

# Awards

## SECTION 130: RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT.

**130-1-1 Purpose-**League awards are intended as recognition of the achievements of both schools and individuals rather than as rewards for participation. It is hoped that this recognition will stimulate interest and participation in the League program, but the emphasis is upon the values in achievement rather than upon the values of the awards themselves.

**130-2-1 Types of Awards-**The League shall present the following types of awards:

(1) **School Awards-**For presentation to those schools whose teams or individual contestants win championships and for schools whose teams win second place in events in which second place is selected.

(2) **Individual Awards-**For presentation to individual contestants who win specified places in state competition and to members of teams in specified activities whose schools receive trophies for first or second place in state competition.

(3) **Academic Excellence Awards-**The League has established a VHSL Academic Excellence Awards program in order to recognize individual participants in Virginia High School League activities who excel in the classroom.

(4) **Special Recognition-**For recognition of outstanding service to the League by individuals and institutions.

## SECTION 131: SCHOOL AWARDS.

### 131-1-1 State Competition:

(1) A gold trophy will be awarded to each school whose team wins first place in state competition and, where such runner-up and third place positions are selected, to each school whose team wins second place or third place in such competition.

(2) A gold trophy cup will be awarded to each school whose entry wins first place in state competition among Creative Writing Folders.

(3) A gold trophy cup will be presented to each school awarded first or second place at the State Theatre Festival.

(4) A mounted, engraved certificate will be awarded for Trophy Class newspapers, newsmagazines, yearbooks and magazines.

(5) Certificates for First, Second and Third Place newspapers, magazines, newsmagazines and yearbooks.

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### **131-2-1 Championship Engraving Plates:**

(1) A school whose team or individual contestant wins a state, regional or district championship may purchase a championship engraving plate from the League Office for attachment to the school's achievement plaque, in addition to whatever other award the school may have received for the accomplishment. This privilege is extended only to schools whose teams or individual contestants win championships and not to runners-up. The order for the engraving plate must be accompanied by a check for \$3.50 payable to the League.

(2) These bronze plates measure 2 1/4 inches by 1 inch. They include a circle inset indicating the activity in which the championship was won. They have polished beveled edges. Space is provided in which to engrave appropriate names and scores. The year should be engraved at the top and divided with the first two digits on the left and the second two on the right. Plates are drilled and furnished with screws for mounting.

**131-2-2 Engraving-**Championship engraving plates will be presented without engraving. Schools receiving the plates shall be responsible for such engraving as they desire.

### **SECTION 132: INDIVIDUAL AWARDS.**

**132-1-1 Types of Individual Awards-**The following types of awards will be given to individual contestants:

(1) Medals will be awarded to individual winners of specified places in the following state competitions: Cross Country, Debate, Golf, Gymnastics, Tennis, Track, Wrestling, Essay, Poetry, Short Story and Forensic Activities.

(2) Medals will be awarded to members of teams whose schools receive trophies for first and second place in such state competitions as Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Debate, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Theatre Festival and Volleyball.

(3) Medals will be awarded to members of teams whose schools receive trophies for third place in such state competition as Cross Country, Gymnastics and Golf.

(4) Principals having special reasons for awarding more than the allowed number of medals to team members may write to the Executive Director explaining the circumstances and enclosing a check payable to the League for the number of additional medals requested at the rate of \$1.50 each.

(5) Schools whose students receive such medals shall be responsible for whatever special engraving is desired.

### **SECTION 133: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS.**

**133-1-1 Nomination and Selection-**Students would be eligible for a VHSL Academic Excellence Award by meeting the following criteria:

(1) Students must comply with all VHSL eligibility standards during the period of the award (i.e., the sports or activities season).

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(2) For athletic activities, including cheerleading, the student must be a varsity letter winner in a VHSL sponsored sport.

(3) For League programs of debate, drama, forensics, creative writing and publications, candidates must be varsity letter winners or meet an equivalent degree of participation in their respective activity as determined by their adviser and principal.

(4) Students must achieve a minimum composite grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale based on results from a grading period as determined by the school principal.

**133-1-2 Certificates of Recognition**-Upon request of a member school principal, the League would make available VHSL Academic Excellence Award certificates suitable for presentation to students qualifying for this honor.

### **SECTION 134: SPECIAL RECOGNITION.**

**134-1-1 Executive Committee Desk Piece**-May be presented to any individual who has served on the VHSL Executive Committee.

### ***Policy Manual 134-1-1***

**134-1-2 VHSL Regional Award of Merit**-Each region may nominate one administrator, including athletic/activity directors; one coach of any VHSL sport; and one contributor (officials, academic activity advisers or directors, media and others) for a total of three people who have positively impacted high school activity programs at the district, regional or state level that year. All regional nominees will receive VHSL recognition.

**134-1-3 VHSL Lifetime Achievement Award**-Individuals will be recognized for long-standing service of at least 15 years and exceptional dedication to the Virginia High School League or its programs as administrators (including athletic/activity directors), athletic coaches or contributors (officials, academic activity advisers or directors, media and others).

**134-1-4 VHSL Torch of Honor**-The League's highest honor recognizes service above and beyond the call of duty. In evaluating nominees, consideration will be given to outstanding service to VHSL at the regional and/or state level beyond that mandated by regular employment, service to other professional organizations, innovation in developing new programs or expansion of existing programs, and other evidence of exceptional service to high school activity programs over a period of at least five years.

**134-1-5 Nomination and Selection**-Nominations for the VHSL Regional Award of Merit will be forwarded to the Executive Committee by each region. Anyone may submit to the Executive Committee a nomination for a person to receive either the Lifetime Achievement Award or the Torch of Honor. Each nomination must be accompanied by a statement giving full details supporting the nominee's qualifications as relating to the criteria for recognition. The Recognition Committee will review all nominations and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for Lifetime Achievement and Torch of Honor. The Executive Committee will recognize all regional nominees for the Award of Merit and all approved recipients of Lifetime Achievement and Torch of Honor at the annual fall membership meeting. Outgoing members of the Executive Committee will be recognized at their final official Executive Committee meeting.

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**SECTION 135: DISTRICT AND REGIONAL AWARDS.**

**135-1-1 Program of Awards**-Each district and regional council shall adopt a program of awards for winners of district and regional competition. If trophies are awarded in such programs, they shall be in conformity with the League's program at the state level.