

Benjamin Independent School District Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct

I. Extracurricular Activities

The term "extracurricular activities" means, without limitation, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, drill/dance team, academic clubs, special interest clubs, musical performances, dramatic productions, student government, and any other activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the District. The term includes any non-curricular event and membership or participation in groups, clubs, and organizations recognized and approved by the Board of Trustees and the school district and sponsored by the district or a campus. All extracurricular activity participants, including elected and appointed officers of all campus organizations, are subject to the provisions of this *Extracurricular Code of Conduct*.

II. Jurisdiction

Student participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged. Benjamin ISD 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 school district when performing, competing, or participating in extracurricular activities and while wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies students to the community or public in any setting as Benjamin ISD students. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total Benjamin ISD 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.

Because participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, Benjamin ISD 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 *Benjamin ISD Student Code of Conduct* not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. This *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* will be enforced with all students participating in extracurricular activities:

- regardless of whether school is in session;
- depending on the severity and nature of the disciplinary infraction, regardless of whether the offense occurs on or off school property or at a school-related event;
- regardless of whether the student is actively participating in the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;
- regardless of whether the extracurricular activity is in-season; and
- depending on the severity and nature of the disciplinary infraction, regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

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

III. Conduct Expectations

The following conduct is expected of all participants. Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor:

- Student commitment to a team or organization is expected for the entire season or activity. Students are encouraged to participate in more than one extracurricular activity; however, students may not quit one sport or organization in order to participate in another while the sport or club that he or she seeks to quit is still active.
- Students who participate in extracurricular activities that involve competition among schools and school districts will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. This includes behavior toward visiting teams or hosting teams as well as the opponent's fans. Benjamin ISD participants will be noted for clean, tough, competitive play. Praise your opponents and strive to play beyond your ability.
- Students should arrive to practices (including workouts), meetings, and events on time and prepared.
- Students who cannot be present for a practice (including workouts), meeting, or event should call the coach, sponsor, team captain, or club president as soon as they are aware that they will be absent. The coach or sponsor of each activity will decide when missed practices, meetings, or workouts will be made

up; however, disciplinary action may still be taken if a participant is absent more than two times in a semester.

- Injured or ill students who are unable to participate, but are able to attend a practice (including workouts), meeting or event are required to dress appropriately and sit or stand with the rest of the group, as determined by the coach or sponsor.
- Students are required to show respect at all times to coaches and sponsors.
- Students should refrain from wearing hair styles or hair colors that draw attention to themselves. Male students participating in sports are required to be clean shaven.
- Students should follow the rules promulgated in the *Benjamin ISD Student Code of Conduct*. Failure to do so may result in additional disciplinary measures related to the student's participation in extracurricular activities as determined by the coach or sponsor.

IV. Prohibited Conduct

Benjamin ISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited at all times from:

- possessing, smoking, selling, or otherwise using tobacco products;
- possessing or using electronic cigarettes or other non-tobacco nicotine-delivery products or accessories;
- possessing or using drug paraphernalia;
- possessing, selling, or delivering to another person look-alike drugs or items represented to be drugs or contraband of any kind;
- possessing, selling, giving, delivering to another person, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, a controlled substance, or any dangerous drug;
- engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to glue, aerosol paint, or volatile, mood-altering chemicals;
- engaging in serious misbehavior, as that term is defined in the Benjamin ISD Student Code of Conduct;
- attending any event at which underage drinking or smoking or any drug use is occurring (students will be allowed a slight concession for an amount of time long enough to determine that a violation is occurring and to leave the premises);
- riding in a vehicle containing alcohol unless a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult is present and aware of the presence of the alcohol;
- stealing;
- conduct that causes injury or harm to persons or property;

- using profanity, lewd or vulgar language, or obscene gestures;
- fighting;
- any conduct resulting in arrest and/or citations from law enforcement officers;
- inappropriate touching, including “making out” in public places; sexual gestures; or exposing parts of the body that are ordinarily covered up in public; and
- inappropriate behavior in public places.

V. Procedures

The coach and/or sponsor will determine whether an *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violation has occurred and notify appropriate individuals as needed.

Nothing in this *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* limits the authority of a coach or sponsor to impose reasonable sanctions, which may include extra workouts, suspension from practice or competition, or removal from the activity, for students who breach team or organization conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

VI. Disciplinary Action

Coaches and sponsors will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches and sponsors will strive for consistency in meeting out punishment for *Extracurricular Code of Conduct* violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion. Disciplinary actions for violations of the code could include extra running, suspension, or other forms of punishment, depending upon the severity of the violation.

The principal will not ordinarily interfere in a coach’s or sponsor’s judgment regarding appropriate discipline but has the authority to increase or decrease the punishment based on his or her professional assessment of the situation.

VII. Insurance for Students in Extracurricular Activities

Benjamin ISD is not responsible for injuries of its students who are participating in sports. However, Benjamin ISD will carry insurance covering participation in practice or competition for athletes. The coverage for each injury will vary according to the accident. More detailed information can be obtained by calling the Benjamin ISD. We will attempt to answer any questions you have concerning the supplemental athletic insurance program. While district staff may provide assistance to parents in filing claims, it is the parents’ ultimate responsibility to file claims and provide the information necessary for the insurance company to properly assess the claims and any benefits available.

As part of completing the UIL participation form, you have the option of requesting the administration of an electrocardiogram (ECG) from your physician. To learn more, please read UIL's Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form.

VIII. Acknowledgement

A condition to participating in any extracurricular activity or holding any office (elected or appointed) is to sign an acknowledgement that the student has read and understands the *Extracurricular Code of Conduct*. The student's parent or guardian must also sign an acknowledgement. The acknowledgement states that the signing party understands the consequences for engaging in prohibited conduct.



-----Please Sign and Return-----

Date _____

I have read the _____ *ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct* and agree to adhere to these rules as a condition for my voluntary participation in _____ ISD extracurricular activities. I understand that failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures related to my extracurricular participation.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

I have read the _____ *ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct* and understand the requirements for my child's voluntary participation in _____ ISD extracurricular activities. I understand the consequences that my child will face if he or she fails to adhere to these rules and agree to such terms.

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____