.

POLICY ON COOPERATIVE TEAM/ACTIVITY PROGRAMS (revised March, 2002)

The Activities Standards Committee shall coordinate and approve the work of all activities, committees; interpret and enforce eligibility regulations for interscholastic activities; recommend policy changes for review and presentation to the official delegates of member schools, conduct hearings involving probable violations of the bylaws and policies; conduct Pilot and Experimental Programs with respect to any activity; and perform such other duties as necessary. Membership on the Activities Standards Committee shall be limited to official delegates of member schools. (revised)

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Bylaw or Policy, except Article II. Purposes, the Activities Standards Committee shall have the authority to conduct pilot/experimental programs with respect to any activity."

CRITERIA FOR COOPERATIVE TEAM/ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The Activities Standards Committee shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative interscholastic activities by two member schools under the following conditions:

- (a) Schools having sufficient numbers of competitors and/or schools offering that activity presently, are advised not to request the formation of a cooperative team in that activity.
- (b) A school(s) which requests a Cooperative Team/Activity Pilot Experimental Program based upon budgetary reductions in its existing program(s) will not be considered for an experimental pilot program.
- (c) The schools are located in a close geographical area with each other. Travel to practice shall not be unreasonable.
- (d) Each school participating in the cooperative activity must be a member of the Vermont Principals' Association, Inc.
- (e) The combined boy or girl enrollments in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the schools involved in the cooperative activity will be used to determine the classification of the cooperative for participation in VPA tournaments. (The only exceptions shall be ice hockey and football.)
- (f) The cooperative activity pilot/experiment agreement is established for a period of two consecutive school years.
- (g) The governing boards of each member school participating in the cooperative team agreement will jointly make the application to the Activities Standards Committee for approval of the cooperative team program.
- (h) At the end of a two-year period, the Activities Standards Committee will determine if the cooperative team program will be reviewed. An approved cooperative activity agreement will allow full participation in all Vermont Principals' Association tournament/championship activities.

All applications must include the following information:

- (1) A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of a cooperative activity.
- (2) A statement of the number of students from each of the cooperative schools expected to participate on the cooperative activity will be required.
- (3) A statement will be required detailing the number of students, if any, from each of the cooperating schools who have been participating in the activity involved, in programs offered on a non-cooperative basis by their own schools.
- (4) Written assurance that the cooperative activity will not limit or lessen participation opportunities for students in each of the cooperating schools.
- (5) Written comment to addressing the impact of the proposed activity on existing activities currently being offered in the same season.
- (6) Written comments from the league(s) in which the cooperating schools are members, and/or in which the cooperative activity will participate--or, in the event the cooperative activity will not be affiliated with a league, written approval from a minimum of six schools included in the cooperative activity's schedule of competition.
- (7) A statement signed by each principal of each cooperating school designating the name under which the cooperative activity will compete. The name of the cooperative activity shall be a combination of each school that is participating as a member of the cooperative team.
- (8) Written verification that the coach(s) shall be under the responsibility of a designated cooperative member school.
- (9) A mutually agreed upon eligibility standard will be required of the participating cooperative schools.

- (10) The Activities Standards Committee shall have the discretion to establish additional or different requirements for good cause.

DECISION MAKING POWER

The Activities Standards Committee will serve as the Cooperative Team/Activity Program Review Committee, whose power it will be to approve or disapprove all applications.

CRITERIA FOR DIVISIONAL ALIGNMENTS

- Divisional alignments will be determined by a percentage factor to insure equity between divisions and where feasible to balance member school numbers within a division.
- The ASC will review this percentage factor every two years and adjust if necessary to maintain alignment equity.

CRITERIA FOR DIVISIONAL ALIGNMENT APPEALS

The Activities Standards Committee when addressing divisional appeals must have the following required documentation submitted and signed by the principal:

- Official October 15 school count.
- Competitive record over the past two years (or more).
- Rationale why this request is being made.
- Activity offering by season.
- All divisional appeals must be filed prior to January 15th.

This required documented information submitted by the principal will help the Activities Standards Committee in rendering a decision concerning the divisional alignment appeal.

Adopted: January 25, 2001

CRITERIA FOR VPA SANCTIONING OF A NEW ACTIVITY

It is our recommendation that the following criteria be approved by the ASC for the sanctioning of any new VPA activity:

- A new activity may be sanctioned by the ten members school rule or by the ASC.
- The member school must officially sanction this activity by approving its sponsorship, jurisdiction, and administration.
- A minimum of four teams, or as determined by the ASC, will constitute the sanctioning and running of an approved VPA Tournament for the first year of the activity.
- A member school will have one (1) year to end any participation by cooperative student(s) from its roster unless a Cooperative Team Program has been officially approved by the ASC.
- The National Federation Rules will be the official rules where applicable.

DEFINITION OF A JAMBOREE

Jamboree: A jamboree is defined as a scrimmage in which a team engages two or more other teams in an exhibition which may or may not be designated to declare a winner. Total playing time must not exceed the total time allowable by the rules of the particular activity.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Every attempt will be made to develop tournament dates and sites well in advance, but with the understanding due to circumstances beyond the control of the Vermont Principals' Association, such tournament dates and sites may be subject to change and/or tournament games may be in conflict if a school has more than one team participating in post-season play.

Application for admission to a tournament is made with the understanding that if selected for a tournament, the team will participate in said tournament under the conditions as stated above.

The National Federation of State High School Associations and the Vermont Principals' Association promulgate voluntary rules of competition for athletic and non athletic activities. These rules are drafted by committees consisting of school administrators, coaches and officials. The National Federation directs each of its rules committees to adopt rules that promote and preserve the sound tradition of its sport. There is an inherent risk of major or minor injury from participation in interscholastic athletics. Therefore, the National Federation and the Vermont Principals' Association makes no representation concerning the degree of safety or suitability of the rules for any particular contest, participant or facility. All parties conducting and participating in events within these rules must assess safety issues with respect to each contest, athletic, and facility and conduct their programs accordingly.

Prior to the start of each athletic season, your athletic staff should advise your students and their parents of the inherent risks in athletic and activities programs and to obtain signed, written waivers from the students for their participation. Simply, this is good and prudent athletic/activities program administration.

DRESSING FACILITIES FOR GAME OFFICIALS

The following are recommendations for game hosts:

Schools should provide, if at all possible, private dressing facilities for the game officials employed to officiate their home contests. They should be separate from either of the participating teams with toilet and shower facilities, if possible.

No unauthorized personnel are to be admitted to the officials' locker room before, during, or after the contest. This includes friends of the officiating crew. Only the assigned officials, school administrators and VPA personnel, including official observers who may be in attendance, are to be admitted to the officials' dressing room. A sign indicating NO ADMITTANCE should be placed on

the door to the officials' locker room and be monitored so that only authorized personnel are admitted.

The host school or site administrator is directly responsible for the safety and security of all game officials before, during, and after all interscholastic contests (including the parking lot).

Game officials are to arrive on time at the site and cooperate with school officials and not to admit any of their associates or friend into their locker room. A cooperative effort between school officials and game officials will pave the way for a smooth contest and helps avoid undesirable incidents.

POLICY ON USING VPA E-MAIL/WEB SITE FOR OUTSIDE GROUPS

It is the policy of the Executive Council to restrict the use of VPA e-mail and/or the web site by outside groups unless the following criteria is fully evident to disseminate the requested material:

- The information must be of an immediate importance to the VPA Membership.
- VPA e-mail addresses will be suppressed on all e-mail messages.
- The use of e-mail addresses shall be restricted to those entities having a direct relationship with the VPA for the sole purpose of immediate and important school leadership information.

The President, President-Elect, and Executive Director shall serve as an Ad Hoc Committee to review and approve request(s) where there are questions about content.

July 1, 2003

EJECTION OF PLAYER[S] AND COACH[ES]

A player or coach who is ejected from a game for the following infractions which are behavioral in nature shall be suspended from playing or coaching the next two contests : [one contest for football, skiing, and gymnastics]

- a. Unsportsmanlike conduct
- b. Malicious contact, includes fighting
- c. Taunting [immediate ejection]

The player[s] or coach[s] may not participate at any other school level in the sport they were ejected from during the suspension. A player or coach who is ejected for a second time in a season shall be suspended for the rest of the season. All other non-behavioral ejections shall carry the penalty assessed by the rules, which govern that sport.

REPORTING OF GAME DISQUALIFICATIONS

Game officials shall use the following process in reporting a game disqualification(s):

- The official shall notify a player(s) or coach(s) that he/she has been disqualified from the contest.

- The official shall notify the commissioner/assigner that a player(s) or coach(s) was disqualified from a contest for behavioral reasons.
- The commissioner/assigner shall notify the principal or athletic director and the VPA Office within a twenty four (24) hour period as to the type of the disqualification of that player(s) or coach(s).
- In the case of out-of-state and/or sub-varsity competition a school is obligated to report as provided in reporting of game disqualifications.

MEMBER SCHOOL GAME DISQUALIFICATION REPORTING PROCESS

The member school shall be responsible for confirming the game disqualification with the VPA within forty eight (48) hours with either a verbal or written report (either method being acceptable).

ELIGIBILITY LIMITATIONS AND AMATEUR STATUS

RECRUITMENT

A school shall be deemed in violation of the rule against recruitment if a representative or agent of the school, or any individual or group associated with the athletic programs of that school, approaches a student athlete in another school, apart from a publicized meeting for all prospective students in that school, and directly or indirectly attempts to persuade or induce a student athlete to enroll in his/her school.

DO's (not all-inclusive)

1. Hold general orientation meetings for parents/students to describe school's educational and activities programs (athletic and non-athletic), administered by school's administration.
2. Hold individual meetings with parents/students to describe school's educational and activities programs that were initially requested by parents/students. These meetings shall be administered and supervised by the headmaster/principal.
3. All requests made directly to athletic director, coaches, activities advisors and boosters personnel shall be referred directly to the headmaster's/principal's office for administration and supervision (see #2).
4. Shall present the school's educational and activities programs by print (publication) and media (advertisement) as a total entity and not as a single sport, activity or athletic/activity program.
5. Scholarships, tuition aid, transportation assistance, etc. shall be administered equally throughout the student body and not awarded solely on the basis of only athletic/activities participation.

DO NOT (not all-inclusive)

1. No representative or agent of the school, or any individual or group (including players, boosters organization; alumni, etc.) associated with athletic/activities program, shall approach students in another school, outside of their school district, and attempt to persuade or induce a student to enroll in his/her school for athletics/activities.

2. No coach or agent of the school shall use various forms of rewards, such as scholarships, or free/reduced tuition, promises of play-time or college placement, special training opportunities, or free transportation, to persuade a student to enroll in his/her school for athletics/activities.
3. No coach or agent of the school shall use clinics, workshops, camps, development programs, or other special training modes to recruit a student for athletics/activities.
4. No coach or agent of the school shall publish a publication that only deals with and emphasizes athletics/activities of the school.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR HOME STUDY STUDENTS

A home study student who wishes to participate in a public school *co-curricular program shall be an “eligible student” under this section if:

- (1) The participating student is enrolled in a home-study program in compliance with Title 16, Section 166.
- (2) The participating student must have a legal residence in the school district or is a legal resident of a district that does not maintain a school and pays tuition on behalf of its students.
- (3) Participation in a school’s co-curricular activities program shall not commence until a copy of the Vermont State Department of Education Enrollment Letter is presented to the principal by the parent or guardian.
- (4) The participating student’s academic program, as referenced in the Vermont State Department of Education Letter of Enrollment, will be reviewed by the student’s parent or guardian at appropriate intervals as locally determined and consistent for all students to determine academic progress. This review and determination must be certified in writing from the parent/guardian to the principal.
- (5) Prior to the start of a sport season or fine arts and performance activities in which a home study student wishes to participate, the parent or guardian and student must notify the principal in writing that he/she wishes to participate in a school’s co-curricular activities program. Failure to provide a timely notification will not disqualify the student from participating, but may result in some delays in participation.
- (6) The student may participate in co-curricular activities sponsored by a VPA member school provided the student complies with the same physical examination, insurance, age, and any other requirements for participation as required of all students.
- (7) The home study student must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibilities and performance as other participants of the team.
- (8) Eligibility issues on all matters other than academic progress may be appealed in accordance with the bylaws of the Vermont Principals’ Association.

- (9) Consistent with law governing all student athletes, participation in co-curricular activities programs is a privilege, not a right and nothing in these eligibility standards to confer a right on any individual to participate in co-curricular activities.
- a. The proposed eligibility standards for home study students would be considered a two year transitional program beginning July 1, 1999. The VPA shall provide progress reports and recommendations to the Vermont Board of Education.
 - b. The definition of co-curricular activities for this document shall include all interscholastic and extra-curricular activities sanctioned by the VPA.

FAMILY TICKET POLICY

No family shall be denied the opportunity to see its son or daughter compete because of its individual economic need. If necessary, a school may request more than the seven (7) complimentary tickets given for each semi and/or final tournament game(s) in which the school is competing. Each school is requested to make such arrangements in advance of its tournament game.

Pre-school children accompanied by their parent/guardian will not be charged admission for any tournament game at an outdoor site. A pre-school child sitting on the lap of a parent/guardian in reserved seating will not be charged.

FINE POLICY FOR SUBMITTING INACCURATE PAIRINGS FORM

Member VPA schools who submit inaccurate pairing forms shall be subject to the following fine system:

- 1st Submission: Warning and no fine.
- 2nd Submission and Beyond: \$100.00 per occurrence up to a maximum of \$300.00 for a three-year period.

The member school principal shall be notified each time an inaccurate pairing form is submitted.

This policy went into effect July 1, 2003.

VPA POLICY REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Adopted May, 2002

A. Foreign Exchange Students

- 1) A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. to be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the U.S., such students must be under the auspices of and be placed with a U.S. host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational

Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the U.S. Department of State. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, is placed because of his/her athletic interests or abilities.

- 2) A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family. No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family.
- 3) The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the U.S. State Department.
- 4) The foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the state high school association of which the school he/she attends is a member.
- 5) The foreign exchange student may not be a graduate or have received a diploma from a secondary school or its equivalent in the student's native country, which is comparable to a Vermont secondary school.

B. Other International Student

An international student who is not under the auspices of and placed by a CSIET listed exchange program must meet the following requirements in order to be considered for interscholastic athletics eligibility in any state:

- 1) The student must possess a current F-1 visa, issued by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- 2) The student must provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official untranslated transcript and a transcript that is translated into English, by an acceptable agent or agency, which indicated work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled.
- 3) The international student must pay tuition to the high school he/she attends as prescribed in Section 625 of U.S. Public Law 104-208.
- 4) No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the resident family for the student.
- 5) The international student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the state high school association of which the school he/she attends is a member.

Non-compliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the international student ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any high school which is a member of any NFHS member state high school association.

APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY ON BEHALF OF AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT OR A FOREIGN STUDENT (2003-2004)

The Activities Standards Committee has developed a procedure for determining eligibility of exchange students. A school principal must complete this application form for any student from another country who wishes to participate in a school's interscholastic activities program. This form needs to be completed only once for the entire school year.

Name of Student _____ Date of Birth _____

Country of Residence _____

Name of Exchange Program _____

(Must be an Approved Council on Standards for International Educational Travel Program.)

Number of Years of Schooling in Native Country: Secondary ____ Years/Number of Semesters: ____
Terminal Grade Level in Home Country _____

VISA STATUS

J1 (Foreign Exchange) Government Identification Number:

F1 (International Exchange) VISA Validity Dates

*As required, tuition is being paid under Section 625 of U.S. Public Law 104-208. Yes No

The student must be eligible according to all VPA policies. Please pay particular attention to (Please circle yes or no):

- yes / no 1. Did the student graduate or receive a diploma from a secondary school or its equivalent in the student's native country which is comparable to a Vermont secondary school?
- yes / no 2. Is the student eligible to go on to higher education/technical school now (i.e., post secondary training that is comparable to a Vermont post secondary school) without returning to his/her secondary school for further education)?
- yes / no 3. Has the student enrolled in a post secondary educational program that confers degrees, certificates or diplomas?
- yes / no 4. Does the student meet all of the Vermont Principals' Association's eligibility requirements?
- yes / no 5. Is the student enrolled on a full-time basis, studying for credit toward a high school diploma (or equivalent certificate)?
- yes / no 6. Has the student participated in the same sport for more than four seasons?

yes / no 7. Did the program recruit the student for the host family based on his/her athletic ability and activities?

yes / no 8. No member of the coach's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family, unless it can be conclusively established that the placement was coincidental and had nothing to do with recruitment, athletic advancement of the student, or the soliciting of athletes by the host family.

If the answer to #1 is YES, the student is not eligible.

If the answer to #2 is YES, the student is not eligible.

If the answer to #3 is YES, the student is not eligible.

If the answer to #4 is NO, the student is not eligible.

If the answer to #5 is NO, the student is not eligible.

If the answer to #6 is YES, the student is not eligible.

If the answer to #7 is YES, the student is not eligible.

If the answer to #8 is YES the student is not eligible.

Verification By Principal (to be retained by the school unless requested):

- Photocopy of student's birth certificate or passport: yes / no
- Photocopy of the student's immigration documents including his/her visa: yes / no
- Photocopy of the translation and analysis of the student's transcript: yes / no
- Did the student participate in club/varsity athletics at last home school attended: yes / no
If yes, list the sports below and years of participation:

- A copy of the student's identification card from the sponsoring agency: yes / no
- Has the student ever received money for participation in competition? yes / no
If so, when and how much?

- Signed any type of contract with a team for any reason? yes / no
- Agreed to provide any individuals with money for assistance in the past? yes / no
If so, when and with whom?

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND MAILED TO THE VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEFORE THE EXCHANGE STUDENT CAN COMPETE IN ANY INTERSCHOLASTIC PROGRAM.

School _____ Signature of Principal _____

Eligible / Ineligible

Executive Director

GIRLS WHO PLAY ON BOYS ICE HOCKEY TEAMS

Whenever a school sanctions a Girls Ice Hockey Varsity Team as a sport, a girl(s) who is at that time a member of the boy's varsity team shall be allowed to continue on the boys team for her remaining years of high school eligibility, if she so chooses. If at any time she becomes a member of the girl's team she shall forfeit her right to again become a member of said boy's team.

Exceptions:

- * The school removes the sanction of the girl's varsity team.
- * Waivers may be granted to provide comparable opportunities for girls.

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION LIMITATION

Several schools have called the VPA Office in regard to the individual participation limitation. The following is offered as clarification. Further, our attorney indicates that we must follow the VPA policies to be consistent from one sport to another.

The present VPA policies relating to individual participation limitation are:

“Section 2. Specific Rules

- A. Each interscholastic sport activity has a maximum number of games limit exclusive of playoffs or tournaments. No school, individual, and/or individual may participate on the combined freshman, junior varsity and varsity level or equivalent that exceed the maximum number of games limit within that sport:

Baseball - maximum 16 games (16 x 7 innings = 112 innings)

Basketball - maximum 20 games (20 x 4 = 80 quarters)

“No basketball player shall play more than four (4) quarters in any day, exclusive of the need of overtime play. An overtime in a junior varsity or freshman game shall be considered a quarter. Participation in a quarter constitutes a quarter of play.”

Field Hockey - maximum 14 games (14 x 2 halves = 28 halves)

Football - maximum 9 games (9 x 4 = 36 quarters) See exceptions/Guide

Ice Hockey - maximum 20 games (20 x 3 = 60 periods)

Soccer - maximum 14 games (14 x 2 halves = 28 halves)

Softball - maximum 16 games (16 x 7 = 112 innings)

Lacrosse - maximum 14 games (14 x 4 periods = 56 periods)

Summary:

- 1) Each individual is limited in participation based on total number of scheduled varsity games or maximum VPA game limit (whichever is smaller) multiplied by number of game quarters, halves or periods.
- 2) Entry into a contest by an individual constitutes a quarter, half or period of play, regardless of length of play of the individual.
- 3) It is the responsibility of each school to record and control the participation of each student.
- 4) VPA playoffs and tournaments are not included as part of the maximum levels of regular season.

- 5) Schools are also cautioned to check their respective league rules and policies, since further restrictions may be in effect concerning individual participation.
- 6) Schools should also refer to the individual VPA Sport Guide for any rules or recommendations specific to the activity.

LATE FEES

All late fees are \$100 for first offense and \$200 for each subsequent infraction during any three year period, effective July 1, 2002.

Approved 2002

LIGHTNING POLICY

(Revised - August, 2001)

The VPA policy on lightning procedures for outdoor interscholastic activities is the following:

- When thunder is heard or lightning is seen, students and spectators must leave the field and go inside.
- Once lightning has been recognized or thunder heard, it is strongly recommended to wait at least thirty minutes (thirty minute rule) before resuming activities. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30 minute count should reset the clock and another count should begin.
- When in doubt ... use good common sense -- the safety of students is your most important responsibility.
- Stay away from tall or individual trees, lone objects, standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid tallest object in field. Do Not take shelter under a single tall tree.
- If there is no safe shelter within a reasonable distance, crouch in a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or in a dry ditch. Crouching with only your feet touching the ground and keeping your feet close together, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head to minimize your body's surface area. DO NOT LIE FLAT.
- Pay more attention to the lightning threat than the rain. It need not be raining for lightning to strike; lightning can strike far from the rainshaft.

Enclosed is a brochure put out by the Texas Medical Association Committee on Sports Medicine providing very valuable information on thunder and lightning storms.

Any further questions, please call.

TEAMS MAINTAIN ORIGINAL SEED

At the May 7, 2002, Joint Meeting of the Executive Council and Activities Standards Committee, it was voted that teams shall maintain their original seed throughout the entire tournament in all sports.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS PER DAY

In all sports with the exception of baseball and softball, schools shall schedule no more than one contest per day per team. In baseball and softball, schools may schedule double headers, provided that all other policies and bylaws are followed.

Explanation: It has generally been understood that the VPA has limited the number of contests per day to one. This is necessary to assure that young athletes do not face too much competition. The sole exception has been baseball and softball, in which weather conditions and the nature of the sport have allowed the playing of double headers.

The above policy is meant to confirm this long-held understanding.

MEMBER SCHOOL/NON-MEMBER SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Prior to the start of a sports season, not during, a VPA member school may contact the VPA office and forfeit its right to participate in a VPA tournament. By doing so, the school could play both VPA member schools, and non member schools, and compete in a tournament not sponsored by the VPA, subject to approval of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

A VPA member school who wishes to be eligible for tournament play will have the opportunity to compete with VPA member schools who have forfeited their right to participate in the tournament. Such games will count toward the number of games allowed during the season and all results will be recorded and counted as usual in the tournament application.

Rationale: The Association anticipates that most schools who opt to forfeit their right to play in a tournament will be member schools with religious or other educational affiliations. This policy allows such schools to fill a schedule and will be of great assistance to other Division IV schools who might have scheduling/travel problems.

NON-MEMBER SCHOOLS AGREEMENT TO COMPETE WITH VPA MEMBER SCHOOLS SPORT

VPA SCHOOL(S) COMPETING AGAINST:

VPA member schools will be allowed to compete in contests against non-member schools in the sports of Cross Country, Football, Indoor Track, Lacrosse, Outdoor Track, Skiing and Wrestling if the chief administrator of the non-member school agrees in writing, prior to the start of the season that:

- 1) The non-member school team shall not include a player who has reached the age of 19 before August 1 of that year.
- 2) Post-Graduate students are not allowed to compete against VPA member schools.
- 3) The length of the period played will not exceed the maximum lengths prescribed by VPA game rules.
- 4) The competition shall be conducted consistent with all VPA rules. The host school, in this case, will pay according to its agreement with their officials' organization.
- 5) National Federation playing rules shall be played in contests held in Vermont.

OUR SCHOOL AGREES TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS.

Principal/Headmaster Signature: _____

School: _____

Date: _____

If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Director/Associate Director of the VPA at the above address, e-mail address or web site.

Effective: 1/30/2003

OUT OF SEASON (INCLUDING BETWEEN SEASONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR)
SPORTS ACTIVITIES

- A. Out-of-season (including, for all purposes in this section, to also encompass the time between sport seasons during the school year) practice is not permitted under the direction of a school's instructor or coach, or student leaders. There shall be absolutely no practice during the out-of-season period for a particular sport.
- B. During the out-of-season and summer recess, the school, a school's organization (Boosters) and the like may not assist the student athlete during the out-of-season or provide, equipment, uniforms, transportation or funds related to camp or clinic attendance when the same is of a participatory nature. Sports equipment may be provided per local school policy.
- C. From the last day of school to the start of the fall season ten calendar days prior to the Fall Sports Season all restrictions under this section are rescinded. Local schools may determine to what extent the school, the coaches, and the students are to be involved in the "summer recess" program.
- D. There shall be no student practices in any sport ten calendar days prior to the official start of that season.
- E. Definitions:
 - 1. Out-of-season – all days during the school year, except for the season of the sport in question.
 - 2. Summer recess – from the last day of school in June to ten days prior to the start of the Fall Season.

APPROVED 8/2/2000

PARTIAL WAIVER OF 10 PRACTICE RULE

It shall be the policy of the Activities Standards Committee that the Executive Director/Designee may waive up to five(5) practices of the required ten(10) for student athletes who are attending military basic training during the mandatory ten (10) practice period of time. The waiver of up to five (5) practices may be made by the Executive Director upon written request of the school principal and upon receipt of the physical training log signed by officers in charge of the physical training.

Rationale:

Young men and women serving in our military should have some flexibility as the military training schedule is not something under their control. The objectives of the ten (10) practice rule include physical training and team building skills. Team members should attend at least five (5) practices for team building skills.

The principal has the option to apply for 1-5 days relief depending on the policies of the school.

PAST DUE ACCOUNTS

It is the policy of the Executive Council to charge past due accounts of 60 or more days a one-percent interest late fee per month.

This interest charge may be waived due to extenuating financial circumstances.

July, 2003

POLICY ON STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The VPA depends on its member schools. Each member school has the responsibility to educate student athletes, coaches, parents, staff and the community on how VPA rules and regulations could affect them. Each member school is responsible for its own compliance with the VPA Rules and Regulations.

Final responsibility for compliance rests with the Principal. While we understand that Principals must frequently rely upon the work of their coaches and athletic directors, the ultimate responsibility for assuring compliance cannot be delegated. It rests with the Principal.

The Principal should be the official representative of the school at all hearing in appeals. Frequently, hearings in appeals require questions that can only be answered by the person who is ultimately responsible for the administration of VPA Rules and Regulations. Thus, the responsibility to represent the school at hearings and appeals cannot be delegated unless prior approval has been provided by the VPA.

No student shall represent a school in an interscholastic athletic activity under the VPA's Public Participation Policy unless the Principal of the school sponsoring the team certifies the student's eligibility under the forms required through the VPA Affiliation Agreement. In order to make this certification, the Principal of the school sponsoring the team has the responsibility of confirming with the Principal from the sending school that at all times the student maintains athletic eligibility under the policies of the sending school for items such as behavior, scholastic progress, continued enrollment, and any other applicable local policies.

December, 2002

Approved 8/2/2000

CHANGES TO THE VPA POLICY ON PROTESTS ARTICLE VI. PROTEST PROCEDURES

Section 1. School Sponsored Activities

- A. Unfortunate circumstances and misunderstandings can and should be resolved between the Principals/Headmasters of the schools involved.

- B. If the Principals/Headmasters of the schools involved are unable to arrive at a resolution to the problem, a principal will:
1. Notify the President of the league, in writing, filing a copy with the Executive Director of the VPA.
 2. If the dispute is not league related, the Executive Director/designee will be available to mediate the disagreement.

Section 2. VPA Sponsored Activities

- A. In all activities sponsored by the VPA, athletic and non-athletic, the following will be the procedure for handling protests and grievances:
1. Any protest relative to any aspect other than the actual activity will be settled by the observer. Should there be no observer assigned or present the host principal will make the necessary decisions.
 2. Any protest relative to the activity will be settled by the chief official. If no official has been designated as chief official by the Council, the referee or the official so designated by the playing rules will be considered the chief official. In any athletic activity where protest procedures are provided in the playing rules these procedures will be followed. Only playing rules of the rule book/guide governing that activity being protested are protestable.
 3. The director of any activity or the coach of any team desiring to lodge a protest during the actual activity or game must notify the chief official, referee, umpire, and the opposing coach that the contest is going on under protest. If a protest has not been made as set forth in the rule book or guide, no protest may be lodged.
 4. Should the Principal of any school wish to appeal the ruling, based on the misapplication of a rule, made by the chief official, observer or host principal, The Principal must contact the VPA office within 24 hours. The Executive Director/Associate Executive Director will conduct an investigation requiring written reports, if deemed necessary, and will render a decision.
 5. Any protest to be made of a decision by the VPA office shall be by telephone communication within twenty-four (24) hours. It will be the Executive Director/ Associate Executive Director's responsibility to contact the other members of the protest committee and to obtain statements from all concerned.

The following will constitute the protest committee:

- a. The President of the Association
- b. The President-elect of the Association
- c. The Executive Director of the Association
- d. The Chairman of the Committee concerned
- e. An additional principal from the committee concerned and not one of those listed above

- f. Alternates shall be appointed by the President to serve in place of any of the principals listed above whose school is involved in the protest or grievance or who have any conflict of interest.

The decision of the protest committee shall be final.

Adopted May, 2002

**CERTIFICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM FOR
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE ON OTHER PUBLIC HIGH
SCHOOL'S EXISTING TEAMS AT THE VARSITY LEVEL ONLY**

As an experimental program for the school years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, public high school students may participate on another public high school's teams, provided that the following criteria are met:

Application Process:

1. The involved schools have submitted a written request for participation on another school's team to the VPA Executive Director sixty days prior to the start of each sport season to allow adequate time for reviewing the application. The VPA will process late applications, but cannot assure that review will be completed in time for the season. The VPA will only approve requests that satisfy all of the criteria of this experimental program. _____ Yes _____ No
2. There is a written agreement between each participating school that has been approved by the respective school boards (and is reflected in the boards' official minutes), principals, superintendents and athletic directors. The agreement must explicitly authorize the participation. _____ Yes _____ No . Copies Enclosed: _____ Yes _____ No.
3. The agreement must state that the schools have considered compensation from the sending school. Compensation can be in the form of an exchange of opportunities in other programs, or any other form that the schools agree to. If compensation is agreed to, the agreement shall describe the compensation. Will compensation be a part of the program: _____ Yes _____ No. If yes, please describe:

Substantive Requirements:

4. The experimental program only applies to team sports (i.e., Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis and Wrestling). Students can continue to participate as individual competitors in all other sports under existing standards. What sport: _____.
5. The athlete must meet all eligibility requirements otherwise established by VPA rules and both of the involved schools. Confirmed: _____/ _____(Initialed)
6. There must be no athletic recruitment of the student athlete. No coach, booster, or person involved with the athletic department should directly or indirectly solicit students from other schools for this program. Confirmed: _____/ _____(Initialed)
7. The sending school may not offer the team sport in which the student wishes to participate. Confirmed: _____/ _____(Initialed)
8. In sports in which the VPA sanctions separate championships for boys and girls (Basketball, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, and Soccer), a student athlete may request participation if the student's school does not offer the sport to his or her gender. (All schools should provide athletic programs that provide appropriate opportunities to both genders.) _____ Yes _____ NA

9. In order to assure that the sending school is generally meeting its responsibilities to provide activities for student athletes, the sending school must be a member of the VPA and offer at least one-half of the team sports activities sanctioned by the VPA (at least six activities). Boys and girls teams in the following sports shall be counted separately as single sports in both the calculation of the sports offered and the potential sports to be offered: Basketball, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, and Soccer. Confirmed: _____/_____ (Initialed)
10. There must be no displacement of student athletes from the school sponsoring the activity from spots on the team. Thus, the school sponsoring the team either must maintain a varsity no-cut policy for the team in question, or have less than the normal complement of players required for a team who are enrolled in the sponsoring school. If a school maintains a sub-varsity program(s), it is not eligible to accept athletes from other schools. For purposes of this rule, the normal complement of players required for a team shall be the following for each of the listed sports. Confirmed: _____/_____ (Initialed)

- * Baseball -- 15
- * Basketball -- 12
- * Field Hockey -- 18
- * Football -- 38 (8 player football -- 30)
- * Ice Hockey -- 20
- * Lacrosse -- 20
- * Soccer -- 20
- * Softball -- 15
- * Tennis -- 9
- * Wrestling -- (unfilled weight classes only)

Students from sending schools shall comprise no more than twenty percent of the normal complement for each team as listed above. The maximum numbers are listed below:

- * Baseball -- 3
- * Basketball -- 2
- * Field Hockey -- 3
- * Football -- 7 (8 player football -- 6)
- * Ice Hockey -- 4
- * Lacrosse -- 4
- * Soccer -- 4
- * Softball -- 3
- * Tennis -- 2
- * Wrestling -- (unfilled weight classes only)

11. In the event that a sponsoring school receives more requests for placement on a particular team than the slots that are available, the sponsoring school shall allocate the available slots through a lottery. (Each sending school will first conduct its own lottery so that it is not applying for more than the allowed slots.) A school may not award the slots based on ability or peer pressure. What lottery system will be used?
12. The student athlete must comply with the standards for behavior, academic progress (or its equivalency), and training of the sponsoring school's team, in addition to all similar standards of

the sending school. There is no guarantee of participation in a receiving school program.
Confirmed: _____/_____(Initialed)

13. The sending school and sponsoring school shall jointly assume all legal liabilities for students participating in this program. Confirmed: _____/_____(Initialed)

Evaluation:

14. The Activity Standards Committee shall evaluate this program in the summer of 2004 and prepare a report concerning whether to continue or modify this program. The VPA shall solicit comments from the membership, educators, coaches, athletic directors, students, and the public at large on the report. The VPA shall then determine whether to continue or modify the program.

Divisional Alignment:

15. In establishing divisional alignments, the appropriate VPA committee shall consider any existing programs and their impact on fair competition. In reviewing applications under this program, the VPA shall review the application with the affected sport's committee and may revise the divisional alignment as a condition of approval if appropriate to preserve fair competition.

Principal

School

Date

List of required documents enclosed for policy consideration:

- Letter of request to the Executive Director (sixty days prior to the start of the sports season.)
- Approved written agreement and copies of the approved Board minutes.
- Compensation agreement, if applicable.
- Lottery system description, if applicable

*This policy may be subject to immediate revisions as need dictates.

RAFFLES

50/50 raffles will be allowed at any Vermont Principals' Association finals (championships) and the semi-final contests in football, ice-hockey and basketball; plus divisional qualifiers in wrestling and track/field, when these events are held at school sites.

A POLICY OF RELIGIOUS NON-PARTICIPATION BY STUDENTS

The Activities Standards Committee has been asked on many occasions to provide advice to its membership regarding the scheduling of school activities so as not to conflict with religious holidays. The ASC advises that it is not within its province to oversee the school/league calendars of the individual school districts throughout the state. In planning VPA state activities the ASC attempts to avoid conflicts with major religious holiday, SAT testing dates, or other major activities of statewide importance. The ASC therefore, urges that the individual schools be sensitive to the social and religious mores of their individual communities and that they plan their school and student activities calendar so as not to conflict with the extra-school needs of large numbers of students, or to place them in the extreme position of having to choose between their religion and a major school activity.

- 1) Each participant will make for himself/herself the decision to play or not play in a game scheduled on a religious holiday. He/she will inform the coach of his/her decision well in advance of the date.
- 2) The coach will levy no penalty of any kind on the player for missing the game because of religious reasons whether psychological pressure(shaming) or practical (not permitting the player to play in subsequent games).
- 3) The school will ensure that both players and coaches know of and understand this policy well in advance of the season.

The VPA strongly urges local school districts to adopt this policy.

VPA RULES COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

It is important that the total rules writing program of the Vermont Principals' Association operate within the basic philosophies which are in the best interests of our member schools and students. By authority of the VPA Constitution, the Executive Council is responsible for the final selection of members to serve on VPA sports rules committees with the advice of the Activities Standards Committee.

After each committee has adopted their recommended changes for the subsequent year, such revisions will be evaluated by the Activities Standards Committee to determine if proposed changes conflict with the established standardized criteria for all VPA sport rules committees.

The Activities Standards Committee shall either approve or disapprove rule changes. Any changes disapproved will not be rewritten by the Activities Standards Committee but referred to the rules committee.

It isn't the purpose nor intent of the Activities Standards Committee to substitute its judgment for that of rules committee members; however, it is their responsibility and obligation to see that high school sports rules are within the basic philosophy desired by our member schools.

A. Guidelines for Use by the Activities Standards Committee When Evaluating Each Change:

1. Does it affect the safety, health or welfare of the participants?
2. It is contrary to the general policy or roles of the VPA/NFHS?
3. Is it a matter that rightfully is the prerogative, or should be left to the discretion of the Activities Standards Committee.
4. What is the financial impact on member schools.
5. Is the rule enforceable?
6. Is the rule practical?
7. Is it an over-reaction to one or two reported incidents?
8. When applicable, is it consistent with the philosophy of other rules codes?
9. Are there legal ramifications or precedents to be found in other sports?
10. If it is a major change:
 - a. What is the rationale behind the change?
 - b. Was there any previous experimentation with the rule?
 - c. Was it previously a recommendation or point of special emphasis?

B. Basic Categories of Rules Changes Which Will Be Brought the Attention of the Activities Standards Committee are major changes which include:

1. Safety
2. Meet, game or contest administration, including:
 - a. Scoring
 - b. Participation limitations
3. Equipment, facilities, and uniforms, including:
 - a. Pads, braces and jewelry
 - b. Aids for the handicapped individual
4. Officials:
 - a. Officials' jurisdiction
 - b. Officials' uniform
 - c. Required number of officials
 - d. Disqualification, penalties, and unsportsmanlike conduct

5. Exceptions or optional modification

The Executive Council is confident each sports rule committee will function within the established guidelines. If, in the opinion of the Activities Standards Committee there are conflicts, they will be resolved by procedures established by the Executive Council.

SCHEDULING TOURNAMENT GAMES ON SUNDAY

The Vermont Principals' Association will allow the scheduling of VPA tournament play only under all the following circumstances:

- Weather conditions resulted in a postponed Saturday game.
- Both principals agree to such Sunday participation.
- Any game must be scheduled not begin prior to 1 p.m.

This policy applies to all VPA games in the tournament structure.

VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
2 PROSPECT STREET, SUITE 3
MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602

**SCHOOL AFFILIATION APPLICATION AND STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY
CERTIFICATION
July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004**

On behalf of _____, I hereby apply for affiliation with the
Name of School
Vermont Principals' Association for the current year. It is understood that we are entitled to all
privileges and services of the Association.

VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION FORM

Each participating school in the Vermont Principals' Association must assure the eligibility of all
student athletes who participate in VPA sanctioned activities on behalf of the member institution.
This form provides certification for each member institution that it has reviewed the eligibility of its
students, and that the students are eligible under the rules of the Vermont Principals' Association.

_____ (insert name of member institution) hereby certifies that it
has reviewed the eligibility of each of its participating students for the 2002-2003 school year. The
member institution further certifies that each of its participating students meets the eligibility rules of
the Vermont Principals' Association, specifically including all eligibility rules set forth in the
Principals' Council on Student Activities Bylaws and all related standards. The member institution
further certifies that each of its participating students has received the appropriate approval of a
medical professional to participate in student activities, and has also provided acceptable proof of
medical insurance or other health benefit coverage as required by the Vermont Principals'
Association Bylaws.

The member institution further certifies that it maintains a roster of all eligible students, including
their date of birth, date entered grade nine, age, and class that can be provided to the Vermont
Principals' Association upon request.

The member institution further certifies that all coaches (grades 9-12) have completed or are in the
process of completing a NFHS Coaching Education Program for this coming school year.

The member institution further understands that the use of an ineligible participant in any
competition may result in penalties including but not limited to forfeiture of the contest.

The undersigned principal hereby signs and completes this certification on behalf of the member
institution.

Dated at _____, this _____ day of _____, 2003.

Signature of Principal: _____

Schools not returning this form to the VPA office by Sept. 5th will be assessed a \$100 late fee.

SKI SCHOOL PARTICIPATION IN VPA SANCTIONED SKIING ACTIVITIES

Policy Rationale:

This proposed policy deals with an omission in our present policies regarding ski school competition in VPA skiing activities. At some point, a section was omitted that prohibited ski schools from participation in our skiing events. This proposed policy will prevent such participation and correct the omission.

Policy Statement:

No ski school/academy which emphasizes skiing activities shall be allowed to participate in any VPA skiing (nordic/alpine) or snowboarding activity sponsored by the VPA.

ADOPTED JANUARY 25, 2001 SPORTS SEASON REPORT

The following report has been approved by the Activities Standards Committee in establishing the sports seasons for the school year 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. Since our last Sport Season Report, two major changes have impacted the sports seasons:

- Each sports season will be established by the Activities Standards Committee. (Scheduling of Sports Season)
- Prior to the start of each sports season, ten(10) practices must be held with no more than two(2) practices being allowed to count in any one day. (General Rules - I.)

These two policy changes have allowed greater flexibility regarding the VPA Sports' Seasons.

Fall Season (Years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004):

- The season shall start at the same time for both boys and girls, except for football. Football practice will begin on August 12, 2002 and August 11, 2003.
- For all other sports, practice for both girls and boys may begin not prior to August 19, 2002 and August 18, 2003.
- The first countable game cannot be before the first Wednesday after Labor Day for Division 3 and 4 boys and girls soccer and field hockey. The first countable game for Division 1 and 2 boys and girls soccer, football and cross country cannot be before the first Friday after Labor Day. Ten(10) practices must have been held prior to the first game. (General Rule - 1.)
- For the two year period, beginning in the fall of 2002, the following tournaments will be scheduled during the last weekend in October (October 25-26, 2002 and October 24-25, 2003):
 - Field Hockey
 - Girls/Boys Soccer (Division 3 and 4)
- The girls'/boys' Divisions 1 and 2 soccer and cross country tournament will be scheduled for the first weekend in November during this two year period (November 2, 2002 and November 1, 2003).

- The football tournament for all divisions will be scheduled for the second weekend in November during this two year period (November 8-9, 2002 and November 7-8, 2003).

Winter Season (Year 2002-2003):

- For the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 year, staggered girls-boys basketball tournaments will be scheduled:
 - Girls' tournament semi-finals and finals will be held during the last week in February and first week of March (March 3-8, 2003 and March 1-6, 2004).
 - Boys' tournament semi-finals and finals will be held during the second week of March (March 10-14, 2003 and March 8-13, 2004).
- The first countable game for girls will not be before the first Friday after the Thanksgiving recess. Ten(10) practices must have been held prior to the first game. The start date for the girls' season is as follows:
 - November 18, 2002
 - November 17, 2003
- The first countable game for boys will not be before the first Friday after the Thanksgiving recess. Ten(10) practices must have been held prior to the first game. The start date for the boys' season is as follows:
 - November 25, 2002
 - November 24, 2002
- Ice Hockey practice will begin next year (2002-2003 and 2003-2004) with the start of the girls' season. Boys and Girls' ice hockey will start on November 18, 2002 and November 17, 2003.
- Girls/Boys semi-finals and finals: (February 24-March 1, 2003)
- Girls/Boys semi-finals and finals: (February 23-February 28, 2004)
- Wrestling, Indoor Track and Skiing shall begin on November 25, 2002 and November 24, 2003.

Spring Season (Year 2002 and 2004):

- The spring season shall begin on the second Monday after the boys' basketball tournament finals have been held:
 - March 24, 2003 (Pitchers and catchers can begin on
 - March 22, 2004 March 17, 2003 and March 14, 2004
- The first countable game cannot be before the second Friday in April. Ten(10) practices must have been held prior to the first game:
 - April 11, 2003
 - April 9, 2004

- The Spring Tournament Championships will follow the same week schedule as in past years.

Lacrosse Finals (Boys and Girls)

- June 7, 2003
- June 5, 2004

Softball and Baseball Finals

- June 13-14, 2003
- June 11-12, 2003

SPORTSMANSHIP: DISQUALIFICATIONS

Sportsmanship:

If the game disqualification is administered in the final contest of the season (including tournament play), the penalty shall be carried over in that sport and invoked at the first regular season game the following academic year. If a disqualification is administered to a graduating senior or coach (jv or varsity) in the final game of that year, the disqualification will carry over into the first game(s)/event(s) in the next sport season. If a player or coach does not compete in an interscholastic sport for the remainder of the school year, it is expected that the school take appropriate disciplinary action and report same to the VPA .

* This decision cannot be appealed to the Activities Standards Committee as it considered to be a judgment call by a game officials

TOURNAMENT AWARDS POLICY

At the state finals, championship trophies and finalist plaques will be awarded. Members of the two finalist teams will receive an individual medal.. Teams desiring more medals than provided in the official roster may purchase additional medals by making arrangements with the VPA Office.

Activity Trophies/Plaques Medals Individual Awards

Winter Season

BASKETBALL

Boys 4 Champ.Trophies 20 Champ.
4 DIV. 4 Finalist Plaques 20 Finalist
Div. I, II, III, IV Div. I, II, III, IV
4 Sportsmanship
Div. I, II, III,IV

BASKETBALL

Girls 4 Champ.Trophies 20 Champ.
4 DIV. 4 Finalist Plaques 20 Finalist

Div. I, II, III, IV Div. I, II, III, IV
4 Sportsmanship
Div. I, II, III, IV

CHEERLEADING

(G) 3 Champ. Trophies Div I - 18 Champ/18 Finalist
3 DIV. 3 Finalist Plaques Div II - 18 Champ/18 Finalist
Div. I, II, III Div III - 14 Champ/14 Finalist

GYMNASTICS Ribbons places 1-6 for each event for each div. Ordered by VPA

(G) champ Trophy 10 Champ.
2 Div. Finalist Plaque 10 Finalist

HOCKEY

(B) 3 Champ. Trophies 35 Champ.
3 DIV. 3 Finalist Plaques 35 Finalist
3 Sportsmanship
Div. I, II, III Div. I, II, III

HOCKEY

(G) 2 Champ. Trophies 35 Champ.
2 DIV. 2 Finalist Plaques 35 Finalist
Div. I, II, III Div. I, II, III

INDOOR TRACK Ribbons places 1-6 for each event. Ordered by VPA

(B & G) 2 Champ 20 Champ.
No DIV. 2 Finalist 18 Finalist
Entrance fee charged No Division No Division

SKIING(ALPINE) Top 10 each event

(B & G) 2 Champ. Trophies 22 Champ Ordered by host school
NO DIV. 2 Finalist 24 Finalist Schools are billed.

SKIING(NORDIC) Top 10 each event

(B & G) 4 Champ. Trophies 4 champ. Ordered by host school
2 DIV. 4 Finalist Plaques 44 Finalist Schools are billed
Div. I & Div. II Div. I & II

SNOWBOARDING

(B & G) 2 Champ Trophies 20 Champ
2 Finalist Plaques

WRESTLING Top 6 each weight class VPA Orders

NO DIV. 1 Champ Trophy 18 Champ.
Entrance fee charged 1 Finalist Plaque 18 Finalist
No Division No Division

DEBATE

No. Div 1 Varsity Champ 6 Champion
1 Varsity Finalist 6 Finalist
1 Novice Champ. 4 Champ
1 Novice Finalist 4 Finalist

FORENSICS

No Div. 1 Champ Trophy 6 Champion
1 Finalist Trophy 6 Runner-Up

SCIENCE FAIR 45 Medals

No. Div. 15 Superior
30 Excellent

Spring Season

BASEBALL

4 Div. 4 Champ.Trophies 24 Champ.
4 Finalist Plaques 24 Finalist
Div. I, II, III, IV Div. I, II, III, IV

SOFTBALL

4 Div. 4 Champ.Trophies 24 Champ.
4 Finalist Plaques 24 Finalist
Div. I, II, III, IV Div. I, II, III, IV

BOYS LACROSSE

Div I & II 2 Champ.Trophies 30 Champion
2 Finalist Plaques 30 Finalist
Div I & II Div I & II

GIRLS LACROSSE 2 2 Sets

Div I & II 2 Champ.Trophies 30 Champion
2 Finalist Plaques 30 Finalist
Div I & II Div I & II

GOLF Ordered by VPA

10 NE Qualifier

BOYS (DIV. I, II, III) 3 Champ.Trophies 6 Champ

3 Finalist Plaques 6 Finalist
Div. I, II, III Div. I, II, III

GOLF Ordered by VPA

10 NE Qualifier

GIRLS (DIV. I & II) 2 Champ.Trophies 4 Champ

2 Finalist Plaques 4 Finalist
Div. I, II Div. I, II

TRACK & FIELD Ribbons(1-6) each event, ordered by VPA
(Boys) 3 Champ.Trophies 33 DIV I Champ
3 DIV. 3 Finalist Plaques 30 DIV II Champ
Entrance fee charged DIV. I, II, III 25 DIV III Champ

TRACK & FIELD Ribbons(1-6) each event, ordered by VPA
(Girls) 3 Champ.Trophies 30 DIV I Champ
3 DIV. 3 Finalist Plaques 28 DIV II Champ
Entrance fee charged DIV. I, II, III 25 DIV III Champ

TENNIS
(Boys) 2 Champ.Trophies 15 Champ
Div. I & II 2 Finalist Plaques 15 Finalist
Div. I & II Div. I & II

TENNIS
(Girls) 2 Champ.Trophies 15 Champ
Div. I & II 2 Finalist Plaques 15 Finalist
Div. I & II Div. I & II

GEO-BEE
Grades 7 & 8 1 State Champ 7 Champ
5 Regional Champ

Fall Season

CROSS COUNTRY
(B & G) 6 Champ. 6 Champ. Top 10 each Division
Div. I, II, III
3 DIV. 6 RFinalist 6 Finalist
Div. I, II, III Div. I, II, III

FIELD HOCKEY
3 DIV. 3 Champ. 25 Champ
3 Finalist 25 RFinalist
Div. I, II, III Div. I, II, III

SPELLING
GRADES 5 & 6 1 State Champ 7 Champion
GRADES 7 & 8 Grades 5 & 6 Grades 5 & 6
1 State Champ 28 Finalist
Grades 7 & 8 Grades 5 & 6
5 Regional Champ 7 Champion
Grades 5 & 6 Grades 7 & 8
5 Regional Champ 28 Finalist
Grades 7 & 8 Grades 7 & 8

FOOTBALL

4 Div 4 Champ. Trophies 45 Champ.

4 Finalist Plaques 45 Finalist

Div. I, II, III, IV Div. I, II, III, IV

BOYS SOCCER

4 Div. 4 Champ Trophies 26 Champ

4 Finalist Plaques 26 Finalist

Div. I, II, III, IV

GIRLS SOCCER

4 Div. 4 Champ. Trophies 26 Champ

4 Finalist Plaques 26 Finalist

Div. I, II, III, IV

TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

All Tournament Fundraising Activities sales are under the exclusive authority of the Vermont Principals' Association. Only those vendors approved by the VPA Office will have the authority to sell items at a VPA Tournament Event.

The VPA shall have the right to charge a percentage of the gross sales or to waive fees.

TOURNAMENT INCIDENTS REPORTING PROCESS

This policy is to clarify the process of reporting ejections, threats to officials and other incidences for occurrences at VPA Tournament games, from play-ins through finals.

- 1) Any of the above infractions will be reported to the assignors as soon as possible, no later than 24 hours.
- 2) The assignor shall report the incident(s) as soon as possible, within 24 hours, to the VPA Office.
- 3) Our office may require a written report to have the issue on file.
- 4) The VPA Office will conduct any investigations and assess penalties.

Approved 8/2/2000

Effective 8/2/2000

TOURNAMENT WITHDRAWAL POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Activities Standards Committee that a \$50 fee shall be assessed to schools who withdraw from tournament competition after the competition pairing schedule has been set.

A fee is charged in consideration of expenses incurred, impact on the structure of competition, and arrangements made for sites.

VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION
2 PROSPECT STREET, SUITE #3
MONTPELIER, VT 05602
(802) 229-0547 FAX: (802) 229-4801

**BY LAW ARTICLE ELIGIBILITY SECTION
TRANSFER RULE WITHOUT A CHANGE OF RESIDENCE AFFIDAVIT**

Student Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN AND STUDENT

The reason(s) for this transfer are as follows:

We certify the purpose of this transfer is not for the participation in interscholastic athletics. Furthermore, no student, parent, teacher, or coach has made contact (either written or oral) prior to the transfer with the purpose of persuading the transfer to be one of participation in athletics.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

TO BE COMPLETED BY RECEIVING SCHOOL

Our school has reviewed the transfer and certifies that (1) the purpose of the transfer was not done for the participation in athletics within the definition of Section: Transfer Rule, and here has been no recruitment of this student by anyone connected with our school and our athletic program.

Principal Signature

Athletic Director Signature

School Date _____

AFTER COMPLETION MAIL TO SENDING SCHOOL

TO BE COMPLETED BY SENDING SCHOOL

_____ (student name) has not transferred from our high school to _____ (receiving school) High School for the purpose of participation in interscholastic athletics and, to the best of our school's knowledge there has been no recruitment of this student by anyone connected with the receiving school or its athletic program.

Principal Signature

Athletic Director Signature

School Date _____

After completion mail or fax a copy to the VPA Office. A decision will then be made by the Executive Director or designee.

VPA ACTION: Request Approved Request Denied

Executive Director Date _____

WAIVER OF MANDATORY MOUTHGUARD LIABILITY

All participants in certain sports must wear mouthguards. The purpose of the rule is reducing the risk of serious injury. A participant may only be excused from the rule if the participant provides his/her school with a signed, written statement from a medical doctor documenting that some medical condition prevents the participant from wearing a mouthguard.

In addition to providing the signed physician statement, both the legal guardian and the athlete must sign this waiver form. By signing this form, the parent and guardian assume all risk of injury related to the decision to participate without a mouthguard. The parent and guardian agree that they are waiving any claim against the school, the Vermont Principals' Association, and anyone else on account of an injury related to participating without a mouthguard.

Mouthguards are important safety devices. Participants shall use them unless it is a true medical necessity. Participants and their legal guardians should only sign this waiver if they are aware of the risks, and the importance of mouthguards. By requiring this waiver, the VPA hopes that guardians and students will fully consider the risks of playing without mouthguards.

Date: _____

Legal Guardian/Parent: _____

Student Athlete: _____

December, 2002

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