

Rules and Regulations for Cheerleaders

A cheerleading candidate should enter this activity with an understanding that, if elected, the student is expected to fulfill all cheerleading responsibilities. An elected/selected cheerleader has an obligation to the student body to attend all practices and scheduled games and to perform all other cheerleading duties to the best of his/her ability.

Purpose

To promote and uphold school spirit, to develop a sense of good sportsmanship among the students, and to improve relationships between schools during all competitive events.

Eligibility for Tryouts

· **Citizenship:** The student must have an "A" (90-95) accumulative average in citizenship prior to cheerleader tryouts. This average will be determined by taking every citizenship grade and assigning each a numerical grade equivalent to the letter grade. The average is figured by adding all numerical grades together and dividing by the number of grades. There will be no failing grade allowed regardless of average. Computing letter grades to numerical grades will be as follows:

A = 95 B = 85 C = 75

· **Scholastic/Senior High School:** The student must have an average of 80.0, 4.00 grade point, or appropriate weighted average in all subjects without rounding. The method for determining the "80" average will be as follows:

Add: Final grades, first six weeks, first semester
Final grades, second six weeks, first semester
Final grades, third six weeks, first semester
Exam grades, first semester

This total will be divided by four times the number of courses attempted to arrive at the student's average grade.

- To be eligible to try out for the varsity squad, a student must be a sophomore or junior. To be eligible to try for the junior varsity squad, a student must be a freshman so as to serve during his/her sophomore year.
- A student must be enrolled as a full-time student the semester of the election and both semesters the year he/she serves as a varsity or a junior varsity cheerleader.
- A student must earn a minimum of two and one-half credits toward graduation each semester.
- **Scholastic/Middle School:** The student must have an average of 85.0, 5.00 grade point, or appropriate weighted average in all subjects without rounding. The method for determining the "85" average will be as stated above.

Membership

- There will be one squad of varsity cheerleaders. The size of the squad to be determined by the Principal and Sponsor
- There will be one squad of junior varsity cheerleaders. The size to be determined by the Principal and Sponsor.
- There will be a seventh grade squad with a maximum of eight members.
- There will be an eighth grade squad with a maximum of eight members.
- Middle schools may choose to have a volunteer cheerleader squad of unlimited size.

Selection

- Selection as a cheerleader will be determined by ranking cheerleader candidates. A campus may choose to use 100% judges ranking to select cheerleaders or a campus may use a combination of judges and student body ranking. A candidate's overall rank is the combination of their weighted rank from the judges' tryout (75%) and their weighted rank from a student election (25%). Ties will be broken using the results of the student's election.
- If judges only are used, a committee of not less than three qualified judges will select and rank those students they feel have most appropriate cheerleader skills. The judges ranking will determine the selection of the cheerleader squad. The tryout for the judges will be closed to the public.
- Current sixth grade, seventh grade, freshman, sophomore and junior classes participate in the student elections.
- Students must be in attendance all day on the days of screening, tryouts and election.
- Cheerleaders must be reelected each year.
- Students interested in being a cheerleader at the middle schools with voluntary squads must meet all conditions listed under **Eligibility for Tryouts**.
- Exceptions to the selection guidelines must be approved by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's Designee.

Uniforms

- Tryout uniforms are set by the sponsor and must be approved before elections. A simple uniform is required for tryouts (shorts, top, and tennis shoes).
- Uniforms will not be bought, made, or planned in any way without permission from the sponsor.
- The middle school uniforms will be paid for by the parents and members. Effort will be made by the school administration and sponsors to keep uniform costs to a minimum or possibly make arrangements where financial hardships exist.
- High school base uniforms will be paid for by the school district. The base uniforms must be returned clean and in good condition to the cheerleader sponsor at the end of the year.

Uniforms damaged due to neglect will be paid for by the Cheerleader as determined by the sponsor. Parts of the high school uniform are personal items and will be paid by the parents and members.

- Uniforms should be cleaned immediately after the game so they will be ready to wear whenever needed. Excellent care of uniforms is mandatory at all times.
- Shoes should be cleaned before each game.
- Uniforms will not be worn except for games and pep rallies unless permission is given by the sponsor.

Games

- The game schedules will be set by the sponsor and posted. Cheerleaders will be required to attend scheduled games. If a cheerleader does not comply with these rules, dismissal from the squad may result.

THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXCUSES WILL BE FOR EXTREME ILLNESS OR INVOLVEMENT IN A CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY. CHEERLEADING TAKES PRIORITY OVER ALL OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- In adherence to Texas Administrative Code 97.113, cheerleaders are not permitted to lead cheers for two separate contests during the school week. However, cheerleaders may participate in a pep rally prior to a contest and also lead the cheers at the contest even though they both occur during the school week. In addition, they may cheer for a single contest and cheer during a tournament.
- If for any reason a cheerleader is not performing at a game, he/she is still required to attend the game and sit with the sponsor.
- High school cheerleaders must ride the buses to and from all out-of-town games and to other special performances. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the sponsor.

Attendance

- Cheerleaders should remember that they are under the authority and supervision of the school at all times. They are in a position of honor, representing the whole school, and are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct, punctuality, and attendance. It is imperative that cheerleaders have good attendance records in school. Any absence from a game, being tardy to a game, or any absence from school may result in temporary suspension or permanent dismissal from the squad.
- Cheerleaders should be present every day of the week. Any member absent from practice the day before a performance or absent from school the day of a performance may not perform.

CHEERLEADERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL SCHEDULED PRACTICES. THE ONLY POSSIBLE EXCUSES WILL BE FOR EXTREME ILLNESS OR INVOLVEMENT IN AN APPROVED SCHOOL ACTIVITY.

Cheerleader Application

_____, _____ has my permission to try out for cheerleader candidacy. The demands of time, energy, and expense are agreeable both during tryouts and thereafter. I agree to see that my child is available for all the summer practices, and our family scheduling will aid my child in being at school early and/or staying late when required. We will be able to pay the necessary amount for clothes, equipment, and camp tuition by a date designated by the sponsor. I will be responsible for any accidents that may occur. I understand that I must provide my child with transportation. I have read and agree to support the Cheerleader Constitution. The rules and regulations begin when a cheerleader is elected. The cheerleader year begins upon election and extends through the school year.

Parent's Signature

Date

I, _____, wish to try out for a position on the cheerleader squad. I want to spend my time, energy, and talents to promote school spirit and good sportsmanship. I agree to put the good of the squad above my personal preferences, and I will cooperate cheerfully with all others in the cheerleading program. I will strive to make the title of "Cheerleader" a coveted honor. I will pledge that I can adhere to the rules and guidelines set forth in the Cheerleader Constitution. I have read the regulations governing cheerleaders, and I agree to abide by these regulations. The rules and regulations begin when a cheerleader is elected. The cheerleader year begins upon election and extends through the next school year.

Applicant's Signature

Grade Level

Date

CHEERLEADER

CONSTITUTION

2006-2007

Conduct

- Cheerleaders will conduct themselves properly at all times since they are official student representatives of the school.
- Conduct on dates or at parties should be above reproach. Reports of misconduct will be reviewed by the sponsor and school administrator.
- Gum is not allowed.
- Conduct in the classroom should also be of a caliber which sets a good example to other students.
- Jewelry on any part of the body will **not** be worn during practice or games.
- Personal grooming is not permitted any time while in public view.

Awards

- Varsity cheerleaders will receive one letter and one jacket. Jackets will be ordered by the sponsor.

Special

- Senior high members must be enrolled in cheerleading two semesters per year.
- Every member must have a physical examination each school year. Members will not be allowed to participate until this requirement is met.
- Summer camp is required for all cheerleaders. Summer camp will be at parent's expense. There will be at least two weeks of required summer practice before summer camp. After camp, practice will be required prior to the opening of school.
- Every member is required to have insurance to cover an injury incurred while cheerleading.

Game Probation

- Citizenship grade below "B" (85) in any reporting period
- Citizenship average below "A" (90) in any reporting period.
- Unexcused absence from practice or game
- Missing activity without giving sponsor prior notice
- Absent from more than three cheerleader activities within a six-week period.

- Any member may be placed on probation by the sponsor or principal as disciplinary action for any unacceptable conduct except for those specifically noted as dismissal offenses. The length of the suspension will be determined by the cheerleader sponsor and principal.

If put on probation, a cheerleader will not wear the uniform at any time. Even though on probation, a cheerleader will meet practice and attend any event the sponsor so requires.

Suspension

- A suspension will be assigned for a six-week grade below 70 in any subject in accordance with TEC 33.081 and Board Policy FM (Local).
- Any member may be placed on suspension by the sponsor or principal as disciplinary action for any unacceptable conduct except for those specifically noted as dismissal offenses. The length of the suspension will be determined by the cheerleader sponsor and principal.
- If put on suspension, a cheerleader will not wear the uniform at any time. Suspension may result in removal from cheerleader class (practice) as determined by the sponsor and principal.

Automatic Dismissal

A cheerleader will be dismissed from the squad by the principal for any of the following infractions:

- Citizenship grade below "C"
- Three or more six-week grades below 70 in any class during a six-week grading period
- Truancy from school
- Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, and/or other narcotics
- Probation from active cheerleading a total of three times for the year
- Suspension from active cheerleading a total of two times for the year
- Engaging in conduct that results in assignment to an off-campus alternative education program.

Member dismissed from the cheerleading squad will not be allowed to wear any part of the uniform to school or to school functions.

High school members dismissed from the cheerleading squad must return their cheerleading jackets.