

Farmersville ISD Student Athletic Code of Conduct

1. Definition of Extracurricular Activities

“Extracurricular activities” include, but are not limited to, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, drill team, academic and special interest clubs, music ensembles, theatrical productions, student government, community service performed on behalf of the District, or participation in any contest or event representing Farmersville ISD. These activities are defined as non-curricular and must be approved and recognized by the Board of Trustees. All participants in athletic activities are subject to this Code of Conduct.

2. Jurisdiction

Participation in extracurricular activities at Farmersville ISD is a privilege, not a right. While all students are entitled to access the regular instructional program, involvement in extracurricular programs requires adherence to elevated standards of behavior and conduct. Students represent themselves, their teams, and the District at all times, including off-campus, outside school hours, and while wearing school-affiliated uniforms or clothing.

Accordingly, this Athletic Code of Conduct imposes standards that exceed the general Student Code of Conduct and is enforceable in situations including, but not limited to:

- When school is not in session;
- Off-campus and non-school-related events;
- When students are not actively engaged in the extracurricular activity at the time of the conduct;
- Whether the activity is in or out of season.

A violation may result in consequences from both the campus administration and the athletic staff. Coaches may also impose discipline for violations of team-specific expectations even if the conduct does not constitute a violation of this Code.

3. Participation Requirements

All student-athletes in grades 7–12 are expected to participate in a minimum of **two (2)** athletic activities per academic year, including participation as a team manager or athletic trainer. Students must also be enrolled in an athletics period year-round.

Exceptions may be made for academic concerns, subject to review by the Athletic Director. Participating in multiple sports promotes school spirit, character development, educational engagement, and post-secondary readiness.

4. General Conduct Expectations

The following conduct expectations apply to all student-athletes participating in Farmersville ISD athletics. Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action by the coach, Athletic Director, or campus administrator.

- Students are expected to commit to their team or organization for the entire season. Students may not quit one sport or organization after the first contest to participate in another while the original activity is still ongoing. Suppose a student is involved in two activities that occur in the same season, such as cheerleading and Volleyball. In that case, quitting one will not affect participation in the other unless both occur simultaneously in the same venue (e.g., court, field, or stadium). In this case, the student who has quit may not participate in the event or game that is taking place simultaneously.
- All athletes are expected to prioritize Farmersville ISD athletics over non-school-sanctioned extracurricular activities, including club or private leagues. Missing a Farmersville ISD practice for a non-UIL activity may result in a **one-game suspension**. A second offense may result in removal from the team. Choosing to attend a non-UIL competition in place of a Farmersville ISD event may also result in removal from the team.
- Students must attend practices, meetings, and events on time and be properly prepared. In the event of an unavoidable absence, the student must notify their coach, sponsor, or captain in advance. Unexcused absences from practice may be subject to disciplinary measures. Missing more than two events per semester may result in further consequences at the coach's discretion.
- Students who are injured or ill but physically able to attend practice or events are expected to do so in appropriate attire. If a student is unable to attend due to

illness or injury, a parent's or physician's note must be provided.

- Students must demonstrate **respect for all coaches, sponsors, teammates, opponents, officials, and school personnel** at all times.
- Students must adhere to the Farmersville ISD Student Code of Conduct in addition to this Athletic Code. Violations may result in additional consequences related to their extracurricular participation.

Upholding The Texas Way

Farmersville ISD supports and upholds **The Texas Way**, a character-based philosophy endorsed by the University Interscholastic League (UIL). All student-athletes, coaches, and supporters are expected to demonstrate:

- **Honor** and fairness on and off the field;
- **Respect** toward officials, opponents, teammates, coaches, and spectators;
- **Responsibility** in their conduct, preparation, and representation of the school;
- **Integrity** in following rules, modeling ethical behavior, and doing what is right, even when no one is watching.

Students must **compete with class, win with humility, and lose with grace**, understanding that how they represent Farmersville ISD is just as important as the outcome of a competition.

Any behavior inconsistent with these values—including unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting, disrespect, or acts that bring discredit to the team, school, or UIL—may result in disciplinary consequences, including suspension or removal from the athletic program.

By choosing to participate in athletics, students commit to upholding these standards at all times and in all settings.

5. Prohibited Conduct

Students participating in extracurricular activities shall not engage in the following conduct, on or off campus, at any time:

1. Use, possession, or distribution of tobacco products, drugs, alcohol, or related paraphernalia;
2. Attendance at events where underage drinking, drug use, or smoking is occurring (with a limited grace period for departure);
3. Criminal behavior, including theft, assault, harassment, or vandalism;
4. Inappropriate language, gestures, or conduct, including public displays of affection or indecent exposure;
5. Inappropriate conduct on social media or online platforms;
6. Threatening or abusive behavior toward others, including bullying and harassment;
7. Misuse or theft of school-issued athletic equipment;
8. Disrespectful or unsportsmanlike behavior in competition or public settings.

Violation of any of the above may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from extracurricular programs.

6. Procedures for Determining Violations

The Athletic Director and/or head coach will investigate and determine if a violation has occurred. Upon determination, the following parties will be notified:

- The student and their parent(s) or guardian(s);
- The campus administrator and the appropriate school counselor, where applicable.

Coaches retain the authority to assign reasonable consequences (e.g., additional conditioning) for violations of team expectations that do not rise to the level of formal misconduct.

7. Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary decisions are made jointly by the Athletic Director and the head coach based on a review of the facts and circumstances. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Suspension from games or competitions;
- Removal from the team or office;
- Completion of missed practices before returning from disciplinary placements (e.g., AEP).

Drug/Alcohol Violations and Testing

Drug Testing Procedures:

If a student tests positive for prohibited substances under the district's drug-testing policy:

First Offense:

- Confirmation test required.
- Parent meeting (if applicable);
- 30-school-day suspension from all UIL activities;
- Required retest and ongoing testing throughout high school career;
- Reinstatement meeting with the administration and the coach.

Second Offense:

- 90-school-day suspension (non-negotiable);
- Required drug education program.
- Continued testing and reinstatement conditions as above.

Third Offense:

- One-year removal from all athletics;
- Reinstatement is only possible after an administrative review and completion of the program.
- Any further offense results in permanent removal from all extracurricular activities.

Disciplinary decisions may be appealed to the campus Principal, who has the authority to uphold, modify, or rescind any penalty.

8. Insurance Disclosure

Farmersville ISD does not assume financial responsibility for injuries sustained by students during participation in athletics. Questions regarding insurance coverage or injuries should be directed to the Athletic Department.

9. Eligibility

Eligibility is determined in accordance with University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines. Students must maintain passing grades in all classes and meet conduct standards to remain eligible.

10. Transportation

Students are required to travel to and from school-sponsored events using district-provided transportation. Exceptions require prior approval via a written travel release submitted to the coach and are limited to emergencies. Students may only be released to their parents or legal guardians.

11. Fundraising and Booster Clubs

Student-athletes may be required to participate in fundraising. They are responsible for all funds collected. Outstanding debts from fundraising efforts may affect eligibility for future participation. Booster club involvement is voluntary but must follow district policy.

12. Acknowledgment and Agreement

Participation in any extracurricular athletic activity requires the acknowledgment of both the student and their parent/guardian to the Athletic Code of Conduct and its expectations.

Acknowledgement Form

Date: _____

I, the undersigned student, acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Farmersville ISD Athletic Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that participation in athletics is voluntary and contingent upon compliance with the expectations outlined in this document.

Student Name (Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, acknowledge that I have reviewed the Farmersville ISD Athletic Code of Conduct with my child and understand the responsibilities and consequences associated with participation.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____