

FRANKLIN CITY SCHOOLS

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

PARENT/STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR HANDBOOK



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Franklin City Schools, a progressive, community-based school district, is to guarantee all students can grow, develop, and learn to their fullest potential by providing a challenging, individualized curriculum; an exemplary, compassionate staff; and a state-of-the-art, safe and supportive learning environment.

The Franklin Athletic/Activities Department will foster this mission statement through promoting loyalty, teamwork, pride, discipline and a commitment to excellence in all that we do.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PHILOSOPHY

The Athletic/Activities Department of Franklin City Schools will provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes that will prepare students for adult life.

GOALS

The main goal of The Franklin Extracurricular Programs is that our students will learn the skills and habits to be a more effective and productive citizen in society.

EXTRA- CURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY

1. Sign the Extracurricular Activities Handbook
2. **PAY TO PARTICIPATE:** The fee must be paid by the date established by the School Board for each sport season. Failure to pay the fee will result in the removal of participation in any events or contests until the fee is paid. If a person quits the activity after initial participation then the fee will not be refunded. The only exception is where the reason for leaving is due to a medical issue.
3. **Academic Eligibility.** Eligibility requirements for participating in extracurricular.

Current Criteria for Eligibility in Grades 7-12

1. Must be enrolled in Franklin City Schools or a resident in Franklin City School District enrolled in a private/charter/home schooling program that does not offer that specific activity.
2. Received passing grades in a minimum of FIVE one credit classes, or the equivalent, in the immediate preceding grading period. (Physical Education does not count)

3. Cannot receive 2 or more “Fs” in the preceding grading period
4. All student activities fall under this policy.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Students who Participate in the Extracurricular Activities of Franklin City Schools are direct representatives of the school and themselves and will be expected to conduct themselves in a way that will gain respect for the school and themselves. Representing Franklin in Extracurricular Activities is a privilege and not a right. It is available only to those who have the will, ability and desire to abide by the rules and regulations that have been established by Franklin City Schools and the respective coach/director of each team.

Substance Abuse Policy

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, illegal drugs, E-Cigarettes, or vapes is expressly forbidden. Anyone who aids or abets another in committing an infraction concerning prohibited products will be treated as though he/she had violated the first sentence of this paragraph.

365 Day Calendar: The Substance Abuse Policy is not only for in-season. It is a policy that is in place for 365 days. The calendar begins on the first day of a student's suspension following an infraction.

1st Offense- The potential penalty will be up to 20% of the scheduled events/contests of the current or next Extracurricular Season.

2nd Offense- If the next offense is within the 365 Day Calendar, the suspension will be up to 50% of all scheduled events/contests of the current or next extracurricular season.

3rd Offense- If the 3rd offense occurs during a student's 365 Day calendar the penalty is up to the suspension of 100% of the current or next extracurricular season.

4th Offense - If the 4th offense is in the student's 365 Day calendar, the penalty will be a suspension of the remainder of the 365 Day calendar.

Denial Clause - If any athlete denies their involvement in a substance related citation and is later found to have been involved, their consequence may be doubled.

- With any violation a student may be referred to an outside agency for evaluation and or treatment.

STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PLEDGE: I agree to abide by all extracurricular rules regarding the use of alcohol, tobacco and/or other drugs. To demonstrate my support, I pledge to:

1. Support my fellow students by setting an example and abstaining from alcohol, tobacco and drugs.
2. Not enable my fellow students who use alcohol/tobacco/drugs. I will not cover up for them or lie for them if any rules are broken. I will hold my teammates responsible for their actions.
3. Seek information and assistance in dealing with alcohol, tobacco and/or other drug problems.
4. Be honest and open with my parents about my feelings, needs and problems.
5. Be open and honest with my coach and other school personnel when the best interests of my fellow students and my school are being jeopardized.

PARENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PLEDGE: As parent(s) of a student participating in Franklin City Schools' Extra-Curricular program I realize that chemical dependency is a serious problem and I am also concerned about recurring problems that arise from teenage alcohol, tobacco and/or other drug use. To demonstrate my support, I pledge to:

1. Set a positive example by exhibiting low risk use of alcohol/prescriptions and other legal drugs.
2. Heighten my awareness of my child's behavior, psychological needs, social habits, and academic status.
3. Assert my authority as parent(s) by not enabling or covering up for my child if the extra-curricular rules are broken. I will hold him/her responsible for his/her actions.
4. Not enable by allowing my child to entertain teenagers who are using alcohol, tobacco and/or other drugs in my home or on my property.
5. Uphold the coach/director and other school personnel in dealing with my child.
6. Provide support for my child if it becomes apparent a problem exists.

Attendance Policy HIGH SCHOOL

Extracurricular participants must be in attendance no later than the end of 2nd period. Students are also expected to be in attendance for a minimum of five class periods during the regular school day to be eligible to practice or participate in a contest that day. Any exceptions to this rule require the permission of the building principal or the student activities director.

Extracurricular participants who have already exceeded the threshold for excessive absence and/or habitual truancy, and are absent or late for any reason, must produce official documentation to be eligible to practice or participate in a contest that day.

With prior approval by the building principal or the student activities director, as may be appropriate, additional standards and rules may be established in writing by the activity advisor or coach and become effective when given to each participant and approved by the building principal and activities director. The standards or rules shall be a part of the Code of Conduct for that activity.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Extracurricular participants must be in attendance no later than the end of 1st period. Students are also expected to be in attendance for a minimum of four class periods during the regular school day to be eligible to practice or participate in a contest that day. Any exceptions to this rule require the permission of the building principal or the student activities director.

Extracurricular participants who have already exceeded the threshold for excessive absence and/or habitual truancy, and are absent or late for any reason, must produce official documentation to be eligible to practice or participate in a contest that day.

With prior approval by the building principal or the student activities director, as may be appropriate, additional standards and rules may be established in writing by the activity advisor or coach and become effective when given to each participant and approved by the building principal and activities director. The standards or rules shall be a part of the Code of Conduct for that activity.

School Disciplinary Action and Extracurricular Participation Policy

Any student serving an out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or exclusion is ineligible to participate in or attend any extracurricular activities for the duration of the disciplinary action.

For students receiving in-school suspension, disciplinary action related to extracurricular participation will be determined by the Head Coach/Director, based on the number of suspensions and the severity of the offense. Coaches/Directors will apply consistent standards and may consult with school administration as needed. **Head Coaches/Directors will communicate with the Athletic/Activities Department the disciplinary action taken for the in-school suspension.** Repeated or severe infractions may result in temporary or permanent removal from extracurricular activities.

Team Rules

All Head Coaches/Directors have the ability to create a set of team rules. The rules will be clearly communicated to the Activities Director as well as to the student athletes. Violation of those team rules may result in discipline from the Head coach and or the AD. Appropriate disciplinary action may include anything from extra conditioning to suspension or removal from the team.

Administration

The Administration reserves the right to levy disciplinary action on any measures of misconduct not mentioned specifically in the above rules.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided by the athletic department, through the Franklin City Schools Board of Education, to and from all AWAY extracurricular events/contests. Student behavior and normal bus rules are in effect on all trips and students are bound by the Student Code of conduct and the Athletic Code of Conduct. No non team personnel are permitted on the bus. **Exceptions-** In cases where parents need to bring their child home from an away contest, parents are responsible for providing written documentation to the coach that they are taking their child. Only a parent may sign out a child.

COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

In an organization involving many students, parents, and staff there will be circumstances that lead to questions, concerns and/or misunderstandings. Through effective communication, cooperation and the use of this handbook, it is hoped that many of these situations may be averted by detailing the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the parties involved.

When such circumstances arise, it is imperative that the proper channels of communication are understood and utilized as a means to achieving consistent and positive results. While differences of opinions and disputes may arise regarding aspects of any extracurricular activity, **it is within the purview of the coach or director to determine the structure and day to day operations of the program. This may include, but is not limited to:**

- **General rules and regulations**
- **Practice/Rehearsal format and schedules**
- **Participation based on skill level, work ethic, attitude , behavior, class work etc.**
- **Selection of captains and/or student leadership**

Any issues regarding safety of participants or inappropriate staff behavior should be reported directly to the building administrator or AD. Other concerns should be addressed and communicated utilizing the following chain of command process:

Level 1: Student to Coach/Director. This should be at an appropriate and convenient time. It is imperative that the communication begins with the student addressing his/her concerns first. We will not go to Level 2 if Level 1 has not taken place.

Level 2: Parent to Coach/Director. If the student and coach were unable to reach a satisfactory resolution. The parent/guardian may present their concerns to the coach. This should happen at an appropriate and convenient time. It is encouraged that the student also

attends these meetings. All parties should work towards reaching a resolution. We will not go to Level 3 unless Level 1 and 2 have taken place.

Level 3: Parent to AD. If either party feels that a satisfactory resolution has not been achieved the parent can express their concerns to the AD. At which time the AD will work to mediate a resolution. We will not go to Level 4 if Levels 1, 2 and 3 have not taken place.

Level 4: Parent to Building Principal. If an acceptable resolution has not been achieved, the building principal will meet with all the affected parties to review and resolve the matter.

Communication with Coaches/Directors

Communication expected from COACHES/DIRECTORS:

- Coaching/Teaching Philosophy
- Setting expectations for participants on team/group/cast
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team/Group/Cast requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season training)
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication expected from PARENTS:

- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advanced
- Concerns expressed directly to the coach/director
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach/director's philosophy and/or expectations

APPROPRIATE concerns to discuss with COACHES/DIRECTORS:

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues NOT APPROPRIATE to discuss with COACHES/DIRECTORS:

- Casting, Assignments and Roles
- Other student-athletes

Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.

Coaches/Directors may set their own time frame to have discussions with parents but in ALL cases a 24 hour rule is in effect.

SPORTSMANSHIP

In all endeavors of the extracurricular competition/event, coaches/directors will emphasize the value and importance of sportsmanship. Every contest/event has potentially a winner and a loser. Sportsmanship is a valued trait to possess. It is the possession of maturity.

SPORTSMANSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Parents/Fans

We expect the following from our parents and fans:

- **Respect the contest/event.** Your child is being asked to accept the responsibility and privilege of representing Franklin. A part of this responsibility is showing respect for officials' decisions, showing respect for opponents, and encouraging all to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. We ask that you do the same.
- **Model how to win, how to lose, and how to respond to officials.** There is no tolerance for arguing with officials. It is a blatant example of poor sportsmanship, it will not change the outcome. More importantly, it weakens the reputation of Franklin Schools and all parties associated with it.
- **Conduct yourself the same way you expect your child to conduct himself or herself around you.** Whenever you step over the line, you are inviting them to do the same.

Possible Consequences for Violating the Sportsmanship Guidelines

The following consequences may be enforced after a warning, depending on the severity of the action.

- **First Offense:** Verbal warning and documentation.
- **Second Offense:** Removal from the event and written warning. Completion of an NFHS sportsmanship class may also be required. Here is the link to this class: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sportsmanship-2>
- **Third Offense:** Suspension from future events for 2–4 weeks minimum
- **Ejection:** If a coach, athlete or parent is ejected from the contest then FCS will uphold the removal and follow OHSAA guidelines regarding ejections. Example: Minimum 1-2 game suspension and the completion of the NFHS sportsmanship class. Here is the link to this class: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sportsmanship-2>
- **Severe Offenses may result in an immediate, indefinite ban pending administrative review.**

Franklin City Schools reserves the right to deviate from the above sequence if a person's behavior at any point is severely egregious. All consequences apply to home and away events.

General Expectations

To ensure the safety and success of our athletic/extracurricular programs:

- Your child is expected to be with his/her coaches/directors before, during, and after practices, rehearsals, events and contests.
- **Parents spectate.** During contests/events, parents **SHOULD NOT** “coach/direct” their students from the stands - this is the coach/director’s responsibility. Do not compete with the coach/director.
- **Parents are NEVER outside designated spectator areas.** As spectators, parents should sit (and remain) in the designated areas for spectators. The only exception is if your child is seriously injured or you are helping set up for the contest/event.
- **It takes a village.** Your child’s team/organization may need you as a volunteer, and we ask that you make the effort to assist if able.

We have read this Extracurricular Participation, Release, Waiver and Indemnity Agreement, Extracurricular Code of Conduct, Student and Parent Pledges, and fully understand the terms and conditions thereof, and we voluntarily sign the same of our own free will and accord.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date _____

Student Signature Date _____