

Van Buren High School – Athletic Department
DUAL – SPORT PARTICIPATION POLICY

RATIONALE

Van Buren High School seeks to provide quality co-curricular athletic opportunities for its students. Some students have talents and abilities which they desire to contribute to more than one team in a particular athletic season and both the student-athlete and respective teams can benefit from the dual participation in the athletic season.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN DUAL – SPORT ACTIVITIES DURING THE SAME SEASON

1. Students are allowed to participate in two co-curricular athletic activities during the same season. Students wishing to participate in two sports during the same season will need to obtain a request form from the Director of Athletics and follow the guidelines set forth by the athletic department involving dual-sport participation.
2. Student involved with dual-participation is not allowed to participate in “open gyms / fields” as well as other non-school competition in another sport on the same day that they are participating in a school sponsored co-curricular athletics activity without permission from the head coach of the sport in which they are currently participating and the Director of Athletics.

POLICY FOR DUAL – SPORT PARTICIPATION

1. A student-athlete who wishes to participate in two sports during the same season must designate a primary sport a minimum of two weeks prior to the beginning of the official practice start date for each sport involved as determined by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
2. A primary sport is defined as the sport which takes precedence over another sport in the event there is a conflict of schedule or any other matter that could lead to a conflict. The student-athlete must adhere to the primary sport in the event of any and all conflicts of schedule. If one sport has a contest and the other has a practice, the contest will take precedence. As such, primary sport practice takes precedent over secondary sport practice.
3. The student-athlete and parent/legal guardian must sign a contract of dual-sport participation and submit to the Director of Athletics a minimum of two weeks prior to the first practice session he or she attends.
4. The student-athlete must practice, as close as possible to an equal amount of time in both sports. The amount of practice time for each sport must meet the agreed upon requirements of the head coaches of those sports involved. A practice and contests schedule, detailing the primary and secondary sports will be agreed upon by all parties involved, no less than one week prior to the start of practice for each sport.
5. The student-athlete is not allowed to leave the primary sport practice to attend secondary sport practice without the approval of both the primary sport and secondary sport head coach.
6. There will be no punishment for the student-athlete by either sport for missing practice / contests for either sport if proper procedure is followed. If there is not a direct conflict of practice of the primary sport, the student-athlete is required to attend the secondary sport practice. If missing practice for either sports results in the student-athlete not being proficient enough to perform up to academic, and team/coach standards, then participation in contests may be reduced or removed up to the coach's discretion and with approval from the Director of Athletics.

If at any time the student-athlete does not get approval for the above-mentioned items, they will / can be disciplined by the primary sport coach. During the disciplinary period, the student-athlete will not be allowed to participate in any practice / contests for the secondary sport. Any discipline handed down by the Athletic Department will be applied to both the primary and secondary sports. For example: Student A is suspended for two weeks for drug use; that suspension to be served for both the primary and secondary sport.

7. Dual-participation approval may be denied at any time during the athletic season due to concerns over academic and health related concerns of the student-athlete involved.
8. The Director of Athletics or designated Administrator will serve in the capacity of an advisor and final judge on all matters concerning dual-sport participation.

Van Buren High School – Athletic Department
DUAL – PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Student-Athlete: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Primary Sport: _____ Head Coach: _____

Secondary Sport: _____ Head Coach: _____

We, identified as signed below, understand that we are committing to each sport listed above by the following guidelines listed (attached). In case of an unforeseen conflict, the coaches involved will be the determining factor in regards to deciding whether the student-athlete will attend. In such a case that the coaches cannot come to an agreement the Director of Athletics will be the person to have the final decision. The student-athlete and or their parent / guardian will not be able to pick and choose what practice(s), contest(s), or event(s) they do or do not want to attend.

Signatures Required _____

Student-Athlete: _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Primary Sport Coach: _____ Date: _____

Secondary Sport Coach: _____ Date: _____

Director of Athletics: _____ Date: _____

Van Buren School – Athletic Department
DUAL – PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Generally speaking, a student-athlete will be allowed to play only one sport per season. However, if an student-athlete has requested dual – participation, then the following guidelines should be adhered to:

1. Coaches involved with the dual – sporting possibility should meet and discuss any concerns with the Director of Athletics regarding the following, but not limited to, items:
 - A. How will the participation affect the academic work load of the student-athlete?
 - B. How will the participation affect the physical well-being of the student-athlete?
 - C. How will the participation affect other members of both teams involved?
 - D. How will the student-athlete divide their time between practices and events?
2. Meeting with Student-Athlete, Parent / Guardian, both Head Coaches and Director of Athletics (*Must occur a minimum of two weeks prior to practices beginning*)
 - A. Discussion focused on the pros and cons of dual – sport participation.
 - B. Get input from all involved regarding the reasoning behind attempting dual – sports.
 - C. Discussion and explanation of Policy.
3. Student-Athlete will determine a primary sport and secondary sport, upon the understanding of the the policy set forth for dual – sport participation.
4. Calendar Review
 - A. Before the student-athlete begins practice with either the primary or secondary sport, each respective sports coach must identify their calendar / practice requirements.
 - B. Student-Athlete and all parties involved will identify the practice / event benchmarks to be met prior to approval of the dual – participation.
5. Approval
 - A. Once the respective policy and guidelines have been addressed and accepted by all parties involved, the dual – sport participation agreement must be signed and dated.
 - B. After signatures are collected by all parties involved, the student-athlete can begin.

Van Buren High School – Athletic Department
DUAL – PARTICIPATION GUIDE FOR THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

1. **COMMUNICATION** with both coaches is **ESSENTIAL**
 - Coaches should be kept abreast of all circumstances in the holistic sense of interscholastic athletics: academics, clubs / activities, personal well-being, etc.
2. **CONFERENCE EVENTS**
 - If there are two conference events on the same day, the primary sport takes precedence over the secondary sport (refer to accepted dual-sport calendar).
3. **PRACTICES**
 - Each sport practices differently, as well as each sport affects the physical and mental nature of the student-athlete differently. Do not over exert and overwhelm yourself.
4. **TEAMMATES / MOMENTUM**
 - Do not let teammate's, coach's, sport momentum or other things influence you going from one sport and not the other.
 - The Calendar agreement is the plan. Stick to it. Obviously, there may be changes due to things out of your control, but the agreed plan will give you the best foundation for stability.
5. **COMMUNICATION.....AGAIN**
 - If you get overwhelmed, frustrated, or feel pressured, come talk.
 - We are trying to provide the best possible experience for you while providing the best experience for the other student-athletes in the respective programs as well.