

Vacaville Unified School District Extra Curricular Activities Student Code of Conduct

Introduction

The Vacaville Unified School District (VUSD) recognizes the importance and value that extracurricular activities play in the lives of our students. As an integral component of our student's education, we see the activities that students participate in on our campuses as extensions of the classroom. We aim to provide these activities in an environment that promotes a student's personal growth, as well as their physical and emotional health. Through these programs, VUSD strives to strengthen the integrity of students and adults within our schools by advancing the highest principles of character – respect, responsibility, fairness, and good citizenship.

Vacaville Unified School District considers the coaching and advising of extracurriculars to be teaching stations. This implies that teacher responsibility for supervision, preparation, and training is as essential as it is in the classroom. We expect that the coach or advisor will apply him/herself to extracurricular assignments in the same professional manner displayed in a formal classroom situation. We believe that a coach and advisor has a unique opportunity to influence young people through his/her interaction with students in our extracurricular program. These are teaching opportunities a coach and advisor can use to help young people become better citizens.

Purpose

The Extra Curricular Code of Conduct (Code) applies to student athletes and students involved in clubs and other school sponsored activities (ex. Student Council, Link Crew, Drama, Music, etc). Student participation in extracurriculars is a privilege, not a right. A student's participation is contingent upon their full cooperation with all provisions of this Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Vacaville Unified School District asserts the right of every student to equitable access to these opportunities, and when in violation of the Code, equitable corrective actions will apply.

General Provisions

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing your school and community. Understand that your conduct is a reflection of your program, school and our community, and therefore must always be of the highest regard.
2. Maintain all eligibility requirements as outlined by the VUSD Board of Education policy.
3. Learn the rules of your sport/activity thoroughly. This will assist you in achieving a better understanding and appreciation and promote fair play. Student athletes must abide by the bylaws set forth by the California Interscholastic Federation and their local league or program.
4. Cooperate fully with coaches/advisors and officials, always exercise good judgment and conduct, abiding by the rules as they are stated.
5. Fulfill your commitment to the team/ program prior to moving on to the next activity. If an athlete tries out for a sport and finds that he/she does not have the ability or just does not like the sport and wishes to change to another sport, he/she must get a release from the coach of the first sport before he/she can take part in another sport during that same season.

6. Maintain in good repair all equipment, uniforms and materials issued to them. Equipment and uniforms must be returned at the end of the season in good condition or be paid for.

Statute of Limitations and Related Issues

A student is considered subject to the Code of conduct while enrolled in their current grade level. The rules governing students are in effect from July 1st through June 30th of each school year, and apply to all students encompassing grades seven through twelve. This policy is in effect 24 hours a day and covers student behavior both in and outside of school.

Violations brought to the attention of the administration that occurred prior to July 1st will not be considered under this policy, unless the incident proves to be a substantial disruption to the school's current operations or educational environment.

No violation which occurred prior to a student's documented first violation (between the dates above) will be considered under this policy as a subsequent (e.g. second, third, etc) violation. Only violations that occurred subsequent to a first violation will be considered as such for the purposes of this policy.

Violations

Per VUSD [Board Policy 6145](#), when attending or participating in extracurricular and cocurricular activities on or off campus, district students are subject to district policies and regulations relating to student conduct. Students who violate district policies and regulations may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, transfer to alternative programs, or denial of participation in extracurricular or cocurricular activities in accordance with VUSD Board policy and administrative regulation. When appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall notify local law enforcement.

In addition to the general provisions written above, while present at school or a school sponsored event, or while not under the direct supervision of school, the following shall be considered specific violations of the Code of Conduct.

1. Unlawful acts that have the potential to disrupt school operations.
2. Acts, including social media activity, that is illegal, encourages illegal activity, is obscene, sexually harrassing, explicit in nature, poses a risk to the health or safety of individuals, racist and/or discriminatory in nature, or comments that personally attack or threaten a person(s).

The following violations of California Education Code will be cause for immediate removal from the team/ activity.

1. When a student is suspended from school for being in possession, use, or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, they will be dropped from the team/ activity for the remaining duration of the sport/activity.
2. Students recommended for expulsion under California Education Code 48900, or suspended for violations under California Education Code 48915 (c), shall be removed from sport/ activity for the duration of the expulsion term.

Due Process Procedures

1. If there is a reasonable belief a student violated the Code, and the violation was made known to an employee of the Vacaville Unified School District, the allegation must be reported to a site administrator and Athletic/Activity Director.
2. Any reported allegation of a potential violation, including unlawful acts that occur either in school or in the community that have the potential to disrupt school operations, will result in an investigation. At minimum, the investigation will include:
 - a. An opportunity for the affected participant to explain his/her involvement to a site administrator and/or Athletics/Activity Director.
 - b. A review of any previous corrective actions relating to the affected participant.
 - c. Interviews with others (students, staff members, coaches, officials, etc.) who may have knowledge of the alleged incident.
 - d. An interview with the parent/guardian, as appropriate.
 - e. The site administrator and/or Athletic/Activity Director may determine that other steps must be taken before the investigation is complete.
3. If concluded that the participant did violate the Code, the site administrator and/or Athletic/Activity Director may determine an appropriate corrective action in consultation with the Athletic and Activities Director, as appropriate. The corrective action will be commensurate with the nature of the extra-curricular activity, the participant's offense, honesty, and his/her own conduct, and/or other relevant factors.
 - a. Corrective action(s) applied under the Code are to be interpreted in a way that would not limit the application of disciplinary corrective action that would otherwise be imposed under other applicable policies and procedures when appropriate.
4. If concluded that the participant did violate the Code, the site administrator and/or Athletic/Activity Director will provide the participant and parent/guardian a written record of the corrective action imposed on the student participant. The written record will include at minimum the behavior that led to the corrective action, the corrective action, and applicable appeal rights. Records of corrective action imposed on a participant under the Code are maintained in the same manner as any other student information.
5. Should a corrective action under the Code be applicable for a co-curricular activity that is part of a credit course for grade (examples include drama, music, journalism, art), the site administrator will determine an appropriate corrective action. The corrective action will only be for the extracurricular event portion of the activity commensurate with the nature of the co-curricular activity, the student's offense, honesty, and his/her own conduct, and/or other relevant factors.
6. If a student commits an infraction of the Code, but is not currently involved in a sport/activity, the site administrator and/or Athletic/Activity Director will determine an appropriate corrective action. The site administrator and/or Athletic/Activity Director will then:
 - a. Either apply a corrective action with a completion date PRIOR to the next sports season in which the student participates.
 - i. Note: If the student does not participate in a sport/activity within a calendar year, no corrective action will be applied.
 - ii. Note: Participation is defined as follows: the student must report for try-outs and complete the season in order to serve the corrective action that has been imposed.
 - b. Or apply the corrective action to the next consecutive sports season in which the student participates.

7. Corrective actions apply to the sport and the activity if the student participates in both concurrently during a given school year.
8. If a corrective action imposed on a student participant overlaps with a period of ineligibility in a sport or activity (for reasons including but not limited to grades, injury, or practice requirements), the corrective action does not begin after the period of ineligibility. Instead, the site administrator and/or Athletic/Activity Director will determine an appropriate corrective action commensurate with the nature of the extra-curricular activity, the student's offense, honesty, and his/her own conduct, and/or other relevant factors.
9. Appeal Procedures:
 - a. Students shall have the opportunity to appeal the finding of a Code of Conduct violation to a Code of Conduct Review Board, but shall not review the length of the sanctions imposed as the result of such a finding. A parent has the right to accompany a student during the student's appearance before the Review Board. The Code of Conduct Review Board shall be composed of the following, all appointed by the Building Principal:
 - i. An administrator other than the administrator(s) responsible for the initial determination of a Code of Conduct violation;
 - ii. One athletic head coach or activity sponsor, who shall not supervise or coach the student in question.
 - b. The Code of Conduct Review Board will make a written report of its decision and rationale. The decision of this Review Board is final, except where the sanction removes the student from sports and activities for one year or more. In these cases, the student may appeal the decision to the Building Principal. The decision of the Building Principal is then final.
10. Out-of-School/Alternative Learning Environment: In the occurrence of an administrative suspension, an athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activity until the suspension period has concluded and the student has been formally readmitted to school.

Expectations of Parents/ Spectators

- Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know that they are accomplishing something positive by being part of the extracurricular program.
- As a fan, you are entitled to cheer enthusiastically for your student, always demonstrating respect for all participants.
- Insist that your student respect team/club rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.
- Remember that the coach/advisor is involved because he/she is sincerely fond of children and is an experienced professional. Coaches and advisors have different ways of dealing with people and situations. Students' lives are enriched by interaction with different types of leaders.
- Remember, as the parent, you represent your community, your school and your student. Please be a positive role model.

Parent/Coach/Advisor Communication

As your son/daughter becomes involved in the extracurricular programs at VUSD they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student wishes. This is the opportunity for your student to talk with their respective coach/advisor and discuss the situation. When your student handles the problem, it becomes part of the learning and maturation process.

There may also be situations that require a conversation between the coach/advisor and the parent. These are encouraged. It's important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position.

Please do not attempt to broach a conversation regarding your student with a coach/advisor before or after a contest or event. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach/advisor. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions. Please contact the coach the next day to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss this concern.

If the concern is not resolved between your student and the coach/advisor, call the Athletic/Activity Director to arrange a conference. A meeting will be arranged with the coach/advisor, parent and Athletic/Activity Director. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined. Only after these steps have taken place, and a resolution has still not been reached, should an administrator be contacted.