



SPORTS

feature writing contest

So you wanna be a sports writer?

FIELD HOCKEY

At 135, a little more than a third of VHSL member schools sponsor field hockey programs. All told, almost 5,000 high school students across the state participated in the sport during the 2010-11 school year.

CHEER

At 213, the number of VHSL schools with cheer programs is more than quadruple the number of schools with boys cheer programs (49). All told, over 4,700 high school students across the state participated in the sport during the 2010-11 school year.

VOLLEYBALL

At 300, the number of VHSL schools with girls volleyball programs is more than quadruple the number of schools with boys volleyball programs (65). All told, over 8,000 high school students across the state participated in the sport during the 2010-11 school year.

FOOTBALL

Of the 313 schools that made up the Virginia High School League in the 2010-11 school year, 305 of them had football teams; 20 of those schools had girls on their squads! All told, over 25,000 students participated in football — and 22 of them were girls!

BASKETBALL

More high schools in Virginia sponsor basketball programs than any other sport. Of the 313 schools that made up the Virginia High School League in the 2010-11 school year, 313 of them had basketball teams with over 17,000 students participating!

With this degree of popularity, there are hundreds of players, teams, coaches and schools that have human interest stories worthy of being shared. Or perhaps it's the water boy, the team mascot or the fans that are more compelling at your school? Either way, we want to hear funny stories, sad stories... poignant stories of triumph and tribulation.

So what's your story?

The writer submitting the winning story will: (1) have his/her story published in the 2014-15 VHSL State Championship Souvenir Program, (2) receive their winning story on a commemorative plaque and (3) receive admission for four to the VHSL State Championship games for which the story was written.

ENTRIES MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
NOV. 1, 2014

ENTRIES MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
OCT. 25, 2014

ENTRIES MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
NOV. 3, 2014

ENTRIES MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
NOV. 8, 2014

ENTRIES MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
FEB. 16, 2015

Submission Requirements & Info

All contest entries must include: (1) a feature story of any length, (2) a headline, (3) an original, digital photograph of at least 300 dpi and (4) a caption. Please indicate photo courtesy if it is not the same as the story writer.

Contest is open to all students enrolled in a publication (newspaper, newsmagazine, literary magazine or yearbook) or creative writing program.

The Sports Feature

For the purposes of this contest, Human Interest/Personality Feature is defined as a story that focuses less on current events and hard facts and more on culture and individual people, often with an emphasis on human emotion. Student reactions are emphasized.

Submissions may also be of an In-Depth/Informative nature, focusing on important events or issues that directly affect the audience, or information of little immediate news value but of interest to readers. This type of writing will use reliable, well-informed sources and include student reactions.



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OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES & ENTRY FORM

1. Participating students must be enrolled and in good standing at a VHSL member school.
2. Entries are limited to one per student per contest (field hockey, cheer, volleyball, football, basketball); however, the number of entries per school is unlimited.
3. All entries must have been written by students during the school year in which the contest is conducted.
4. All entries must include a feature story of any length (submitted electronically as Word or PDF document); a headline; an original, digital photograph of at least 300 dpi (submitted electronically in jpg, gif, tif or bmp format); and a caption. Please indicate photo courtesy if it is not the same as the story writer.
5. Only entries which are submitted with the official entry form, complete and properly certified by the school principal and received by 5 p.m. on the deadline date will be accepted. Submit entries to Lisa Giles, VHSL Assistant Director at lgiles@vhsl.org. Inquiries may also be directed to Lisa Giles at 434.977.8475.
5. All submission materials are subject to editing and will not be returned.

School Name: _____

Address: _____

Adviser Name: _____ Contact Phone #: _____

Student Name: _____

Program Student is Enrolled in:

_____ newspaper _____ yearbook _____ magazine _____ creative writing

Photographer Name (if not same as student writer): _____

Contact Name and E-Mail Address of Local Paper: _____

Principal's Certification: _____

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE, 1642 State Farm Boulevard, Charlottesville, Virginia 22911, 434-977-8475, 434-977-5943 Fax

Although the League has no desire or intention to act as a censoring agency, it does recognize a responsibility to maintain reasonable standards of responsible journalism. The League believes that plagiarized, slanderous and/or libelous statements and/or obscenities should not be part of a contest submission. Submissions containing such content (whether obvious, coded or disguised) will be disqualified.