

WCSK Radio Guidelines for D-B Radio Club – 2017-18

Only 2 people (no more!) will be allowed in the control room for a shift. When your shift is over, you must leave unless you have other supervised activities in the building. There will not be 4-5-6 people in studio at any time.

Absolutely no guests in WCSK radio without approval from Jeff Hall.

Only radio club members with SIGNED PERMISSION FORMS will be allowed in WCSK studios, unless approved by Jeff Hall.

The outside WCSK door stays locked.

- a. If you have an airshift at 3:00, you must use the entrance from math pod (beside Ms Drozdowski's room). That means if you leave the building, you might not be allowed to re-enter!
- b. If your airshift begins at 4:00 or 5:00, you may wait quietly in the outside room and do your homework, etc. However **you will not interrupt or interfere with other people's shows!** No loud noises, wrestling, etc! If you can't follow this rule, I will ask you to leave!!
- c. The only reason you should be out in the math pod is for the restroom. (that's it!)

Music

- a. You may **only** play music that's already loaded in **WCSK / Tunetracker computer**
- b. You **may NOT** play music from CD, I-pod, Internet, iphone, or any other device!
- c. Any new music must be brought in on a flash drive and a complete printout of song lyrics must be provided for possible consideration. **(5 DAYS ADVANCE NOTICE)**
- d. All songs must be free of indecent language and bad content!

e. "Clean" versions of songs might not always be allowed! Depends on content and interpretation of the edit.

f. Jeff Hall has final authority whether a song is approved / disapproved.

WHEN YOU ARE IN WCSK studio, you are in an FCC Licensed facility with STRICT RULES AND POTENTIAL FINES IF NOT FOLLOWED.

Please assume a microphone is live at all times!! You are not to curse, use profanity, and no horseplay anywhere! *IF I HEAR CURSING OR INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE ANYWHERE IN WCSK STUDIO, OFFICE, OR OUTER LOBBY, I WILL ASK YOU TO LEAVE.*

Vandalism or misuse of school or station property in a manner inconsistent with school policy is prohibited.

Never make up stories and present them as news. Laughing during news is a serious offense.

Do NOT air phone calls or use the station phones to "prank call" someone. Promotion of a prank call violates FCC rules, and WCSK and YOU could be severely fined.

WCSK does not air phone calls at any time. There few exceptions to this rule. Any phone call must be first cleared with Jeff Hall.

Phone conversations on cell phones are not to be aired!! If cell phone usage and texting becomes a distraction, I may ask you to put them away until your shift is complete.

Do not use the airwaves to gripe or grumble about a product, a person, a teacher, a school rule, etc.

Remember, WCSK is owned by the Kingsport City School district. Radio personalities rarely criticize their station's owner without serious repercussions.

Keep your on air talk short (no more than 30-seconds at a time!)....to the point...about the music or school happenings.

Think about what your going to say before you 'crack' the mic!! Please avoid rambling. (again, 30-second talk segments!)

We do not discuss politics, religion, or sexual preference on the air.

Songs must be allowed to play out. *If you purposely kill a song in the middle, this will be seen as a serious offense. This hurts the on-air sound of the radio station and will not be tolerated.*

The only legitimate reason for ending a song early is inappropriate content (which will not happen!) or a computer glitch.

DO NOT SING TO A SONG. No matter how good of a singer you may think you are, the general public does not want to hear YOU.

NO FOOD OR DRINKS IN CONTROL ROOM !!!

Clean up after yourself. Throw trash away.

My office computer is not accessible for student use.

Improperly formatted or inappropriate material placed on the computer will be deleted. Any files in the computer remain the property of WCSK radio and may not be deleted for any reason. **Computer settings / preferences are not to be altered!**

Alcohol or tobacco products of any kind are not to be used on school grounds or in the station at any time. Any prescription or over-the-counter medication should be stored in the clinic according to school policy.

Never steal or borrow school or station property. I will turn you over to school police officer if you do!! You will be prosecuted. If you need to borrow equipment, check with station manager, Jeff Hall.

FCC LAW

Broadcast of obscene, indecent, and profane programming. Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1464, prohibits the utterance of “any obscene, indecent or profane language by means of radio communication.” Consistent with a subsequent statute and court case, the Commission's rules prohibit the broadcast of indecent material during the period of 6 a.m. and 10p.m. FCC decisions also prohibit the broadcast of profane material between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Civil enforcement of these requirements rests with the FCC, and is an important part of the FCC's overall responsibilities. At the same time, the FCC must be mindful of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Section 326 of the Communications Act, which prohibit the FCC from censoring program material, or interfering with broadcasters' free speech rights.

What makes material “obscene?” Obscene speech is not protected by the First Amendment and broadcasters are prohibited, by statute and regulation, from airing obscene programming at any time. According to the U.S. Supreme Court, to be obscene, material must meet a threeprong test: (1) an average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the material, as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest (i.e., material having a tendency to excite lustful thoughts); (2) the material must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable law; and (3) the material, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. The Supreme Court has indicated that this test is designed to cover hard-core pornography.

What makes material “indecent?” Indecent material contains sexual or excretory material that does not rise to the level of obscenity. For this reason, the courts have held that indecent material is protected by the First Amendment and cannot be banned entirely. It may, however, be restricted to avoid its broadcast during times of the day when there is a reasonable risk that children may be in the audience. The FCC has determined, with the approval of the courts, that

there is a reasonable risk that children will be in the audience from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., local time.

Therefore, the FCC prohibits station licensees from broadcasting indecent material during that

period. Material is indecent if, in context, it depicts or describes sexual or excretory organs or

activities in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards for the

broadcast medium. In each case, the FCC must determine whether the material describes or

depicts sexual or excretory organs or activities and, if so, whether the material is “patently

offensive.” In our assessment of whether material is “patently offensive,” context is critical. The

FCC looks at three primary factors when analyzing broadcast material:

(1) whether the description or depiction is explicit or graphic;

(2) whether the material dwells on or repeats at length descriptions or depictions of sexual or

excretory organs; and

(3) whether the material appears to pander or is used to titillate or shock.

No single

factor is determinative. The FCC weighs and balances these factors because each case presents

its own mix of these, and possibly other, factors.

What makes material “profane?” “Profane language” includes those words that are so highly

offensive that their mere utterance in the context presented may, in legal terms, amount to a

“nuisance.” In its [Golden Globe Awards Order](#) the FCC warned broadcasters that, depending on

the context, it would consider the “F-Word” and those words (or variants thereof) that are as

highly offensive as the “F-Word” to be “profane language” that cannot be broadcast.

WCSK practices a 24 hour safe harbor policy. Never use obscene or indecent language or play obscene or indecent material on the air. Do not use obscene or indecent sound effects on the air. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A MISTAKE HERE WHEN IT COMES TO THIS POLICY!!!

DEFAMATION, LIBEL, AND SLANDER

Defamation is a false statement about a person or group; when it's spoken, it's called "slander."

When it's written it's called "libel." Slander could be comments or stories told at a meeting or party. Libel could be a newspaper article or TV / Radio Broadcast. Anything that injures a

person's reputation can be defamatory. You tell your friends that the boss is unfair.

That's

slander of the boss. You write a letter to the newspaper saying a politician is corrupt.

That's libel

of the politician, even if it's not published. You say on radio or TV that a building was badly

designed. That's libel due to the imputation that The architect is professionally incompetent, even

if you didn't mention any names. Tennessee laws govern the exact definition, and legal remedies can impose very heavy fines on the station and the license holder (Kingsport City

Schools). If an on-air individual defames anyone, a tape copy or transcript of the slander must be

provided to that party within 7-to-10-days. Exceptions are people in the public eye and foreign

dignitaries.

UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATIONS AND REBROADCASTS

The program content of another broadcast station may not be re-broadcast without receiving

WRITTEN consent. This rule includes taping music for re-broadcast on WCSK-FM.

A little known rule in this very important category is that "point-to-point" communications may not

be broadcast UNLESS AN EMERGENCY EXISTS. One cannot broadcast a message to just one

group, i.e., a DJ cannot use air-time to talk to his / her mother or a particular friend. This rule

exists because radio is for general broadcast as opposed to personal information exchanges,

while common carrier services, (such as the telephone companies,) are ONLY legally empowered to deliver point-to-point communications.

COMMERCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WCSK-FM is a non-commercial broadcast station. We are NOT permitted to make commercial announcements of any kind. We may make underwriting announcements and collect money or services from the party "sponsoring" the announcement. We have an underwriting / business sponsorship plan now in place.

PAYOLA & PLUGOLA

The acceptance of cash, travel, gratuities, etc for playing certain records or "plugging" certain products is prohibited. Accepting payola could result in heavy fines and imprisonment for the licensee and the person(s) involved.

CONTESTS AND PROMOTIONS

It is illegal to mislead an audience about station-conducted contests. The rules must be made clear from the very beginning and the station must follow the rules to the letter. Everyone must have an equal chance of winning and the contest must not endanger anyone, i.e., avoid search contests that could cause people to look in dangerous places. Special logging procedures apply for contests. Violation of contest rules, once established, could result in license revocation and fines. As a result of the stringent regulations regarding contests, only those approved by Jeff Hall may be broadcast.

**LEGAL ID'S are required at the top of each hour.
Our Legal ID is: " 90.3 FMWCSK.....KINGSPORT "**