



2023-24 Extracurricular Code of Conduct

Table of Contents

1. Extracurricular Activities: General Provisions.....	2
What is an Extracurricular Activity?.....	2
Why are Extracurricular Activities Important?.....	3
2. Jurisdiction.....	3
Who is Subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct?.....	3
When Does the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Apply?.....	3
3. Conduct Expectations.....	3
Extracurricular Code of Conduct.....	3
Tobacco.....	4
E-Cigarettes/Vapes.....	4
Alcohol.....	5
Illegal Substance.....	5
Theft (on campus).....	5
Arrests.....	6
Electronic Communications.....	6
Texas Education Code.....	6
Student Code of Conduct.....	7
Contracts.....	7
Quitting.....	8

NATALIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXTRA-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK

Extracurricular Activities: General Provisions

What is an Extracurricular Activity?

- Any University Interscholastic League (UIL), School District, or campus-sponsored or related public performances, events, contests, demonstrations, displays, club activities, or athletics, whether on- or off-campus;
- Any elected offices and honors (such as student council and homecoming queen);
- All co-curricular activities, which are those held in conjunction with a credit-bearing class, but that may take place outside of school and outside of the school day (such as band and choir);
- All national organizations (such as the National Honor Society or Future Farmers of America); and
- Any activity held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be an extracurricular activity (such as a meeting, practice, or fundraiser).

Why are Extracurricular Activities Important?

- They promote self-discipline, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, commitment, and student wellness.
- They enhance and enrich curricular educational offerings.
- They offer participants the opportunity to be leaders and role models on campus and in the community.
- They enable participants to represent the School District positively.

2. Jurisdiction

Who is Subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct?

Any student who participates in one or more extracurricular activities is subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct (ECC). A student is subject to the ECC from the time he/she is selected for, elected to, or otherwise joins an extracurricular activity and continues to be subject to the ECC from that point forward unless or until the student no longer participates in extracurricular activities.

When Does the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Apply?

The privilege of representing the School District carries with it a greater responsibility to conduct oneself with respect and dignity and to serve as a role model for all students. Consequently, extracurricular activity participants are expected to comply with the ECC at all times, regardless of location. This includes both on and off-campus conduct as well as evenings, weekends, holidays, and summer vacation. The time range includes the previous semester.

Extracurricular Student Code of Conduct

Regulations are established to help build and maintain strong programs. The District recognizes that some of the expectations for students involved in extracurricular activities exceed the expectations for the general student body. Students who have violated the Extracurricular Student Code of Conduct are subject to additional consequences. These students are expected to follow district policies and all program-specific procedures set by the district and the school. Students are also expected to complete all classwork missed when a student is absent due to participation in extracurricular activities. Violations of the rules will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. The facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining consequences for rule violations.

It is the desire of NISD coaches, directors, and sponsors to educate and counsel our students on the harmful effects of a violation of this Extracurricular Code of Conduct and the potential consequences inflicted upon themselves, their families, and their respective teammates should they choose to breach the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. It is also the intent of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct to provide a clearly defined course for our students to follow and instill a belief that a one-time infraction need not result in a permanent pattern in life.

In all instances of an alleged violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, the student will be provided due process. The process for determining a violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct will be established by the sponsor on his/her campus. Any student involved in an extracurricular activity who is found to violate any of the infractions mentioned below will face disciplinary action.

Once a violation of the ECC has been determined, the General Guidelines for Student Discipline as outlined in NISD Board Policy FO (Local) will be used when possible and applied to all cases concerning the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. The following penalties will be administered throughout the district when infractions occur:

Tobacco

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of tobacco. In addition to any consequence imposed under the NISD Student Code of Conduct,

- A first offense will result in a 1-week suspension or a maximum of two events, whichever occurs first, of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there is not one week or one event remaining in the particular sports season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sports season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.
- A second offense will result in a 6-week suspension of the student from the extracurricular program for the remainder of the school year in which the infraction occurred. Another contract will be required.
- A third offense will result in an 18-week suspension of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

E-Cigarettes/Vapes

During the 2023 legislative session, legislators passed HB 114. [House Bill 114](#) makes it mandatory to place a student caught with a vape/e-cigarette at school or a school-sponsored event into a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP). This includes an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device.

Students placed in DAEP are ineligible to participate in or attend extracurricular activities pursuant to Texas Education Code § 37.006(g).

Alcohol

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol. In addition to any consequence imposed under the NISD Student Code of Conduct,

- The first offense will result in a 2-week suspension, or a maximum of four events, whichever occurs first, of the student from game competition or extracurricular participation. If there are not two weeks remaining in that particular sports season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sports season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.
- The second offense will result in a 6-week suspension of the student from the extracurricular program for the remainder of the school year. Another contract will be required.
- The third offense will result in an 18-week suspension of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

Illegal Substance

No extracurricular participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of any controlled or otherwise illegal substance not listed above. In addition to any consequence imposed under the NISD Student Code of Conduct,

- A first offense will result in a 4-week, or a maximum of 8 events, whichever occurs first, of the student from game competition or activity. If there are not four weeks remaining in that particular sports season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in a subsequent sports season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.
- A second offense will result in an 18-week suspension of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.
- The third offense will result in a 36-week suspension of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

Theft (on campus)

In addition to any consequence imposed under the NISD Student Code of Conduct, Any extracurricular participants guilty of theft on campus will face the following consequences:

- A first offense will result in a 2-week suspension or a maximum of 4 events whichever occurs first, of the student from game competition determined by the circumstances

involved in the theft. If there are not two weeks left in that particular sports season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in the subsequent sports season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required.

- A second offense will result in a 6-week suspension of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.
- A third offense will result in an 18-week suspension of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular programs.

Arrests

In addition to any consequence imposed under the NISD Student Code of Conduct, citations or arrests on or off campus may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program. Any member of the extracurricular organization must notify the head coach, director, or sponsoring staff member immediately upon any arrest or citation. Failure to notify the staff member responsible for the program may result in suspension or dismissal from the program.

Electronic Communications

Social networking websites and electronic communication: maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that NISD extracurricular participants' personal electronic communication is appropriate. The Internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication including, but not limited to, TikTok, Snapchat, X(Twitter), Facebook, Instagram photo sharing, and inappropriate texting that is published or appearing on the internet is public domain, even if it is marked private. Extracurricular participants are responsible for texting and electronic communications on the internet through their personal websites as well as posting on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd, vulgar, or obscene comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Communication on the internet or by electronic means by extracurricular participants that are published and, as a result, cause disruption or damage to school district property at NISD or another school district is also inappropriate.

Any member of the NISD extracurricular program who is involved in inappropriate, disruptive, negative, lewd, obscene, or sexual pictures, comments, or statuses on any social networks such as, but not limited to, TikTok, Snapchat, X(Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program.

Texas Education Code

Behaviors that are identified by the Texas Education Code, Section 37.007, may also result in the suspension or dismissal of a student from the extracurricular program. These behaviors are identified in the Student Handbook and are listed as Category Offenses I, II, III, and IV of the Code of Student Conduct and will apply to students while on or off campus. Students must remain aware that being a part of an extracurricular activity is considered an honor and a privilege and not a right. Therefore, it requires observance of all discipline policies whether or not a student is at school or school-related activities.

Student Code of Conduct

The disciplinary consequences for violation of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct may include suspension or dismissal of the student from the extracurricular program. Such actions shall be taken by coaches, directors, or sponsors. A behavioral contract may also be used following various infractions. Consequences for some rule violations may be addressed by coaches through discipline within the student's program. Additional disciplinary consequences can also be imposed by the appropriate school officials for conduct or behavior that violates the District's Code of Student Conduct.

Note: If the offense occurs during the summer, the suspension from activities will begin with the first week of competition/activity.

If the offense occurs during the sports season or period of extracurricular activity, the suspension will begin with the next competition or extracurricular activity as determined by the coach, director, or sponsor.

All students participating in extracurricular activities made a commitment to the team or group, their teammates, and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the student participants. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. Another part of this commitment is to place the NISD extracurricular activities above participation in any non-school-sanctioned activity and attend all practices, games, contests, or other organized group activities scheduled by NISD coaches or sponsors. The following are violations of that commitment and are also subject to disciplinary actions:

- Being absent from class, games, meetings, practices, performances, camps, and/or other events without permission from the activity sponsor, coach, or teacher
- Engaging in acts of poor sportsmanship, such as cheating, using profane language, or taunting other participants
- Being insubordinate to a coach, teacher, or sponsor
- Being disruptive during class, a game, meeting, practice, performance, camp, and/or other events
- Failing to return school district property as directed and in good condition (excluding reasonable wear and tear)
- Violating the established rules or guidelines of a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates
- Violating the District's standards for dress and grooming or the standards set for the specific extracurricular activity
- Engaging in activities that constitute harassment (including verbal, physical, sexual, or any combination thereof)
- Physically abusing team members, opponents, coaches, or officials
- Engaging in general misconduct is prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct.
- Any behavior that causes embarrassment to the team or NISD may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program.
- The coach or sponsor will determine the level or team placement of all participants.

Conduct Expectations:

Contracts

Upon verification of a first offense of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, the student will be required to attend a conference in which he/she will be presented with a contract detailing future behavioral expectations. The contract will be signed by the student, parent(s) or guardian(s), campus administrator, and his/her coach, director, or sponsor (and athletic coordinator where appropriate). The contract will reflect an understanding of the expectations of his/her particular campus and the consequences for future rule violations. The contract must be signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) prior to his/her reinstatement to the extracurricular program.

Students placed in DAEP are ineligible to participate in or attend extracurricular activities pursuant to Texas Education Code § 37.006(g).

It is expected that all students abide by the Natalia Independent School District's Student Code of Conduct, the Extra-Curricular Handbook, and team guidelines. A written copy of the Student Code of Conduct, Extra-Curricular Handbook, and team guidelines will be provided to all students on an annual basis and will be available online. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary consequences according to the Student Code of Conduct.

Acknowledgment of Receipt of the NISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Natalia ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct. I understand that I will be held accountable for the behavior expectations and consequences outlined in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct. I understand that by participating in extracurricular activities, I am a representative of Natalia ISD and a role model to my peers and throughout the community; therefore, the Extracurricular Code of Conduct governs my behavior at all times and applies both on and off school property. I understand that the behavior expectations of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct are in addition to those included in the Natalia ISD Student Code of Conduct. I understand that violations of the behavior standards of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct and may result in my being disciplined under both the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Name: _____ **Grade level:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____