



## Arlington Public Schools Athletic/Co-Curricular Participation Agreement

Participation in athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege. Arlington Public Schools recognizes the value of athletic and co-curricular activities and how it supports the development of well-rounded adults while addressing students' interests and aptitudes.

**Student Behavior and Disciplinary Responsibilities:** APS encourages students to behave in a manner that promotes a positive learning environment. APS disciplinary policy prohibits bullying, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and abuse, substance use, and other negative and potentially illegal behaviors. These policies are outlined on the APS website and in the APS Handbook. Students may be disciplined for violation of APS disciplinary policy while on school premises, in proximity to school premises, when coming to or going from school, while on school-owned and operated school buses or on chartered buses, while engaged in an approved and supervised activity on or off school premises, and when the good order, safety or welfare of the school or its students is affected as a result of the out of school action. A student participating in APS athletics and/or co-curricular activities who violates an APS disciplinary policy may, in addition to other disciplinary action, be suspended or expelled from participation in APS athletics and/or co-curricular activities, as determined by the appropriate APS staff member.

**Concussions and Students:** Concussions can occur in any sport or activity. A student who is identified as having, or is suspected of having, a brain injury will be removed from practice/game and not allowed to return unless cleared by a licensed health care provider as identified by *The Code of Virginia §22.1-271.5*. An athlete should not return to physical activity while still experiencing symptoms since the brain is particularly vulnerable to further injury and more permanent damage or even death. Concussions are managed best by a multi-disciplinary approach that includes the student-athlete, parent, school and medical personnel. By our signatures below, we (the student and his/her parent or guardian) acknowledge receipt of, and certify that we have read in its entirety and understand, "Concussion Fact Sheet" provided by the Arlington Public Schools which is also found at the secondary school's web site. We further understand that if we have any questions about the information we can contact the high school athletic trainer or director of student activities, or the middle school student activity coordinator. The high school athletic trainer has the final decision on the athlete's return to play status.

**Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk:** We, the student and parents or guardians who have signed this form, consent to the athletic and/or co-curricular activity participation agreement and transportation through Arlington Public Schools. We agree to follow the rules and instructions of the APS Handbook, the student's school, the coaching staff, athletic trainers and the Virginia High School League (VHSL) and to abide by their administrative decisions. We agree to and understand the many risks involved in participation. We understand that injuries requiring medical attention, serious injuries, permanent disability or death can result from such participation. Further, because athletic participation involves shared facilities, equipment and physical contact, student are at increased risk for exposure to communicable diseases and skin infections. I choose to voluntarily accept all such risks. With the full understanding of the risks involved, we agree and accept all responsibility for the student's safety, health and welfare while participating in athletics and student activities.

This form should be signed by both the student and parent(s) or guardian(s).

BY SIGNING BELOW, I STATE THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTOOD BY ME. I ACKNOWLEDGE ITS TERMS AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THEM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Failure to sign this agreement does not exempt a student from the school's responsibility to enforce the agreement.*