

Code of Ethical Behavior  
for  
Extracurricular Activities

**2011 - 2012**

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## **CODE OF ETHICAL BEHAVIOR FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Each sponsor, along with the principal, shall have the authority to establish specific guidelines for membership and leadership eligibility. Because of the demands and responsibilities of elected offices, appointed positions, and varied activities in organizations, participants must be able to commit time and effort while still maintaining high standards. Therefore, if participants meet the eligibility requirements and are selected to represent an Amarillo secondary school, they agree to comply with the behavior guidelines set forth in the Amarillo Independent School District Discipline Management Plan, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Code of Ethical Behavior for Extracurricular Activities.

The Code of Ethical Behavior shall govern not only conduct at school and school-sponsored activities, but also conduct at any time outside the school day. If any participant violates either the Code of Conduct or the Code of Ethical Behavior in any way, he/she may lose the privilege of participation.

### **OFFENSES AND PENALTIES**

Students participating in extracurricular activities are prohibited from the following behavior:

#### ***MINOR OFFENSES***

1. Any conduct which constitutes a Class C misdemeanor or is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor as defined by the Texas Penal Code.
2. Possession of or use of alcohol or tobacco.
3. Any conduct that violates the behavioral standards set by individual campus organizations or persistent misbehavior that violates the organization's or district's previously communicated written standards of conduct.

#### ***DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AS TO MINOR OFFENSES***

- First Offense – The participant may be disciplined at the discretion of the sponsor or coach. Parents will be notified of the offense and possible future consequences. The grade-level assistant principal will be notified as to the offense and action taken.
- Second Offense – The participant may be suspended from the activity for a period of time no longer than the end of the school term. Parents will be notified of the offense and the consequences as well as consequences for future violations. The campus administration will be notified as to the offense and the actions taken.
- The sponsors/coaches of other activities shall be notified by the administration of violations, as appropriate.
- The appeal process for any campus level decision by the principal shall be in accordance with Board Policy FNG.

#### ***SERIOUS OFFENSES***

1. Any act which constitutes a felony or is punishable as a felony or any act that is defined and is punishable as a Class A or B misdemeanor as defined by the Texas Penal Code.
2. Selling, giving, or delivering to another person in violation of statutes, marijuana, other controlled substances, or dangerous drugs (as defined by Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, Art. 4476-14 or Art. 4476-15), or substances represented to be marijuana, other controlled substances, or dangerous drugs.
3. The unlawful possession or use of marijuana, other controlled substances, or dangerous drugs (as defined by Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, Art. 4476-14 or Art. 4476-15).
4. Aggressive, disruptive action or group demonstration that substantially disrupts or materially interferes with school activities.

## ***DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AS TO SERIOUS OFFENSES***

1. All allegations that a student has committed a serious offense shall be referred by the principal in writing to the Campus Review Committee. Upon receipt by the Campus Review Committee of a written and signed statement concerning a possible infraction of the Code of Ethical Behavior, an initial investigation will begin. After the initial investigation, the Campus Review Committee may decide to (1) terminate the investigation, or (2) determine if a hearing should be held to determine future eligibility of the student. After a preliminary hearing, the Committee may elect to temporarily suspend the participant from the activity or activities until the complete investigation and final hearing can occur.

The initial investigation and preliminary hearing should occur within 10 school days of the statement concerning the possible infraction being received by the Campus Review Committee.

The Campus Review Committee will ensure that the student is afforded procedural due process during the investigation and hearing including:

- A. Prior notice of the charges and the proposed sanctions so as to afford a reasonable opportunity for preparation.
  - B. Right to an adult representative or legal counsel.
  - C. Opportunity to testify and to present evidence and witnesses in his or her defense.
  - D. Opportunity to examine the evidence presented to the Campus Review Committee and to question the witnesses.
2. The Campus Review Committee may consider any testimony or written statement it considers to be reliable.
  3. After a complete investigation and hearing(s) before the Campus Review Committee, the Committee may suspend the individual from all extracurricular activities for a period of time no longer than the end of the school term (semester) unless the conduct directly leading to the suspension from activities occurred during the final six-weeks reporting period of the semester, in which case the suspension may extend beyond the current semester, but not beyond the end of the following semester.
  4. All disciplinary action taken by the Campus Review Committee will be reviewed by the principal. The principal may affirm, modify, or void the decision of the committee.
  5. The appeal process for any campus level decision by the principal shall be in accordance with Board Policy FNG.

## **CAMPUS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

This committee will consist of administrators, teachers, and students (except for the middle schools) and will be of manageable size with an odd number of participants. High school students selected for the committee will have demonstrated by conduct and academic achievement their willingness to uphold high standards.

The committee should be an ongoing panel and will be appointed by the principal. All members of the committee shall be reminded of the confidential nature of the information discussed.