

Use of School Gymnasiums

Hardy County Schools recognize the capital investment the community has made in its school facilities. The community has entrusted to the members of the Board of Education the responsibility for the care of their schools, keeping them free of vandalism, misuse, and purposeful destruction. In order to fulfill the trust given to them, the following guidelines shall be followed by all those using our school gymnasiums.

1. Athletic activities held in school gymnasiums must implement and adhere to the following guidelines:
 - Balls used for baseball/softball activities must be non-wound, non-marking balls with synthetic leather, referred to as flex balls.
 - Mats for baseball/softball activities must be used and follow these guidelines:
 - 6' x 12' mat with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch foam backing used for activities involving the pitcher, batter, and catcher.
 - 15'W x70'L Batting Tunnel Turf Mat with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch foam backing used for the batting cage.
 - A mat will be placed under the portable pitcher's mound.
 - Track will use gymnasium facilities for conditioning.
 - Running shoes will be worn.
 - Practice for shot put and discus will be held outside.
 - Football will use gymnasium facilities for conditioning.
 - Gym shoes will be worn.
 - Pads will not be worn.
 - Kicking and Punting will be practiced outside.
 - Tennis will use gymnasium facilities for conditioning.
 - Tennis shoes will be worn.
 - Bleachers will be pushed in at all times, with mats placed on bleachers where appropriate to prevent damage. Bleachers /bleacher stairways cannot be used for conditioning or training.
 - Balls will not be thrown in line of windows or doors with windows.
 - Gym shoes will be worn at all times for all sports activities.
 - Basketball baskets will be raised at all times, with the exception of basketball.
 - Mats behind the basketball baskets will be protected during all sports practice, with the exception of basketball.
 - Gymnasium doors must be covered with protective material to avoid damage during activities that present the possibility that damage could occur.
2. Only the appropriate clothing/equipment designated for the athletic event may be used on the gymnasium playing floor.
3. Physical education activities that are traditionally played in school gymnasiums may be played under the direction of the physical education teacher. Non-traditional physical education class activities, including but not limited to football, baseball, and softball, are to be played on appropriate outside spaces under the direction of the teacher.

4. Tobacco products, controlled substances, and weapons are not allowed to be in the school gymnasium.
5. Care must be taken to use the steps/aisles when finding seating in the bleachers to avoid damage to the bleacher seats.
6. All equipment must be stored in appropriate spaces after the closing of an athletic event by the coach, athletic director, or game manager.
7. The gymnasium floor must be cleaned thoroughly after the closing of an athletic event by the coach, athletic director, game manager, or custodian.
8. All restrooms available for the athletic event must be inspected for cleanliness at the closing of the athletic event by the coach, athletic director, game manager, or custodian. Areas needing to be cleaned must be dealt with prior to closing the building for the event.
9. The gymnasium and all relevant doors/windows must be secured at the end of the athletic event by the coach, athletic director, or game manager.
10. All behaviors of athletes and spectators are to be monitored for disruptive incidents, and appropriate action shall be taken by the athletic director, principal, or game manager to maximize the safety of others.
11. Damages occurring due to neglect of supervision, misuse of the facility, and/or not following guidelines for the use of the gymnasium will be assigned to the appropriate group or individual(s) for payment of repairs or replacement.

SOURCE: Board of Education Minutes

DATE: October 6, 2014 – April 6, 2015 – August 7, 2023