

Highland Park Independent School District

EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT 2020-2021



We acknowledge that we have been offered the option to receive a paper copy of the *Highland Park Independent School District Extracurricular Student Code of Conduct* for the 2020–2021 school year or to electronically access it on the district’s website at www.hpisd.org. We understand that students participating in extracurricular activities will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct*. We also understand and agree that participation in extracurricular activities is not a property right and nothing in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct creates such a right.

We have chosen to:

- Receive a paper copy of the *Extracurricular Student Code of Conduct*.
- Accept responsibility for accessing the *Extracurricular Student Code of Conduct* on the district’s website.

Print name of student: _____

Signature of student: _____

Print name of parent: _____

Signature of parent: _____

Date: _____

School: _____

Grade level: _____

Please sign this page, remove it, and return it to the student’s school. Thank you

HIGHLAND PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EXTRACURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Highland Park Independent School District (“HPISD” or “the District”) encourages student participation in extracurricular activities. HPISD 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 District whether or not they are actively performing, competing, or participating in extracurricular activities and whether or not they are wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies the student to the community or public in any setting as HPISD students. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total HPISD 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.

HPISD also recognizes that (1) underage alcohol use and dangerous drug use is illegal, (2) alcohol kills five times as many Texas teens as all other drugs combined, (3) alcohol use impedes normal emotional growth during critical teen development years and significantly lowers the learning capacity of developing adolescents, ages 12 - 20, (4) alcohol use is associated with most other drug uses, and is highly correlated with violence, fighting, negative attitudes, academic failure, poor health practices and other high-risk behavior, (5) Dallas leads the nation in alcohol-related traffic deaths, (6) Texas leads the nation in the rate of alcohol-related deaths among 15 to 20 year olds, (7) children who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four more times more likely to develop problems with alcohol abuse and dependence than those who began drinking at the age of 21 or older. These problems have implications for the entire school community and as an educational institution, HPISD strives to educate its students about and prevent the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs. As leaders and representatives of the HPISD, students involved in extracurricular activities have a duty and responsibility to assist in this objective.

I. Extracurricular Activities

The term “extracurricular activities” means, without limitation, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, drill team, clubs, special interest clubs, extracurricular fine arts performances, student government and any other activities or group that participates in contests, competition, community service projects on behalf of or as representatives of HPISD. The term includes any non-curricular event or membership or participation in groups, clubs, and organizations recognized or approved by the Board of Trustees and the school district and sponsored by the district or campus.

II. Jurisdiction

Because participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, HPISD 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 *HPISD Student Code of Conduct* not only in types of behavior prohibited but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. In case of a conflict between this *Code* and the activity or sport-specific campus handbook, this *Code* will prevail.

This *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* will be enforced with all students grades 5th – 12th participating in extracurricular activities regardless of:

- Whether school is in session;
- Whether the student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;
- Whether the extracurricular activity is in-season;
- Where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the *HPISD 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 *HPISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct* and be subject to discipline by a coach or sponsor without having violated the *HPISD Student Code of Conduct*.

III. Prohibited Conduct

HPISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited at all times from the following:

- Knowingly possessing or drinking alcoholic beverages illegally;
- Knowingly possessing or consuming illegal drugs or possessing or using any drug paraphernalia;
- Knowingly misusing prescription drugs or non-prescription drugs or other mood-altering substances;
- Attending or remaining at any activity after becoming aware that illegal alcohol consumption is occurring at the activity;
- Attending or remaining at any activity after becoming aware that illegal drugs are present or being used at the activity;
- Attending or remaining at any activity after becoming aware that prescription or non-prescription drugs are being misused, or where other mood-altering substances are being used at the activity.

A student will be found to have “remained” at an event, if the student actively engages in the event or fails to promptly take steps to leave the event as are reasonable under the circumstances.

IV. Consequences

- ***First Offense***

At the discretion of the Assistant Principal, the penalty for a first offense is suspension from current or nearest competitive season or activity for a minimum of one week or 10% of the season, whichever is greater, up to a maximum of 3 weeks or 25% of the season, whichever is greater. In addition, if the student holds an office, elected or appointed, the student will be suspended from the office for the duration of the activity suspension.

For extracurricular activities that do not have a regular season, such as cheerleading, the penalty will be imposed in weeks, not a percentage of the season.

Elected or appointed offices will include, but not be limited to, captains and player committee members of athletic teams, student council officers, cheerleader officers, drill team officers and lieutenants, club officers, and officers of athletic teams.

All or some of the following additional penalties may also be imposed at the discretion of the Assistant Principal:

- Suspension from all extracurricular activities until thirty (30) hours of community service approved by the Assistant Principal are completed. The community service will not count toward graduation requirements and will be directly related to alcohol and drug abuse prevention and/or education.
- Completion of sport/activity specific skill improvement drills to be determined by the coach, director or sponsor.
- Referral of the student and/or the parents to an alcohol or drug awareness program and the successful completion of that program. Completion of the program may not have to be a requirement for reinstatement if satisfactory progress is being made.
- If the student holds an office, elected or appointed, the student may be removed from the office for the remainder of the school year.
- Other penalties or requirements appropriate under the circumstances.

- ***Second Offense***

The penalty for a second offense is

- Mandatory suspension from the current or nearest competitive season for a period of 6 weeks or 50% of the season, whichever is greater.
- Mandatory removal from all appointed or elected offices. Upon completion of the suspension, the student may participate in extracurricular activities but may not serve as an officer or be appointed to an office for the remainder of the school year.

For extracurricular activities that do not have a regular season, such as cheerleading, the penalty will be imposed in weeks, not a percentage of the season.

- ***Third Offense***

The penalty for a third offense is mandatory suspension from all extracurricular activities for a period of one calendar year.

After a one-year period, the coach/sponsor and administration will determine reinstatement. Reinstatement will be based on such things as academic record, attendance, behavior record, and any other information deemed appropriate.

Mandatory removal from all elected or appointed offices for one calendar year. The student will also be prohibited from running for or holding any new office during such calendar year.

All subsequent offenses will be treated as third offenses.

Cumulative offenses will be determined during two periods, grades 5 – 8, and beginning again in grades 9 – 12. Conduct will only be considered a subsequent offense if the conduct occurred after the consequences for the conduct forming the basis for the first offense were imposed.

V. Procedures

- Coaches and sponsors will report violations of this policy, including self-reports, to the student's Assistant Principal. The Assistant Principal will notify the student's coach or sponsor of a reported violation of this policy.
- Anonymous tips will not be investigated by the District. The District will take reasonable steps to keep the identity of the tipster confidential, but confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.
- Only violations that come to the attention of school officials within 14 calendar days of the conduct in question will be subject to sanctions under this Code. Timely reported violations will be investigated by school personnel starting with the next scheduled school day after the report.
- Assistant Principals will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding an alleged violation to determine whether a violation of this Code occurred. All sources of information, including hearsay, rumor, photographs and information posted on the Internet, including

social networking sites, may be considered by the Assistant Principal to determine if a violation of this code has occurred.

- The student and the student’s representative will be given the opportunity to discuss the facts and circumstances involved in the alleged violation with the Assistant Principal, before the Assistant Principal makes a decision as to whether a violation occurred and the sanctions to be applied.
- If the Assistant Principal determines that a student violated the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct*, the following individuals will be notified:
 - The student and the student’s parent or guardian;
 - The coaches and/or the sponsors of all extracurricular activities in which the student is currently involved or is expected to be involved during the period of the suspension or removal from extracurricular activities; and
 - The Student Assistance Network Counselor to provide counseling, support, and guidance in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs and mood-altering chemicals.
- In determining the appropriate disciplinary consequence to be imposed for a violation of this *Code*, the Assistant Principal will take into consideration:
 - The seriousness of the offense;
 - Whether the safety and well-being of the student and/or others were put at risk by the conduct;
 - Whether any citations issued or other actions taken by law enforcement;
 - The extent of the student’s participation in the event;
 - Whether the student self-reported the offense;
 - The cooperation of the student and the parents in the investigation; and
 - The student’s prior academic and disciplinary record.

VI. Appeal

For first offenses, the decision by the Assistant Principal is appealable to the Principal or the Principal’s designee. The appeal will be treated like a Level Two appeal under FNG(LOCAL). The Principal or the Principal’s designee’s decision is final and no additional appeals are allowed.

For second, third, and subsequent offenses, the decision by the Assistant Principal is appealable to the Principal or the Principal's designee. The appeal will be treated like a Level One appeal under FNG(LOCAL). The Principal or the Principal's designee's decision may be appealed to Level Two per FNG(LOCAL). No further appeals are allowed.

Disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal.

VII. Additional Guidance

In Texas, the only time a minor can legally consume or possess alcohol is where the parent or legal guardian is "visibly present when the minor possesses or consumes the alcoholic beverage" and the consumption or possession is with the consent of the parent or legal guardian. Tex. Alco. Bev. Code §§ 106.4 and 106.6. The requirement for visible presence will be strictly construed in enforcing this Code.

Attendance at social events (i.e. wedding reception, a professional sporting event) where alcohol is served to adults is not a violation of this Code because alcohol is not being served illegally. However, even at these types of events, at no time may the student illegally consume, distribute or possess alcohol, drugs, or other prohibited substances.

As a condition to participating in any extracurricular activity or holding any office (elected or appointed), a student and his or her parents(s) or guardian(s) will sign and return the HPISD Student Code of Conduct acknowledgement and any UIL-required acknowledgement of rules. The student and the parents agree to be bound by the Extracurricular Code of Conduct by the student's participation in extracurricular activity.

A student who violates this Code may not join a second activity for the purpose of fulfilling the penalty.

Nothing in this Code prohibits a coach or sponsor from enforcing additional rules and regulations relating to their specific activities or additional consequences for violation of this Code. It should be understood that any participant whose behavior is considered unacceptable by a coach or sponsor may have his or her privilege to participate in the extracurricular activity revoked.

Definitions used in the *HPISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct* will have the same meaning as those in the *HPISD Student Code of Conduct*. To the extent there is a conflict between the two codes, the definition in the *HPISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct* prevails.

A **week**, as used in the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct*, will begin with the starting time of the school day on the first day of suspension from extracurricular activities and will conclude at the same time five consecutive school days later. Should the offense occur at the end of a school year, the penalty will carry over to the following school year.

A **calendar year**, as used in the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct*, will begin with the first day of suspension from extracurricular activities and will conclude one calendar year from that date.