

# Devine ISD

## Extracurricular Activity Handbook



2023-2024

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Devine ISD  
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## **Extracurricular Activity Handbook: General Provisions**

This Extracurricular Activity Handbook is being developed in accordance with Devine ISD Board Policy FO(LOCAL), which states:

“With the approval of the principal and Superintendent, sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property.

A student shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or when the student first begins participation in the activity. A student and his or her parent shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity.

Standards of behavior for an extracurricular activity are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in independent disciplinary actions.

A student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of extracurricular standards of behavior for an activity or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.”

### **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, athletics, whether on- or off-campus;

Any elected offices and honors (such as student counsel 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 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 in a positive manner.

### **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.

#### **Does the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Apply to Student Speech?**

Yes. Student speech may be regulated in the following circumstances:

- Speech that materially and substantially interferes with the operation of the school or the rights of others;
- Speech that can be reasonably regarded as promoting illegal activity and/or drug use;
- Speech that threatens violence against a student body, such specific threatening speech to a school or its population; and
- Speech that is vulgar and lewd, and therefore contrary to the school's basic educational mission.

#### **Does the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Supersede the Student Drug Testing Policy?**

- No, the DISD student drug testing policy is independent of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and will be enforced as stated in the policy.

In addition to the above, off-campus student speech may be regulated in the following circumstances:

- Speech that occurs when the student is under the care or control of the school;
- Speech that contains threats aimed at a school employee or other students;
- Speech that is bullying or harassment targeting a school employee or other students;
- Speech that materially and substantially interferes with the operation of the extracurricular activity or the rights of others; or
- Speech that advocates for illegal activity and/or drug use.

## **Conduct Expectations**

### **What is Expected of Extracurricular Activity Participants?**

Participants in extracurricular activities are representatives of the School District, and must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the School District at all times.

Specifically, they must:

- Maintain an average of 70% or better in all academic courses, except as provided in District policy FM (Legal);
- Be punctual and prepared for all games, practices, meetings, performances, camps, and/or other scheduled events related to an extracurricular activity;
- Treat all school property with respect and ensure that school property is returned upon request and in good condition (excluding reasonable wear and tear);
- Abide by the District's dress and grooming standards for students as well as any dress and grooming standards applicable to the specific extracurricular activity;
- Comply with UIL rules, if applicable;
- Be courteous and respectful toward all fellow participants, school faculty and staff members, spectators, parents, and officials, whether from Devine ISD or from any other school district;
- Provide advance notice to the coach or sponsor of an activity if they are unable to attend a game, practice, meeting, performance, and/or other scheduled event related to the extracurricular activity;
- Comply with all rules and guidelines in the ECC and those established for a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates; and
- Comply with and adhere to the behavioral standards identified in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

### **What Conduct is Prohibited for Extracurricular Activity Participants?**

#### **Category A Violations:**

- Engaging in theft, destruction, or misuse of school district property;
- Failing to return school property as directed where the property is valued at more than \$75;
- Engaging in hazing, harassment or bullying of others as defined by the Devine ISD Student Code of Conduct;
- Buying, selling, giving, delivering, using, possessing, or being under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance (without a proper prescription), or a dangerous drug at any time and regardless of whether the student is on school property or at a school-related activity;
- Engaging in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique that unnecessarily endangers the health or safety of a student;
- Maintaining or being identified on a website or blog that depicts behavior that is illegal or is obscene in nature;

- Sending, transmitting, or posting images or other material that is related to illegal or obscene activity; and
- Engaging in conduct prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct that is punishable by placement in DAEP or expulsion.
- The DISD student drug testing policy is independent of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and will be enforced as stated in the policy.

#### **Category B Violations:**

- Being tardy to games, meetings, practices, performances, camps, and/or other events without permission from the activity sponsor or coach;
- Being absent from games, meetings, practices, performances, camps, and/or other events without permission from the activity sponsor or coach;
- Engaging in acts of poor sportsmanship, such as cheating, using profane language, or taunting other participants;
- Being insubordinate to a coach or sponsor;
- Being disruptive during a game meeting, practice, performance, camp, and/or other event;
- Failing to return school district property as directed;
- 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; and
- Engaging in general misconduct prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct.

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

The standards of the ECC are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in a student being disciplined under both standards.

Please be aware that the term "parent," unless otherwise noted in this publication, is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, any person granted some other type of lawful control of the student, or any other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

### **Consequences**

#### **Category A Violations:**

##### First Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for 1 school week and will be placed on a behavior contract for 4 school weeks.

#### Second Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation for 2 school weeks and will be placed on a behavior contract for 4 school weeks.

#### Third Offense:

The student will be suspended from participation from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. If the violation occurs within 3 school weeks of the end of the current school year, the student will be suspended for the remainder of the current school year and the entirety of the next semester, including any extracurricular activities or events during the summer months.

#### Fourth Offense:

The student's participation in all extracurricular activities will be revoked for the remainder of the time the student attends that campus, or any other Devine ISD campus serving the same grade levels as the campus the student currently attends. For example, the remainder of the student's high school career.

### **Category B Violations:**

#### First Offense:

The student will receive a verbal warning and reprimand and will be directed to refrain from future violations.

#### Second and Third Offenses:

The student will be suspended from participation for 1 school week and will be placed on a behavior contract for 4 school weeks.

#### Fourth Offense:

The student may be suspended from participation from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. If the violation occurs within 3 school weeks of the end of the current school year, the student may be suspended for the remainder of the current school year and the entirety of the next semester, including any extracurricular activities or events during the summer months.

#### Fifth Offense:

The student's participation in all extracurricular activities will be reviewed by the campus administrator and parent to determine if the students' participation will be revoked for the remainder of the time the student attends that campus, or any other Devine ISD campus serving the same grade levels as the campus the student currently attends. For example, the remainder of the student's high school career.

**Definition: "weeks"** means school weeks, but also includes any non-school weeks in which an

extracurricular competition or event occurs, such as camps during the summer or on school holidays.

**Definition: “suspension”** means that the student will not be permitted to participate in any competition, contest, scrimmage, performance, or election associated with an extracurricular activity. The student may continue to participate in practices.

An extracurricular activity participant starts each school year with a clean slate, unless he or she had participation in extracurricular activities revoked during the previous school year, in which case that revocation continues from year to year. In addition, any consequences that were assessed during the prior school year for which the student owes additional suspension or behavior contract time must still be completed. For example, a student who was suspended from participation for 4 school weeks during the last week of school may have an additional 3 weeks of suspension to complete beginning with the next school year.

## **Procedures**

### **Who Determines that a Violation of the ECC has Occurred?**

The activity sponsor or coach will determine whether a violation of the ECC has occurred and will assess the appropriate consequence.

### **How will Consequences be Assessed for Different Violations of the ECC?**

Consequences for violating the District’s ECC are assessed based on the severity of the violation and the commission of prior ECC violations.

### **Is a student entitled to participate in extracurricular activities?**

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. As such, a student’s participation may be revoked at the District’s discretion, in accordance with the rules and regulations established in Board Policy, Administrative Regulations, the ECC, and those rules established for a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates.

### **How will parents be notified that a violation of the ECC has occurred?**

Parents will be notified of all violations that result in suspension from participation in extracurricular activities. Applicable consequences will also be discussed once the student has been given the opportunity to respond to the allegations.

### **What if a parent does not agree with the decision?**

All appeals will be addressed through the District’s complaint process, contained in Board Policy FNG(LOCAL).



### Acknowledgement

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by Devine ISD's Extracurricular Code of Conduct for the 2023-2024 school year. 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 Devine 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 Devine ISD Student Code of Conduct. I understand that violations of the behavior standards of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in my being disciplined under both the Extracurricular Code of Conduct and the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Name:

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Parent/Guardian Name:

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Campus:

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Parent/Guardian Signature:

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Grade Level:

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Date:

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Student Signature:

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Date:

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**DEVINE ISD EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPANT  
BEHAVIOR CONTRACT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name), a participant in  
\_\_\_\_\_ (list extracurricular activities)  
previously agreed to abide by the Extracurricular Code of Conduct, including all conduct expectations and the consequences. I understood and accepted the fact that by participating in extracurricular activities, I am a representative of the school district and a role model for my fellow students, and as such, I am held to a higher standard of behavior and can be subjected to disciplinary consequences that other students are not subject to. I recognize that I violated the standards expected of me by engaging in the following violation(s) of the Devine ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(student must describe violations in detail)

I understand that my continued participation in all extracurricular activities is contingent upon my successful completion of this Behavior Contract.

I pledge to do the following:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deadline for completion: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head Coach/Sponsor name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Head Coach/Sponsor signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Must be on file with the Head Coach/Campus Coordinator/Sponsor*