

# Fruitvale I.S.D.

## Extra-Curricular Policy Handbook

Board Adopted July 2023



The extra-curricular program at Fruitvale is an integral part of the total educational program. It is a vital part of the mental, social, and moral growth of our students. Extra-curricular programs are not designed to transcend the academic program, but to supplement it.

The term “extra-curricular activities” as used in this code means activities that include but are not limited to Band, UIL Academics, Student Council, National Honor Society, Robotics, Yearbook, and FFA.

Extra-curricular programs can provide valuable lessons for life’s practical situations. Students face experiences daily that teach them to overcome adversity, to develop leadership skills and winning attitudes, to be hard workers, and to be part of a team concept that requires self-sacrifice and service to others.

Because participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, FISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants than for those who choose not to participate. Therefore, the Extracurricular Policy extends beyond the FISD Student Code of Conduct not only on types of behavior prohibited but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline.

\*This code applies at all times, on or off campus, while participating in an activity or not, during the school year as well as holidays, weekends, and summer.

\*\*Violations of the Prohibited Conduct Policy may be established by:

1. Student Admission.
2. Admission by parent/guardian of student.
3. Violation witnessed by FISD staff member.
4. Issuance of a local agency report or citation.
5. Video or picture evidence reviewed by administration.
6. Failure of school drug test.

Participation by a student at a social gathering where alcohol or drugs are illegally served will not be tolerated. Participation at these gatherings could lead to consequences for the student and possible removal from the program. \*\*Note: Attendance at social events (i.e. wedding reception or professional sporting event) where alcohol is legally served to adults is not a violation of this code because alcohol is not being served illegally.

The following expectations must be met by all students:

**Attendance:** Attendance in academic classes is of the utmost importance. Students who owe time for excessive absences to the district will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity until the time has been made up for the owed time. The campus attendance committee may waive time if there are extenuating circumstances such as medical absences. For students to participate in practice or competition, they must be present during ADA time or have an excused absence on the day of the event.

**Behavior:** Students are expected to abide by all rules and regulations of the school district and community. Failure to abide by those rules **will** result in disciplinary action and **may** result in removal from the program. Consequences will be determined by the advisor or sponsor on an individual incident basis.

**Testing:** Students who are required to take state mandated tests (STAAR, EOC) will not be allowed to participate in events that conflict with those test dates including the summer.

**Respect:** Students are expected to show respect at all times toward teachers, administrators and other school personnel. Proper manners should always be displayed, and confrontations always avoided. Sir and Ma'am should always be used by the student when speaking to any adult, or person of authority. Appropriate disciplinary action will be determined by the advisor or sponsor for incidents of disrespect. Disrespect **will not** be tolerated and continual problems in the area of respect **will** result in removal from the program.

**Participation:** Students are encouraged to participate in as many extra-curricular activities as they desire. Every possible effort will be made to accommodate conflicting schedules. Students are expected to attend all practices, meetings, and competitions that they are participating in. They are also expected to report on time, and remain for the duration of the event. Habitual absences, depending on the circumstances, may result in removal from the program.

**Commitment:** Students are expected to complete the entire season of every extra-curricular program that they choose to participate in.

**Communication:** Students are expected to contact the advisor or sponsor of their particular program prior to any and all absences, excused or unexcused, or face disciplinary action. Misunderstandings are almost always the result of a lack of communication.

**Transportation:** All students are expected to ride on the school provided transportation to and from all out-of-town competitions in which they will participate. Parents/Guardians must give the advisor or sponsor at least 24 hours of notice if they plan to sign their child out after an event. Cell phone communication on the bus is not allowed unless the advisor or sponsor determines that it is necessary and grants permission.

**ISS:** Students who are assigned ISS will not be allowed on the school campus after hours to practice, participate or attend any contest on the day they are in ISS. Any missed practices will count as an unexcused absence.

**Alcohol/Drugs:** Alcohol and drugs are illegal for students and detrimental to long-term health and success. If it is proven that a student is using any of these (on campus or off) they will face the following disciplinary action in accordance with the Fruitvale Independent School District Student Policy:

- First Offense: For a student to regain eligibility for extracurricular activities:
  1. Parents and students are required to meet with the Sponsor and campus principal.
  2. The student must serve a suspension from all extracurricular activities (tryouts included) for 60 calendar days. The suspension will be reduced to 45 days if the student provides proof of at least 4 sessions within 30 days of drug counseling from a certified drug counselor approved by Fruitvale ISD.

3. The student must test at every school-provided opportunity for one calendar year. If the student does not test positive for that year, he/she will return to random test status.

➤ **Second Offense:** In order for a student to regain eligibility for extracurricular activities:

1. Parents and students are required to meet with the Sponsor and campus principal.
2. The student must serve a suspension from all extracurricular activities (tryouts included) for 180 days. The suspension will be reduced to 120 days if the student provides proof of a passed drug test from a certified drug counselor approved by Fruitvale ISD. The student must pass a hair follicle that the student will be required to pay for. The student must test at every school-provided opportunity for the remainder of his education career at Fruitvale ISD.

➤ **Third Offense:** The student will be suspended from extracurricular activities for the remainder of his/her educational career at Fruitvale ISD.

**Cost:** The District shall not be responsible for any cost incurred during drug counseling or testing other than that done according to District policy.

**Tobacco/Vape:** If a student is caught with or proven to have used tobacco on school premises or at school-sponsored activities the student will face consequences as given by the handbook, policy or sponsor. **Vapes will fall under the tobacco consequences unless additional substances are found in the vape.**

**Appeal of Dismissal:** If a student is dismissed from an extra-curricular program he/she has the right to appeal. Written notice of the student's desire to appeal the decision must be given to the advisor or sponsor. The appeal will be heard and decided on by a panel consisting of the Advisor/Sponsor, Superintendent, and the campus principal. The student, and/or their parent/guardian, will be allowed to state his/her case in the hearing.

**Parents:** Advisor or sponsors will be more than willing to meet with parents and discuss their child's situation under the following guidelines: **a)** schedule a meeting with the advisor or sponsor during his/her conference period **b)** the advisor or sponsor will discuss with the parent anything that pertains to their child and what they need to do to get better or improve their situation **c)** If at any time the meeting becomes hostile by either party, the meeting will come to an end.

**Chain of Command:** The Chain of Command should be followed by coaches, participants, and parents/guardians.

1. Sponsor
2. Principal
3. Superintendent

**Community/School Service:** Students may be required to participate in community/school related service activities at various times throughout the school year.

**School Issued Equipment:** Students may be issued equipment. Keeping up with the equipment and taking proper care of it is the responsibility of the student and they will be held financially responsible for any lost equipment based upon the advisor or sponsor's price list for that program. Failure to properly compensate for any lost equipment may result in a suspension from participation in any program until restitution has been made.

**Length of Discipline/Punishment:** Any student removed from extra-curricular activities will be eligible to apply for reinstatement into the program the following year. Each case will be reviewed by the sponsor, campus principal, and Superintendent.