

2019 ~ 2020

Dawson ISD
Extra Curricular Handbook

ADOPTED BY THE DAWSON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 26, 2019

Dawson Independent School District

Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct

I. Extracurricular Activities

The term “extracurricular activities” means, without limitation, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, academic clubs (NHS and Academic UIL), special interest clubs (FFA, and FCCLA), dramatic productions (OAP), student government (Student Council), and any other activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the District. The term includes any non-curricular event and membership or participation in groups, clubs, and organizations recognized and approved by the Board of Trustees and the school district and sponsored by the district or a campus. All extracurricular activity participants, including elected and appointed officers of all campus organizations, is subject to the provisions of this *Extracurricular Code of Conduct*.

II. Jurisdiction

Student participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged. Dawson ISD makes extracurricular activities available as an extension of the regular school program, with this important difference: participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, while participation in the extracurricular program is a privilege that carries additional expectations for acceptable conduct. Students engaging in extracurricular activities represent not only themselves, but also other students and the school district when performing, competing, or participating in extracurricular activities and while wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies students to the community or public in any setting as Dawson ISD students. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total Dawson ISD student body at all times and places.

Important goals of the extracurricular program are to give students direction in developing self-discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority, and healthy living habits.

Because participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, Dawson ISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants of extracurricular activities than it would for those students who choose not to participate in these activities. Therefore, this *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* extends beyond the *Dawson ISD Student Code of Conduct* not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. This *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* will be enforced with all students grades K-12 participating in extracurricular activities:

- regardless of whether school is in session;
- regardless of whether the offense occurs on or off school property or at a school-related event;
- regardless of whether the student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;

- regardless of whether the extracurricular activity is in-season; and
- regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the *Dawson ISD Student Code of Conduct* will incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his or her coach or sponsor for the same particular violation. It is also possible that a student participating in extracurricular activities could violate the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* and be subject to discipline by a coach or sponsor without having violated the *Dawson ISD Student Code of Conduct*.

III. Conduct Expectations

The following conduct is expected of all participants. Failure to meet these expectations can result in disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor:

- Student commitment to a team or organization is expected for the entire season or activity. Students are encouraged to participate in more than one extracurricular activity; however students who participate in more than one extracurricular activity are responsible for notifying coaches/sponsors/directors of any conflict and to obtain permission before attending/participating one event over another. Students who quit one activity, especially before the conclusion of the activity's season, may be prohibited from participating in other activities at both coaches'/ directors'/sponsors' discretion to be mediated by the campus principal.
- Students who participate in extracurricular activities that involve competition among schools and school districts will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. This includes behavior toward visiting teams or hosting teams as well as the opponent's fans. Dawson ISD participants will be noted for clean, tough, competitive play. Praise your opponents and play beyond your ability.
- Students should arrive to practices (including workouts), meetings, and events on time and prepared.
- Students who cannot be present for a practice (including workouts), meeting, or event should call the coach, sponsor, team captain, or club president as soon as they are aware that they will be absent. Each activity will decide when missed practices, meetings, or workouts will be made-up; however, disciplinary action may still be taken if a participant is absent excessively during a semester.
- Injured or ill students who are unable to participate, but are able to attend a practice (including workouts), meeting or event are required to dress appropriately and sit or stand with the rest of the group.
- Students are required to show respect at all times to coaches and sponsors.
- Students should refrain from wearing hair styles or hair colors that draw attention to themselves. Male students participating in sports are required to be clean shaven.
- Students should follow the rules promulgated in the *Dawson ISD Student Code of Conduct*. Failure to do so may result in additional disciplinary measures related to the student's participation in extracurricular activities as determined by the coach or sponsor.

IV. Prohibited Conduct

Dawson ISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited at all times from:

- possessing, smoking, selling, or otherwise using tobacco products;
- possessing or using drug paraphernalia;
- possessing, selling, or delivering to another person look-alike drugs or items represented to be drugs or contraband of any kind;
- possessing, selling, giving, delivering to another person, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, a controlled substance, or any dangerous drug;
- engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to glue, aerosol paint, or volatile, mood-altering chemicals;
- engaging in serious misbehavior, as that term is defined in the Dawson ISD Student Code of Conduct;
- attending any event at which underage drinking, smoking, or drug use is occurring (students will be allowed a slight concession for an amount of time long enough to determine that a violation is occurring and to leave the premises);
- riding in a vehicle containing alcohol unless a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult is present and aware of the presence of the alcohol;
- stealing;
- conduct that causes injury or harm to persons or property;
- using profanity, lewd or vulgar language, or obscene gestures;
- fighting;
- any conduct resulting in arrest and/or citations from law enforcement officers;
- inappropriate touching including “making out” in public places, sexual gestures, or exposing parts of the body that are ordinarily covered up in public;
- inappropriate behavior in public places.

V. Procedures

The coach and/or sponsor will determine whether an *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violation has occurred.

Upon determination of an *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violation, the following individuals will be notified:

- the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s); and/or
- the appropriate school counselor to provide counseling, support, and guidance in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs, mood-altering chemicals, and other prohibited activities.

Nothing in this *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* limits the authority of a coach or sponsor to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for students who breach team or organization conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

VI. Disciplinary Action

Coaches and sponsors will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches and sponsors will strive for consistency in meting out punishment for *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion. The following disciplinary measures may be used, alone, or in combination with each other for misbehavior that violates the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Saturday School

Suspension from all extracurricular activities up to 30 days

ISS

Removal from office in the case of a student office holder who commits an offense

Suspension from school, not to exceed three days at one time

Removal to a disciplinary alternative education program

Expulsion from school

Not allowed to participate in graduation exercises

Suspension from athletic activities for the following time periods:

1st Offense – 10 miles and/or one game suspension

2nd Offense – 20 miles and/or two game suspension

3rd Offense – suspension or removal from program

VII. Extracurricular Activities Bus

Participants are required to ride the school's suburban or bus to and from extracurricular events. Students will be allowed to ride home with parents if proper communication of a written note to the coach or sponsor is made. Students that have a special situation arise must make sure it has been pre-approved with the Head Coach or Sponsor.

VIII. Varsity Lettering (Letter Jackets)

A student must participate in a sport for two years in order to receive an award of a letter jacket. A list of the sports at Dawson ISD is:

1. Football
2. Basketball
3. Cross Country
4. Track
5. Tennis
6. Golf
7. Cheerleading

UIL Academic – A student will be given a major award for participating in the district meet and qualifying for regional competition.

Cross –X Debate: The student will be given a major award for participating in the district meet and qualifying for state competition.

IX. Insurance for Students in Extracurricular Activities

Dawson ISD is not responsible for injuries of its students who are participating in sports. However, Dawson ISD will carry insurance covering participation in practice and competition for athletes. The coverage for each injury will vary according to the accident.

More detailed information can be obtained by calling the Dawson ISD. We will answer any questions you have concerning our athletic program of insurance and injuries.

X. Acknowledgement

A condition to participating in any extracurricular activity or holding any office (elected or appointed) is to sign an acknowledgement that the student has read and understands the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct*. The student's parent or guardian must also sign an acknowledgement. The acknowledgement states that the signing party understands the consequences for engaging in prohibited conduct.

-----Please Sign and Return-----

Date _____

I have read the Dawson ISD *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* and agree to adhere to these rules as a condition for my voluntary participation in Dawson ISD extracurricular activities. I understand that failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures related to my extracurricular participation.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

I have read the Dawson ISD *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* and understand requirements for my child's voluntary participation in Dawson ISD extracurricular activities. I understand the consequences that my child will face if he or she fails to adhere to these rules and agree to such terms.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____