

# Italy Independent School District Extracurricular Handbook as of the 2019-2020 school year

## I. Extracurricular Activities

The term "extracurricular activities" means, without limitation, all interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, academic clubs, special interest clubs, musical performances, 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 District. All extracurricular activity participants are subject to the provisions of this Extracurricular Handbook. Additionally, individual activities may have additional rules and requirements particular to such activities. A student's participation in a particular extracurricular activity is conditioned upon the student's compliance with the requirements and standards of behavior set forth in the individual extracurricular activity handbook, the Italy ISD Student Code of Conduct outlined in the Student Handbook, and the Italy ISD Extracurricular Handbook.

## II. Jurisdiction

Student participation in extracurricular activities is encouraged. Italy 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 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 Italy ISD students. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total Italy ISD student body **at all times and places**.

Important goals of the extracurricular activities 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, Italy 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 Handbook* will be enforced with all students grades 7th –12th 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 and when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the *Italy ISD Student Code of Conduct* will incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his or her coach, director or sponsor for the same particular violation. However, the standards of the *Italy ISD Extracurricular Handbook* are independent of the *Italy ISD Student Code of Conduct*, and therefore it is also possible that a student participating in extracurricular activities could violate the individual extracurricular activity's handbook and/or the *Italy ISD Extracurricular Handbook* and be subject to discipline by a coach, director or sponsor without having violated the *Italy ISD Student Code of Conduct*.

### **III. Conduct Expectations**

**The following conduct is expected of all participants. Failure to meet these expectations can result in disciplinary action by the coach, director 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 later than before the first contest (or other such activity), in order to participate in another while the sport or club that he or she quit is still active. If a student is involved in two activities at the same time, quitting one activity will not affect the student's status in the other activity.
- All students participating in Italy ISD extracurricular activities that require participation on team or other formal groups, such as athletics, cheerleading, band, etc., made a commitment to the team or group, their teammates and their

school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the student participant. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. Another part of this commitment is to place the Italy ISD extracurricular team or group above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity and attend all practices, games, contests, or other organized group activities scheduled by Italy ISD coaches or sponsors.

Without prior written permission from a coach, director, or sponsor, if a student misses an Italy ISD extracurricular practice or other activity because of participation in an activity not under the direction of Italy ISD (non UIL extracurricular activities, such as club sports, etc.), the student may be suspended for one game, contest or other event. If a student chooses an outside activity over an Italy ISD activity for a second time, he/she may be released from the team or organization.

In addition, in the event a student misses an Italy ISD extracurricular contest, game or other such event to participate in an activity not under direction of Italy ISD, the student has chosen that activity over the Italy ISD activity and he/she may be released from the team or organization.

- 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. Italy ISD participants will be noted for clean, tough, competitive play. Students who fail to comply with this requirement are subject to punishment up to and including removal from the team or organization for a fixed or indefinite period, or permanently.
- Students who cannot be present for a practice, workouts, meeting, or event should contact the coach, director, or sponsor, as soon as they are aware that they will be absent. 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 or is absent any time without good cause.
- Injured or ill students who are unable to participate should still attend practices, workouts, meetings, or events as required by the coach, director, or sponsor.
- Students are required to show respect at all times to coaches, directors and sponsors.

- Students should follow the rules promulgated in the Italy 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, director or sponsor.
- Students in grades 7-12 who wish to participate in UIL activities and other school-sponsored extracurricular activities must participate in the mandatory drug testing program. This program shall include random testing throughout the school year.

See Board Policy FNF (Legal) and (Local) for more information regarding drug testing.

#### **IV. Prohibited Conduct and Disciplinary Action**

In addition to obeying rules set forth in the Italy ISD Student Code of Conduct, the particular extracurricular activity's constitution, handbook, rule book, and/or regulations, if any, or rules otherwise communicated to the student by the activity's coach or sponsor, a student in grades 7 through 12 participating in any Italy ISD extracurricular activity shall comply with the *Extracurricular Handbook* and will be disciplined as outlined below:

##### **A. General Misconduct Guidelines**

**Italy ISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited at all times and in all places from:**

###### **Behaviors:**

General Misconduct prohibited behaviors; such as, general inappropriate behavior in or out of school; public displays of affection while in uniform; violating dress and grooming standards; behaving in any way that disrupts the school environment or educational process; inappropriate use of social media (see Article X for additional social media information), etc.

###### **Actions:**

Disciplinary action as outlined below represents the minimum consequences that may be administered. Each individual activity handbook may prescribe stricter consequences.

Any offense: Coaches, directors or sponsors of extracurricular activities may apply reasonable discipline management techniques as appropriate. (This would

include extra workouts or work, added training obligations or other minor sanctions for students who breach team or organization conduct expectations.)

**Habitual or More Severe General Misconduct Behaviors:**

More serious General Misconduct behaviors such as bullying or threatening in person or through the inappropriate use of social media, at any time, are subject to more serious consequences including but not limited to:

Removal from leadership role; suspension; removal from the team or organization.

**B. Removal from the Regular Education Setting**

**Italy ISD students who participate in extracurricular activities are prohibited at all times and in all places from:**

**1. Behaviors resulting in In-School Suspension or Suspension from School**

**Action taken:**

Disciplinary action as outlined below represents the minimum consequences that may be administered. Each individual activity code of conduct may prescribe stricter consequences.

Any student removed from the regular educational setting and assigned to In-School Suspension or suspended from school, shall be disciplined as follows:

Students who are suspended or in ISS are not eligible to compete in extracurricular contests until the suspension or ISS assignment is complete.

- ISS students may practice before or after school while assigned to ISS, but they may not participate in extracurricular contests until they have served the full length of their ISS assignment.
- Suspended students are not allowed to be on campus while suspended and therefore may not participate in practices or extracurricular events during the length of their suspension.

For clarification purposes: An ISS assignment is complete at the conclusion of the school day of the final day of the assignment. A suspended student does not become eligible until the morning after the final day of the suspension.

## **2. Behaviors resulting in Discretionary DAEP Assignment**

### **Action taken:**

Disciplinary action as outlined below represents the minimum consequences that may be administered. Each individual activity code of conduct may prescribe stricter consequences.

Any student removed from the regular educational setting and assigned to DAEP shall be disciplined as follows:

1st Offense: The student shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities while assigned to DAEP. Upon completion of the DAEP assignment, the student will not participate in any extracurricular activities for up to 10 calendar days.

2nd Offense: The student shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities while assigned to DAEP. Upon completion of the DAEP assignment, the student will not participate in any extracurricular activities for up to 30 calendar days.

3rd Offense: The student shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities while assigned to DAEP. Upon completion of the DAEP assignment, the student shall also be suspended from further participation in all extracurricular activities for up to one calendar year.

## **3. Behaviors resulting in Mandatory DAEP Assignment, Discretionary Expulsion or Mandatory Expulsion from School**

### **Action taken:**

Disciplinary action as outlined below represents the minimum consequences that may be administered. Each individual activity code of conduct may prescribe stricter consequences.

Any student removed from the regular educational setting and assigned to DAEP for a mandatory reason or expelled from school shall be disciplined as follows:

1st Offense: The student shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities while assigned to DAEP/Expelled and from further participation in all extracurricular activities for up to 30 calendar days after returning from DAEP/Expulsion.

2nd Offense: The student shall be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities while assigned to DAEP/Expelled and from further participation in all extracurricular activities for up to one calendar year after returning from DAEP/Expulsion.

3rd Offense: The student shall be dismissed from further participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in either middle school or high school.

For clarification purposes: Students placed in DAEP are ineligible to participate in or attend extracurricular activities pursuant to Texas Education Code Section 37.006(g).

### **C. Off-Campus Violations**

As representatives of Italy ISD, students who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate exemplary behavior whether at school or away and at all times. The behavior of the individual is a reflection of the team or organization and will therefore affect the individual's eligibility to participate and/or represent the team or organization. Therefore, students involved in Italy ISD extracurricular activities are prohibited from the following:

1. Possessing or using drug paraphernalia;
2. Possessing, selling, or delivering to another person look-alike drugs or items represented to be drugs or contraband of any kind;
3. Possessing, selling, or giving, delivering to another person, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, or a controlled substance, or any dangerous drug;
4. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to glue, aerosol paint, or volatile mood-altering chemicals;
5. Stealing;

6. Conduct that causes injury or harm to persons or property;
7. Any conduct resulting in arrest and/or citation from law enforcement officers (excluding citations written specifically for traffic/parking violations);
8. Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of any criminal offense identified in state or federal law;
9. Any inappropriate use of social media.

**Action taken:**

Disciplinary action as outlined below represents the minimum consequences that may be administered. Each individual activity code of conduct may prescribe stricter consequences.

1st Offense: The student shall be removed from a leadership role; one year probation; counseling; removal from extracurricular activity for up to 20 school days. If a student confesses to the violation before the school is notified, the penalty will be reduced by one half.)

2nd Offense: The student shall be dismissed from further participation in all extracurricular activities for up to 40 school days.

3rd Offense: The student shall be dismissed from further participation in all extracurricular activities for up to 90 school days.

4th Offense: The student shall be dismissed from further participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's enrollment in either middle school or high school.

**V. Procedures**

For all activities, the school principal, the coach, director or sponsor will determine whether an *Extracurricular Handbook* violation has occurred. Upon determination of a violation by the coach, director or sponsor, the School Administrator and the Activity Director shall be notified to confirm a violation has occurred.

Upon determination of an *Extracurricular Handbook* violation, the following individuals will be notified:

- the student and the student's parent(s); and/or
- In appropriate cases, the student may be referred to a school counselor to provide counseling, support, and guidance in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs, mood-altering chemicals, and other prohibited activities.

Nothing in this *Extracurricular Handbook* limits the authority of a coach, director or sponsor to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts or work, added training obligations or other minor sanctions for students who breach team or organization conduct expectations but do not engage in conduct prohibited by this *Extracurricular Handbook*.

## **VI. Insurance**

Italy ISD may choose to purchase or make available a limited amount of accident insurance to help cover specified expenses relating to injuries suffered by students participating in sports and other extracurricular activities. Such choice will be made by the Board of Trustees each year as a part of the budgetary process. However, the purchase of any such insurance does not operate as a waiver of the district's immunities from liability or damages for student injuries, nor does it imply any agreement by the district to assume any responsibility for such injuries or for expenses. Parents are strongly urged to make sure they have sufficient personal insurance to cover any expenses related to a student injury. Further information concerning student accident insurance may be found on the district website.

## **VII. Eligibility and Tryouts**

All students are eligible, as long as they meet UIL requirements for eligibility and any addendums included for a specific sport or activity. To remain eligible, a student must be passing all classes and have acceptable conduct as outlined in the *Extracurricular Handbook* and the Italy ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Tryout procedures and the calendar for the various extracurricular activities are determined by the individual activity directors in partnership with Italy ISD guidelines. Final approval of the individual extracurricular activity tryout procedures in each area will be given by the appropriate Italy ISD Administrator or designee. Upon completion of the tryout procedure for the extracurricular activity, the sponsor will notify all participants of their membership status. The results of tryout procedures are final and cannot be appealed.

## **VIII. Activities - Transportation**

Students will ride school-provided transportation to and from all events. Exceptions will not be routinely granted, but are reserved for exceptional circumstances and unforeseeable emergencies. A student will only be released to a parent/guardian, and only after completion of a travel release form\*, which will be submitted at least 24 hours in advance except in emergency situations. Exceptions will not be granted for convenience. Violations of this rule may subject students to disciplinary actions up to and including removal from the team or organizations.

\*A travel release form may be obtained from the coach, director or sponsor.

If a student is representing Italy ISD in one activity, he/she may be transported to a second Italy ISD activity by parent/guardian with previous knowledge/consent by both coaches/sponsors.

## **IX. Fundraising and Booster Clubs**

All students/athletes/participants are expected to raise funds for team or organization activities. Students engaged in fundraising activities are expected to promptly turn in all money (including checks) received as directed by the coach, director or sponsor. Students are responsible for safeguarding all funds in their possession, and may be required to reimburse the organization or team for any money lost or otherwise unaccounted for while in a student's possession. Students who fail to turn in all funds in a timely fashion may be subjected to disciplinary actions up to and including removal from the team or organization. Students should also be aware that retaining money that does not belong to the student may subject the student to appropriate sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct.

## **X. Social Media Policy**

Italy ISD supports the student's rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. As a student, you represent the school district and you are expected to portray yourself, your team/organization, your school and the school district in a positive manner both on and off campus through social media.

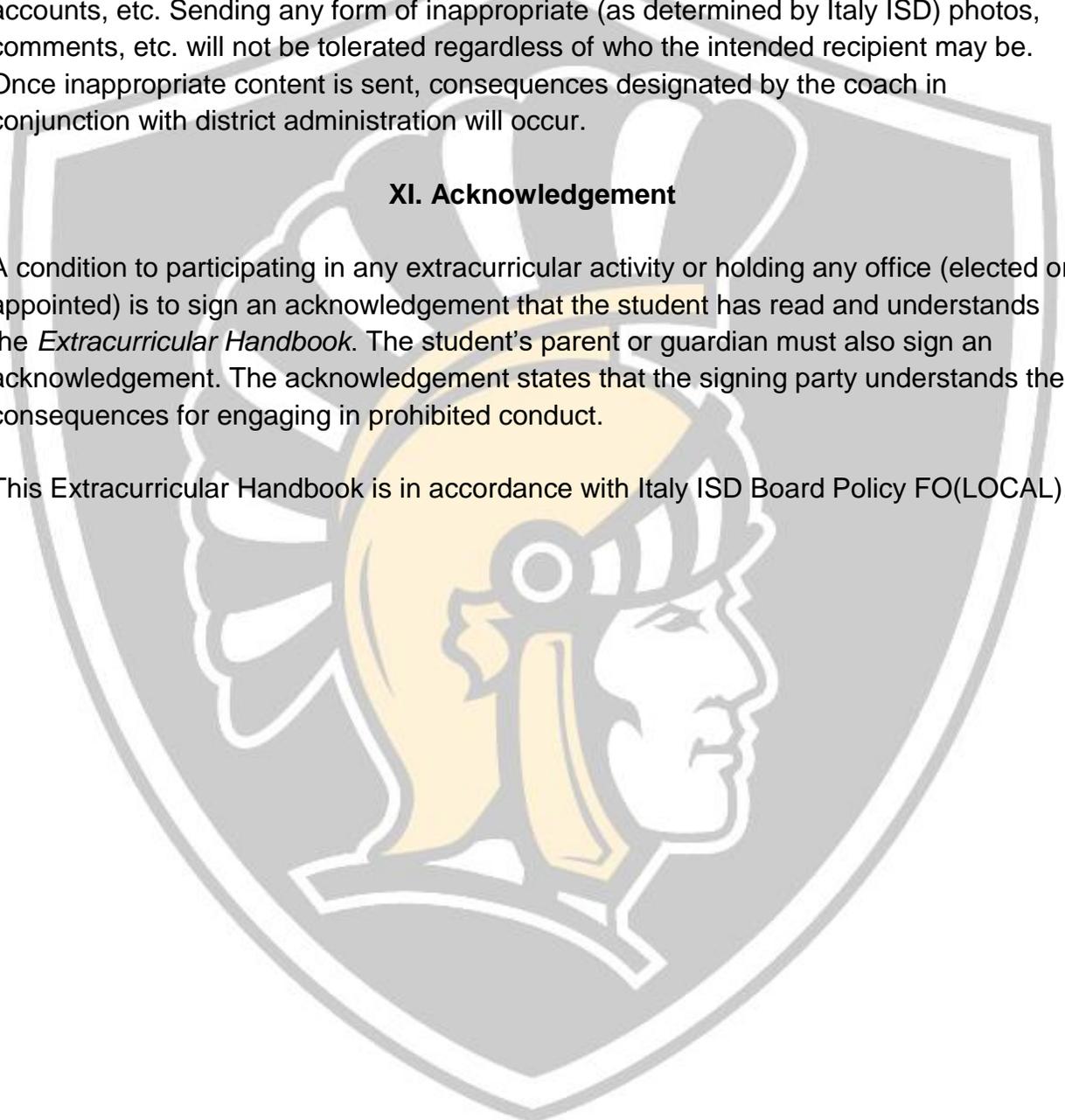
The following guidelines will be the standard for social media/networking use by all students who participate in extracurricular activities in grades 7-12 within Italy ISD. Consequences for noncompliance will vary based on severity and frequency of violation.

All extracurricular students will refrain from posting, submitting, sending, or publishing inappropriate, slanderous, derogatory, sexually suggestive, sexually explicit, or any form of negative comments, photos, texts, etc. to any electronic, public or private entity which includes, but is not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, personal email accounts, personal web pages, personal or private chat rooms, personal texting/cell phone accounts, etc. Sending any form of inappropriate (as determined by Italy ISD) photos, comments, etc. will not be tolerated regardless of who the intended recipient may be. Once inappropriate content is sent, consequences designated by the coach in conjunction with district administration will occur.

### **XI. 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 Handbook*. 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.

This Extracurricular Handbook is in accordance with Italy ISD Board Policy FO(LOCAL).



**Italy Independent School District  
Acknowledgement of the  
Extracurricular Handbook**

**As of the 2019-2020 school year**

A condition to participating in any extracurricular activity or holding any office (elected or appointed) is to sign an acknowledgement that the students has read and understands the *Extracurricular Handbook*. This acknowledgement states that the signing party understands the consequences for engaging in prohibited conduct.

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

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Italy ISD Extracurricular Handbook and understand the requirements for my child's voluntary participation in Italy 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

