

**Groom Independent School District  
Extracurricular Code of Student Conduct  
Administrative Policy**

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**I. Extracurricular Activities:**

The term "extracurricular activities" means any non-curricular event and membership or participation in groups, clubs, and organizations recognized by the Board of Trustees and the school district and sponsored by the district or a campus. All UIL and non-UIL activities and student organizations, such as Student Council and National Honor Society are extracurricular. Extracurricular activities also include, but are not limited to, public performances, contests, and club events. 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. Groom 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 the student to the community or public in any setting as Groom ISD students. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the Groom ISD student body at all times and places during school and when school is not in session.

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, Groom 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 Groom 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, (Elementary, Jr. High, and High School) participating in extracurricular activities:

- *regardless of whether school is in session;*
- *regardless of whether the offense occurs on or off school property or at a school related event;*
- *regardless of whether the student is directly involved with the extracurricular activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;*
- *regardless of whether the extracurricular activity is in-season; and*
- *regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.*

It is possible that a student who violates the Groom 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 Groom ISD Student Code of Conduct.

### **III. Conduct Expectations:**

The following is expected of all participants. Failure to meet these expectations can result in disciplinary action by school administrators, coaches, or sponsors of extracurricular programs:

- Student commitment to a team or organization is expected for the entire school year. 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 quit is still active without both coaches or sponsors approval. A student who quits a sport will be required to go through off-season training prior to being readmitted to that sport the following year. All Groom ISD activities are subject to the codes of conduct as well as additional coach/sponsor requirements. A student who quits an activity to avoid disciplinary consequences, or is removed for disciplinary reasons, may lose participation privileges in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. Factors to be considered in such decisions will be previous code violations, official reports, personal attitude, and conduct reports by sponsors/coaches of other activities, attendance records, previous discipline incidents, and any record of previous probationary contracts.
- 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, officials, as well as opponents' fans. Groom ISD participants will be noted for clean, tough, competitive play. Praise your opponents and play beyond your ability.
- Students should arrive to practices (including workouts), meetings and events on time and prepared.

- Students shall be in attendance during the school day in order to participate in an activity. In the event a student must be absent from school on the day of an activity, prior approval should be obtained from the principal or athletic director to avoid the student not being allowed to participate in the activity.
- Students who cannot be present for a practice (including workouts), meetings, or events should call the coach or sponsor, as soon as they are aware that they will be absent. Missed practices, meetings, or workouts will be made-up; however, additional disciplinary action may 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), meetings, or events are required to dress appropriately and sit or stand with the rest of the group.
- Students are required to show respect at all times to coaches, sponsors, and staff.
- Sponsors/coaches will use their own discretion to bar the participation of students with extreme hairstyles, designs, or colors. Jewelry, body-piercing studs or rings, beards, and goatees are also prohibited for reasons of student safety and standards of group appearance at practices, competitions, performances, or trips.
- Students should follow the rules promulgated in the Groom 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. Student Drug Testing**

The district requires drug and alcohol testing of any student in grades 6-12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities. A student participating in these activities shall be tested for the presence of alcohol and illegal drugs at the beginning of each school year and then subject to random testing throughout the year. Consequences for positive drug tests are handled according to the provisions of FNF(LOCAL) and are not adjudicated under athletic policy.

#### **V. Prohibited Conduct:**

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

- *engaging in conduct punishable as a felony;*
- *possessing, smoking, selling, or using tobacco products;*
- *possessing or using drug paraphernalia;*
- *possessing, selling, giving, delivering to another person, using or being under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, a controlled substance, or other dangerous drug;*
- *a confirmed positive result on a district drug or alcohol test – initial or random;*

- *engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to glue, aerosol, paint, or volatile, mood-altering chemical;*
- *engaging in serious misbehavior, as term is defined in the Groom ISD Student Code of Conduct;*
- *riding in a vehicle containing alcohol unless a parent, guardian, is present and aware of the presence of the alcohol;*
- *theft;*
- *conduct that causes injury or harm to persons or property;*
- *inappropriate touching including "making out" in public places, sexual gestures, or exposing parts of the body that ordinarily are covered up in public;*
- *inappropriate behavior in public places;*
- *the use of vulgar and inappropriate language at inappropriate times or locations;*
- *violation(s) of coach's behavioral expectations.*

Attendance at an event at which underage drinking, smoking, or drug use takes place is discouraged. While attendance alone at such an event will not be treated as a violation of the code of conduct's prohibited actions, coaches/sponsors may elect to impose other consequences. Students will be allowed a slight concession of time to leave after they become aware of the prohibited activities taking place. ***However, if a student is cited for possession, selling, or being under the influence of prohibited items by law enforcement officials at such an event, the student will be subject to the full consequences of the code under other provisions of this code.***

Notification by law enforcement officials that a student was cited and/or arrested for any of the above conduct will be sufficient cause for a coach/sponsor to impose discipline under this code.

## **VI. Procedures:**

The coach and/or sponsor will determine whether an Extracurricular Code of Conduct violation has occurred.

Upon determination of an Extracurricular Code of Conduct violation, the following individuals will be notified:

- the appropriate administrators or authorities (Superintendent, Principals, Law Enforcement, etc.....);
- the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian;
- the counselor.

Nothing in this Extracurricular Code of Conduct limits the authority of a coach or sponsor to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for students who breach team or organization conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

## **VII. 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 handing out consequences for Extracurricular Code of Conduct violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion. Offenses occurring under this policy are considered cumulative in nature for grades 6-8 and 9-12. Participants will start with a clean slate in their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year and again their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.

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*Violation of any of the above-mentioned rules by a student participating in extracurricular activities will be categorized either as a Category I, Category II, or Category III violation. Be aware that persistent or frequent violations at level I or II will result in disciplinary consequences elevated to the next level.*

### **Category I offenses include, but are not limited to:**

- *inappropriate touching including "making out" in public places, sexual gestures, or exposing parts of the body that ordinarily are covered up in public;*
- *possessing, smoking, selling, or using tobacco products;*
- *inappropriate behavior in public places;*
- *use of vulgar and inappropriate language at inappropriate times or locations;*
- *willful violation(s) of the dress code;*
- *violation(s) of coach's behavioral expectations.*

*Consequences of Category I will be at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.*

### **Category II offenses include, but are not limited to:**

- *engaging in serious or persistent misbehavior, as term is defined in the Groom ISD Student Code of Conduct;*
- *riding in a vehicle containing alcohol unless a parent, guardian, is present and aware of the presence of the alcohol;*
- *illegal conduct that causes injury or harm to persons or property;*

*The coach or sponsor will have the discretion to categorize any offense not listed above.*

### **Consequences of Category II will result in the following:**

Removal from extracurricular activity performances or contests for the following time periods:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Offense** - parent notification, **one week (7 days) suspension**, extra conditioning/practice at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** - parent notification, **two week (14 days) suspension**, extra conditioning/practice at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** - parent notification, **immediate suspension of privileges, dismissal conference with student, parents, coaches/sponsors, and administrative staff. Dismissal from all extracurricular activities for a period of 1 calendar year from the date of dismissal.**

During periods of suspension, suspended participants may practice, but, shall not travel with the group or participate in any team activities, social or competitive, until the period of suspension is complete. This provision is not applicable for students dismissed from extracurricular programs.

**Category III Offenses include, but are not limited to:**

- *engaging in conduct punishable as a felony;*
- *possessing or using drug paraphernalia;*
- *possessing, selling, giving, delivering to another person, using or being under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, a controlled substance, or other dangerous drug;*
- *a confirmed positive result on a district drug or alcohol test – initial or random;*
- *engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to glue, aerosol, paint, or volatile, mood-altering chemical;*
- *theft.*

**Consequences of Category III offenses will be consistent with those contained in Board Policy FNF(Local).**

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**Extended placement in the ISS/DAEP classroom wherein the student receives extra days for non-compliance with rules will result in loss of participation privileges for extracurricular activities.**

In the event a student is removed from the District by law enforcement officials during the school day or at a school-related event *for violation of State Law* judged serious by Groom ISD Officials, upon returning to Groom ISD, the student will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activity for 15 school days. In addition, the student will serve a six-week probationary period in which a violation will result in immediate suspension of privileges.

*At the discretion of District coaches or administrators, the above penalty may be imposed for violations of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct that result in the arrest of student participants by law enforcement officials regardless of time or location.*

***Full, written documentation of consequences assessed under this policy shall be submitted to the Principal and Athletic Director within 5 days of a known violation.***

The Superintendent, Principal, or Athletic Director will not ordinarily interfere in a coach or sponsor's judgment regarding appropriate discipline but has the authority to increase or decrease the punishment based on his or her assessment of the situation.

### **VIII. Insurance for Athletes:**

Groom ISD is not responsible for injuries of its students who are participating in sports. However, Groom ISD will make available supplemental insurance to be purchased for the individual athlete. The coverage for each injury will vary according to the accident. More detailed information can be obtained by calling Groom ISD. The Superintendent will answer any questions you have concerning our athletic program of insurance and injuries.

### **IX. Acknowledgment:**

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

## **Acknowledgement Form – Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct**

### **Groom ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct Acknowledgment Form**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor/Coaches Signature** \_\_\_\_\_