

ADDITION OR ELIMINATION OF HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAMS OR SPORTS

The Albemarle County School Board believes that high school interscholastic athletics are an important component of the School Division's overall high school program and an important way in which the School Division meets its Mission for educating young people.

High school principals and athletic directors shall be responsible for the periodic review of high school athletic offerings to determine if a particular team or sport needs to be added or eliminated. Recommendations for elimination of programs will be based on the established criteria outlined in the Administrative Procedure to this policy. These recommendations will be referred to the School Board through the Superintendent for disposition. The Superintendent shall also provide his/her own recommendation to the Board in such cases.

Recommendations for the addition of teams or sports shall also be made through the high school principals and athletic directors using the application form included as an Exhibit to this policy. Recommendations will be forwarded to the School Board through the Superintendent for disposition. The Superintendent shall also provide his/her own recommendation in such cases.

School Division staff or community members may initiate the process to consider the addition of a team or sport through an individual high school principal and athletic director. The process to complete the required application will include all Albemarle County high school principals and athletic directors and other staff and community members, as appropriate. This process will be concluded within sixty (60) calendar days of its initiation.

If a recommendation to add or eliminate a team or sport is not accepted by the School Board, a reconsideration cannot be initiated until one year after School Board disposition, unless otherwise determined by the Board.

Recommendations to add or eliminate a team or sport that are not recommended through this process will be sent to the Superintendent and School Board for information. Requests to add a team or sport that are ultimately approved by the School Board will not be implemented for at least six months after Board approval to allow adequate time for planning, unless otherwise recommended in the application. If a team or sport is eliminated, the change will take effect during the next season for this program, unless otherwise determined by the School Board.

Approved: June 28, 2001
Reviewed: October 25, 2012

ADDITION OR ELIMINATION OF
HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAMS OR SPORTS

A. Addition of a High School Interscholastic Team or Sport

The following process shall be followed to consider the addition of a high school team or sport:

1. The application form provided as an Exhibit to this policy must be completed, regardless of whether consideration is initiated by staff or community members. If community members initiate the consideration, community members shall also be part of the process to complete the application. The process to complete the application will be concluded within sixty (60) days.
2. The completed application shall be forwarded to the Superintendent with a recommendation for disposition. The Superintendent shall forward the completed application to the School Board with his/her own recommendation if the recommendation is to add a team/sport.
3. The School Board shall receive the completed application and take action to approve or not approve the addition of the proposed team/sport.
4. If the recommendation on the application is not to add the proposed team/sport, the application shall still be forwarded to the School Board through the Superintendent for information.
5. If a recommendation to add a team or sport is not accepted by the School Board, a reconsideration cannot be initiated until one year after the School Board's decision, unless otherwise determined by the School Board.
6. If the School Board approves the addition of a team/sport, the new program will not be implemented for at least six months after approval to allow adequate time for planning.

B. Elimination of a High School Interscholastic Team or Sport

The following process shall be followed to consider the elimination of a team or sport:

1. During the periodic review of the high school athletic program by high school principals and athletic directors, the elimination of a team or sport may be considered.

2. If the elimination of a team or sport is considered, the following criteria shall be utilized to develop a recommendation:
 - Loss of Virginia High School League sanction
 - Effect on Title IX compliance
 - Significant reduction in participation
 - Reduction in possible competitors
 - Availability or increased cost of facilities
 - Availability of officials
 - Availability of qualified coaches
 - Safety issues
 - Cost factors
 - Other
3. A recommendation to eliminate a team/sport shall be submitted to the Superintendent by the high school principals and athletic directors utilizing the form provided as an Exhibit to this policy.
4. The Superintendent shall forward this recommendation to the School Board along with his/her own recommendation.
5. The School Board shall take action on the recommendation. If the recommendation to eliminate a team/sport is accepted by the School Board, the decision will take effect during the next season for this team/sport, unless otherwise directed by the School Board.
6. If a recommendation to eliminate a team/sport is not accepted by the School Board, a reconsideration cannot be initiated until one year after the School Board's decision, unless otherwise determined by the School Board.

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Application for Addition of a High School Interscholastic Team/Sport

This application shall be completed by high school principals and athletic directors, along with other staff and community members, as appropriate. Provide additional pages if necessary.

1. Team/Sport Proposed _____
2. Season _____
3. Is this sport sanctioned by the Virginia High School League? _____
4. How will adding this team/sport affect Title IX compliance?

5. Are there other competitors in the district, region, or geographic area based on information from the VHSL? If yes, where?

6. Is there evidence of local student interest in this team/sport (youth programs, etc.)? Provide specific examples.

7. What positive and/or negative impact might this team/sport have on participation in existing teams/sports?

8. Are facilities available on site for this team/sport? Would this team/sport require using middle school facilities? If facilities would need to be rented for this team/sport, what would be the projected yearly cost?

9. Are there particular health and safety and/or risk management issues involved with this team/sport? If so, delineate them.

10. Describe the availability of qualified coaches for this team/sport. Would it generally be necessary to utilize non-school employees as coaches?

11. Describe the availability of qualified officials and other necessary support personnel for this team/sport?

12. If this team/sport was approved for implementation, what would be the timeline to do so? Specify if the timeline would include a phase-in.

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Recommendation to Eliminate a High School Interscholastic Team or Sport

1. Team/Sport _____
2. Season _____
3. Reason(s) for recommendation – Check applicable reason(s) and provide explanation as appropriate. Attach additional sheets if needed.

_____ Loss of Virginia High School League Sanction

_____ Title IX Compliance

_____ Significant Reduction in Participation

_____ Reduction in Possible Competitors

_____ Availability or Increased Cost of Facilities

_____ Availability of Officials

_____ Availability of Qualified Coaches

_____ Safety Issues

_____ Cost Factors

_____ Other

	Name	Title
Submitted by:	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Superintendent's Recommendation:
