Mathis Independent School District



2026-2027 Extra-Curricular Handbook

If you have difficulty accessing the information in this document because of disability, please contact http://mathisisd.org/ or call (361) 547-3378.

Table of Contents

Contents

Table of Contents 1

Preface 3

- What is an Extracurricular Activity? 3
- Why are Extracurricular Activities Important? 3
- Who is Subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct? 4
- When Does the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Apply? 4
- What is Expected of Extracurricular Activity Participants? 4

Academics 5

Alcohol/Drug 5

- Consequences 6

Alcohol/Drug Testing 6

Athletic Class Period & Procedures 7

Athletic Forms 7

Attendance 7

Chain of Command 8

University/College Recruitment 8

Conduct /Sportsmanship 8

Disciplinary Guidelines 9

Eligibility 10

Equipment/Supplies/Materials 10

Extra-Curricular Committee 11

Felony Charges 11

Grooming and Dress 11

Injuries or Illness 11

Insurance 12

Lettering 12

Locker Room/ Band Hall/Bus 12

Off-Season 12
Pick-Up Times 12
Punctuality 13
Quitting 13
Reinstatement Procedure 13
Scheduling Conflicts 13
STEROIDS (Secondary Grade Levels Only) 14
Suspension/Saturday In-School Suspension 14
Training Rules 14
Travel 14

MATHIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT EXTRA-CURRICULAR HANDBOOK 2025-2026

Preface

The Mathis Independent School District desires to be a positive force in the lives of the young people of Mathis/San Patricio County. This responsibility goes beyond the classic understanding of an academic/extra-curricular education and extends to management of behavior, development of life skills, and an understanding of the legal and health ramifications of the illegal use of drugs and alcohol.

It is a privilege, not a right, to participate in extracurricular activities. We believe that properly controlled well organized academic, athletic, vocational, and technology programs meet the needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. We endeavor to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity. It is our desire that through competition, our students realize that they can determine the course of their own lives. We believe that through our program we can help our students grow into mature, responsible citizens that contribute to our society. **The primary objective of our program is to develop a sense of responsibility and accountability in all of our students.**

- **What is an Extracurricular Activity?**
  - Any University Interscholastic League (UIL), School District, or campus-sponsored or related public performances, events, contests, demonstrations, displays, club activities, athletics, whether on- or off-campus;
  - Any elected offices and honors (such as student counsel and homecoming queen);
  - All co-curricular activities, which are held in conjunction with a credit-bearing class, but that may take place outside of school and outside of the school day (such as band and choir);
  - All national organizations (such as National Honor Society or Future Farmers of America); and
  - Any activity held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be an extracurricular activity (such as a meeting, practice, or fundraiser).

- **Why are Extracurricular Activities Important?**
  - They promote self-discipline, responsibility, leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, commitment, and student wellness.
  - They enhance and enrich curricular educational offerings.
  - They offer participants the opportunity to be leaders and role models on campus and

in the community.

- They enable participants to represent the School District in a positive manner.

➢ Who is Subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct?

Any student who participates in one or more extracurricular activities is subject to the Extracurricular Code of Conduct (ECC). A student is subject to the ECC from the time he/she is selected for, elected to, or otherwise joins an extracurricular activity and continues to be subject to the ECC from that point forward unless or until the student no longer participates in extracurricular activities.

➢ When Does the Extracurricular Code of Conduct Apply?

The privilege of representing the School District carries with it a greater responsibility to conduct oneself with respect and dignity, and to serve as a role model for all students. Consequently, extracurricular activity participants are expected to comply with the ECC at all times, regardless of location. This includes both on and off-campus conduct as well as evenings, weekends, holidays, and summer vacation; when the student is in season.

➢ What is Expected of Extracurricular Activity Participants?

Participants in extracurricular activities are representatives of the School District and must conduct themselves in a manner that always reflects positively on the School District.

Specifically, they must:

- Meet grade eligibility requirements as set per UIL, except as provided in District policy FM (Legal);
- Be punctual and prepared for all games, practices, meetings, performances, camps, and/or other scheduled events related to an extracurricular activity;
- Treat all school property with respect and ensure that school property is returned upon request and in good condition (excluding reasonable wear and tear);
- Abide by the District's dress and grooming standards for students as well as any dress and grooming standards applicable to the specific extracurricular activity;
- Comply with UIL rules, including those related to random steroid testing, if applicable;
- Be courteous and respectful toward all fellow participants, school faculty and staff members, spectators, parents, and officials, whether from Mathis ISD or from any other school district;
- Provide 24 hours advance written notice to the coach or sponsor of an activity if they are unable to attend a game, practice, meeting, performance, and/or another scheduled event related to the extracurricular activity;
- Comply with and adhere to the behavioral standards identified in the District's Student Code of Conduct.
- Cell phone usage before games will be at the discretion of the head coach.
- Maintain a 90% school attendance rate at all times. If at any time an athlete falls below

90%, he/she will be unable to participate in an athletic event until all required hours are made up. (No more than 4 absences per nine weeks)

- All Athletes will remain with the team till the conclusion of the competition. (tournaments, games, and track meet)
- All athletes must compete in at least 2 sports.

We want to ensure that each one of our students has an opportunity to be successful. Not all students will have the same level of talent, but every individual can be praised for his/her work and effort. Every student can feel good about himself/herself and their role on the team. Mathis ISD sponsors/coaches will work to ensure that all our students enjoy participating. When's it's time to work, we will work very hard, but we are also going to find time for our students to have fun.

Academics

Obtaining an <u>EDUCATION</u> is the primary goal in school. We believe that it takes a special person to be a student and participate in extra-curricular activities. You are going to have to work harder, stay up later, and get up earlier. We know that this is not easy, but we expect you to do it because others before you have been able to do it.

Alcohol/Drugs

The use and abuse of alcohol or other drugs can have serious negative consequences. High-risk choices can lead to significant academic, athletic and legal problems, as well as problems with physical, mental and emotional health. High-risk use of alcohol and drugs is also a factor in injuries and deaths related to overdose, accidents and crimes.

As long as one person is involved in high-risk behavior, all are at risk because problems related to the use of alcohol and drugs affect not only the user, but teammates, friends, sponsors, coaches, and the entire Mathis community. The goal is a safe and healthy school district environment.

If a student who participates in extracurricular activities is found to use, sell, deliver, possess or be under the influence of any amount of a controlled substance, dangerous or designer drug, synthetic marijuana or cannabis, or alcohol and/or any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, toxicant inhalant, or other intoxicant (as defined by law), excluding his or her own prescribed medications (taken as directed), whether on or off district property, the consequences listed below will apply.

Consequences

	Alcohol	Drugs
1st Offense	- 15 calendar day suspension - The student will be tested at every testing opportunity for a school year and present a negative test result (if applicable) - Completion of 3 hours of counseling prior to the conclusion of the suspension - The student may have activity related assignments to complete and may be removed from the program.	-30 calendar day suspension -The student will be tested at every testing opportunity for a school year and present a negative test result (if applicable) - Completion of 3 hours of counseling prior to the conclusion of the suspension - The student may have activity related assignments to complete and may be removed from the program.
2nd Offense	- 30 calendar day suspension - Completion of the 6-hour Alcohol Education Program for Minors (Texas Department of State Health approved) at the student's expense. - The student will be tested at every testing opportunity for a calendar year and present a negative test result. (if applicable) - The student may have activity related assignments to complete and may be removed from the program.	-60 calendar day suspension -Completion of the 15 hour Texas Drug Offender Program (Texas Department of State Health approved) and at the student's expense. -The student will be tested at every testing opportunity for a school year and present a negative test result. (if applicable) - The student may have activity related assignments to complete and may be removed from the program.
3rd Offense	Suspension from all extracurricular activities for one calendar year.	Suspension from all extracurricular activities for one calendar year.
4th Offense	Suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's school career.	Suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the student's school career.

NOTE

These offenses are cumulative throughout a student's extracurricular high school career. All aspects of the consequence pertaining to individual cases must be completed before participation in an activity may resume.

Alcohol/Drug Testing

The District may require the random drug-testing of any student in grades 7-12 who chooses to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities, request a permit to park a vehicle on school property, or participate in cocurricular activities.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the implementation of the District's random student drug-testing program that address the following:

1. Covered activities and purpose of the program;
2. Written consent and confidentiality of results;
3. Testing procedures and collection process; and
4. Applicable consequences.

[See policy FNF]

Athletic Class Period & Procedures

All students who intend to participate in football, volleyball, basketball, track, softball, soccer and baseball must been enrolled in the athletic class period the entire year. Cross country, powerlifting, golf, tennis and cheerleading students are not required to be enrolled in the athletic period. It is required that athletes receive a sports physical signed by a physician and turned into the athletic department no later than the end of the first week of school. Failure to do so will result in loss of athletic participation (UIL Rule). All students enrolled in the athletic period will be issued athletic workout attire. All athletes must wear the uniform provided every day. Exemption from the athletic period will be handled by the extracurricular committee on a case-by-case basis.

Athletic Forms

The forms listed below MUST be on file with the coaches before the student may participate in practices, scrimmages, or games.

- Physicals (must be signed and completed by a physician)
- Medical History
- Medical Consent
- Steroid Acknowledgement
- General UIL Rules and Athletic Code
- Cardiac Arrest
- Concussion Acknowledgement

Attendance

A school attendance rate of 90% is required at all times; therefore, absences are not acceptable. Absences because of illness or dire emergencies will be considered legitimate absences and the student will only be required to make up the workout/assignment that was missed. Failure to notify the sponsor/coach prior to an absence will be considered a deliberate miss. The student with an unexcused absence from practice will not play in the next contest. Doctor’s note and or missing practice due to another school sponsored event is considered an excused absence and student will be permitted to play. The student will be subject to disciplinary action in addition to making up the workout. If you cannot contact your sponsor/coach, you may leave a recorded

message on their school phone or leave a message with the respected campus:

Mathis High School (361) 547-3322

Mathis Middle School (361) 547-2381

If two such absences occur during a single season, a conference will be held with the student and parent(s), the coach/sponsor, and the extra-curricular committee to determine the consequence and possible suspension for the remainder of the season. Coaches' discretion will be considered.

- The district shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extracurricular activities approved by the board.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.
- A student not in attendance for at least 4 hours on the day of the contest will not be allowed to participate.
- A student not in attendance for at least 4 hours on the day of an organized practice will not be allowed to participate.
- A student must be in school the first half of the day after competition or will not be allowed to participate in the next competition of that sport. If the season is over, it will carry over to the next sport.

Chain of Command

If a student or parent has a problem or conflict with a sponsor/coach, there is a proper chain of command to follow:

- Student will visit with the head sponsor/coach of the sport
- Parent and student conferences will not be held before or after an event.
- Arrange a conference with the Athletic Director, parent and student
- Arrange a conference with the High School Principal or Middle School Principal
- Arrange a conference with the Superintendent

Be respectful, honest, and direct at all times. By following the proper channels most problems and conflicts will be resolved in a satisfactory and timely manner.

University/College Recruitment

In the event a student should be contacted personally by a university/college recruiter, it is imperative that the student work through their sponsor/coach, and the counselor. Students and parent(s) should make every effort to notify the school immediately about any college contact. Parents will be informed and provided with information on college recruitment.

Conduct /Sportsmanship

Students at Mathis Middle/High School are expected to represent themselves, their team and the school district with honesty, integrity, and character whether it be academically, athletically or

socially. **Participation in an extra-curricular event is a privilege, not a right, and should be treated as such.** It has many benefits and brings with it a responsibility to be positive and effective members of the team, the school district and broader community.

Our students often are in the spotlight and, fair or not, their behavior is subject to scrutiny by their peers, members of the campus, local and national communities and by the media. The actions of one student may result in a generalization to all students and reflect on the individual, team, campus and school district, whether it be positive or negative.

Good sportsmanship means more than the absence of negative actions in public. It encompasses an overall conduct and attitude that denotes an abiding respect for the value of sport and healthy competition, the ideals that govern fair play, the earned esteem of rivals, and trust in the honor of the game and those selected to officiate.

Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to the following:

- Physically abusing team members, opponents, coaches, or officials
- Throwing objects, damaging equipment
- Inciting participants to negative actions or to any behavior that insults an opponent (e.g., taunting an opponent)
- Using obscene or other inappropriate language or gestures
- Engaging in activities that constitute harassment (including verbal, physical, sexual, or any combination thereof)
- Participating in any action that violates generally recognized ethical standards of the Mathis Independent School District.
- No Social Media posts in Mathis uniforms of any kind.
- No cell phone usage in locker rooms or restrooms on school campus or sponsored school events. (State Law)

It is expected that all students will abide by the Mathis Independent School District's Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Extra-Curricular Handbook, and team guidelines. A written copy of the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Extra-Curricular Handbook, and team guidelines will be provided to all students on an annual basis and will be available online. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary consequences according to the **S**tudent **C**ode of **C**onduct and Extra-Curricular Handbook**.**

Disciplinary Guidelines

Students who do not conform to the School District's Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Extra-Curricular Handbook and team guidelines may be subject to consequences for their actions that may include but are not limited to:

- Warning (verbal or written)
- Parent conference

- Corporal punishment
- Saturday In-School Suspension
- Community service
- Withdrawal of privileges, such as:
  1. participation in extracurricular activities
     - event(s) suspension
     - season suspension
     - year suspension
  2. eligibility for seeking and holding honorary offices.
  3. membership in school-sponsored clubs and organizations.
- Penalties identified in individual student organizations' extracurricular standards of behavior.
- Out-of-school suspension
- DAEP Placement, as specified in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Expulsion, as specified in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Referral to an outside agency or legal authority for criminal prosecution in addition to disciplinary measures imposed by the district.
- Other strategies and consequences as determined by school officials.

NOTE:
The Extra-Curricular Committee is responsible for distinguishing between serious unsportsmanlike conduct and routine infractions.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities, students must meet all standards set forth by the Texas Education Agency, UIL, and local board policies. An ineligible student will continue to practice/rehearse.

Equipment/Supplies/Materials

The student will utilize the best possible equipment, supplies, and materials. Once a student has been issued equipment, supplies, or materials, it becomes his/her responsibility. Loss or theft of any of these items becomes the student's financial obligation.

Students that do not take care of their school issued equipment will be disciplined according to the team's rules and regulations. During athletic competitions, athletes shall only wear school issued equipment and uniforms, or coach/sponsor approved apparel.

Theft of any magnitude will result in automatic suspension from all extracurricular activities. Restitution will be made, and consequences will be administered according to the Student Code of Conduct.

Students will not be allowed to participate until his or her equipment record/fines/fees are cleared.

Extra-Curricular Committee

The Extra-Curricular Committee will consist of the following personnel:

- Athletic Director
- Head Coach/Sponsor
- Middle School Principal
- High School Principal or designee
- Superintendent or designee

The Committee will be responsible for enforcing the "Disciplinary Guidelines" of the Extra-Curricular Handbook and distinguishing between serious unsportsmanlike conduct and routine infractions. Circumstances not covered in the extracurricular handbook will be subjected to the discretion of the extracurricular committee.

Felony Charges

Any student that is charged with a felony will be permanently suspended from all extra-curricular activities. Also, the student will not be allowed to attend extracurricular activities as a spectator. The police will be called if the student is in attendance. If the charges are dropped or the student is found innocent, he/she may request a hearing with the principal for permission to be returned to regular status.

Grooming and Dress

Students will follow the dress code that is in the student handbook. In addition, students will be required to follow the sponsor/coaches' rules that may be stricter than those stated in the handbook. Your appearance should at all times reflect class and pride in yourself and in our extracurricular programs.

During Athletics a strict dress code will be followed:

- All athletes must wear Mathis Athletic issued clothes.
- No jewelry may be worn during athletic period. This includes all piercings, necklaces, and bracelets.
- Proper footwear will be worn also. No slides, sandals, house shoes, or crocs. Only athletic shoes.

Injuries or Illness

The District employs a full-time athletic trainer. If you have an injury, it is the student's responsibility to see the trainer. The trainer will either treat the injury, or if the injury is too severe to handle, they will refer you to your family physician. Any athlete who is injured and cannot practice will be under the direction of the athletic trainer and/or doctor. If under the care of a physician, the athlete must have a written release from the doctor (preferably the same doctor that placed the student on inactive status) before the student may participate in any workout or competition. If

you are sick or injured, we do not expect you to participate in the required assignment/workout, but if you are at school, we expect you to be a contributing member of the team.

Insurance

All UIL competitors at Mathis ISD are covered by a secondary insurance plan. This insurance is designed to help pay a competitor's deductible after their primary insurance has paid. This insurance cannot and will not serve as the primary insurance. Treatment by a licensed doctor must occur within 90 days from the date of the injury.

Lettering

The first time that a student letters on a varsity team and completes the season in good standing, he/she shall receive a school jacket. This is ordered at the end of the season and presented to the student. All additional patches or decorations for the jacket will be the responsibility of the individual student.

Students participating at the sub varsity levels will be recognized for their efforts at the sports banquet. All students participating in extracurricular activities and having completed the season in good standing will be recognized for their efforts at the sports banquet.

All students must be recommended for lettering to the Athletic Director or High School Principal by the head sponsor/coach of the team. All finals decisions concerning lettering will fall under the discretion of the coach of the sport, athletic director, and principal.

Locker Room/ Band Hall/Bus

During the course of the year, you will spend a great deal of time in the locker room, band hall, and bus. Take care of it like it is your own, keep it clean. Make these areas a more pleasant place for everyone.

Each activity will have guidelines posted for team members to abide by. Each team member is expected to know these guidelines and follow them. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disciplinary measures according to the activity. The student will be responsible for keeping his/her locker neat and clean for hygienic and organizational reasons.

Off-Season

Off- season training is the most important phase of any extra-curricular event. The will to **prepare** is far greater than the will to win; therefore, the success of a program relies heavily on the effectiveness of its off-season program.

The Mathis Independent School District encourages all students to participate in an extra-curricular event or off-season program. A student selecting not to participate in the current event in season is required to participate in the off-season program while attending school. Failure to participate in the off-season program will result in disciplinary action.

Pick-Up Times

Coaches/Sponsors will inform the student participants/athletes of an approximate pick-up time at least a day in advance to the competition/event. Practice schedules will stay as they are set unless otherwise notified.

Punctuality

Always be on time! Being tardy is disrespectful to your sponsor/coach and your teammates. **Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated.** Tardiness will result in disciplinary measures according to the activity. On trips the bus waits for no one.

Quitting

Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. At the beginning of each season, each student will be given a two-week grace period to decide if he/she can contribute to the team of the activity in season. After this two-week grace period has expired, any student quitting a sport will be given an initial12 hour grace period to return. Students will be required to make up any work missed. Any athlete who quits will be unable to go to the next sport until the previous sports schedule is completed including playoffs. If a student quits two sports in a calendar year, he/she will not be allowed to participate in an athletic event for one calendar year. **If you start something, finish it!!!**

Students are required to participate in a sport if they are enrolled in athletics. If students enroll in athletics and do not participate in a sport, they will not be allowed to participate in athletics the following year.

Reinstatement Procedure

Students who are suspended from a team for an indefinite period can be reinstated by the following procedure:

- Petition the Extra-Curricular Committee for reinstatement
- The Extra-Curricular Committee will review, and the student and parents will be notified about the decision in writing.
- If the student is reinstated, he/she will be expected to complete all make-up work and additional requirements from missed practices and activities before they are permitted to participate in a contest.

Scheduling Conflicts

While a broad range of experiences is beneficial, the student that attempts to participate in several extra-curricular activities will undoubtedly be in a position of conflict in obligations. Every attempt will be made on behalf of the school to accommodate the students and allow them to participate at every event possible.

Should a conflict occur, the activity that ranks higher under UIL will take **priority**. Should a conflict occur with equal ranking events, then the sponsors/coaches will try to work out a mutual agreement. If no agreement can be made, the extra-curricular committee will meet with the

sponsors/coaches and determine what event will take precedent. Once the decision has been made the student will not be penalized in any form or fashion. An activity in season **will always** take precedent over a new beginning activity.

STEROIDS (Secondary Grade Levels Only)

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering anabolic steroids. Anabolic steroids are for medical use only, and only a physician can prescribe use. Body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense. All infractions will fall under the alcohol/drug violations and consequences will be administered as such.

Suspension/Saturday In-School Suspension

Students that have been suspended from school or placed in Saturday In-School Suspension may not participate, play or travel to a contest with the group participating during the time in which he/she has been disciplined by the principal. Other discipline actions by the principal may also apply. Students will not be allowed to participate in competitions until a discipline placement has been completed.

Training Rules

Student participation in activities during their personal free time that may be harmful or high risk of injury will be discouraged. A curfew may be set by the sponsor/coach of the activity when deemed necessary to maintain safety, fitness and the best opportunity for success. A student in violation of training is subject to discipline action by the sponsor/coach.

Travel

All students are required to ride the school's transportation to and from the scheduled activity. Students may be released to their parents only if a parent wishes to take a student with them after a contest. Legal guardians will be allowed to sign out their child at the conclusion of a contest with the designated coach/sponsor, using the district approved release form.

NOTE: ALL OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT OCCUR NOT COVERED IN THIS HANDBOOK WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE EXTRA- CURRICULAR COMMITTEE.

NOTE: ALL GRIEVANCES OR APPEALS WILL BE HANDLED BY THE COMMITTEE AS PER SB 1566 SECTION 26.0111 OF THE EDUCATION CODE WHICH STATES: "THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF A SCHOOL IS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO ADDRESS A COMPLAINT CONCERNING A STUDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE A VIOLATION OF A RIGHT GUARANTEED BY CHAPTER 26."

[See FNG Local]