

Sharyland ISD Cheerleader & Drill Team Constitution



Sharyland ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or disability in providing educational services, activities, and programs, including athletic programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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This Sharyland ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team Constitution outlines standards of eligibility and procedure for all Sharyland ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team candidates and standards of conduct and behavior to which all Sharyland ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team members are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of the Sharyland ISD. Acceptance of a candidate to the Sharyland ISD cheerleading or drill team programs or removal therefrom, shall be in accordance with this Constitution on the basis of ability, skill, presentation, or any other basis set forth, but shall not be on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or disability.

Preamble

The following articles have been developed for the purpose of communicating the standards of eligibility and procedure which all candidates must meet to be eligible for try-outs and for the purpose of articulating the standards of conduct and behavior to which all Sharyland ISD Cheerleader and Drill Team members are expected to adhere as a condition of participation in cheerleading or drill team activities. Participation in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading and drill team activities, is a privilege, not a right, and student participants will be held to higher standards than students who choose not to participate in extracurricular activities. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in this Cheerleader and Drill Team Constitution may subject the member to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, in addition to any consequences imposed in accordance with the Sharyland ISD Student Code of Conduct or Sharyland ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

This document may be amended at any time and does not limit a sponsor's ability to make decisions pertaining to his or her program, consistent with the guidelines set forth herein.

Article I—Mission Statement

The purpose of the Sharyland ISD cheerleading and drill team programs shall be to promote and encourage team spirit, to foster good fellowship and sportsmanship by example, and to engender enthusiasm and loyalty to team and school. Members shall lead by example; shall demonstrate exemplary qualities of character; and shall uphold the highest moral standards in their service to the school and the community as representatives of their student body and of the Sharyland ISD.

Article II—Candidate Eligibility

2.1 A cheerleader or drill team candidate must reside in the Sharyland School District and be enrolled or registered as a student at Sharyland ISD in order to be eligible to try-out. However, candidates who are enrolled in a Sharyland ISD school under an approved interdistrict (i.e. out-of-district) transfer will be eligible for try-outs if they meet all other eligibility requirements. Candidates are required to reside within the attendance zone of the school for whose squad they are trying out, unless they are otherwise entitled to attend the try-out school under an approved inter- or intradistrict transfer in accordance with District policy. Candidates may **not**

automatically transfer from one squad to another if they transfer campuses mid year. Candidates may be male or female.

- 2.2** A cheerleader or drill team candidate must not have been academically ineligible, as defined by No-Pass, No-Play rules, for two or more eligibility cycles during the current school year and must be passing all courses with a grade of 70 or above at the last grading cycle before try-outs to be eligible. However, for purposes of academic eligibility for try-outs, a student will be allowed one waiver per grading period per semester in an advanced class, as identified by the State Board of Education or by local District policy. The advanced waiver is not transferable from the first semester to the second semester. A student with disabilities must be meeting the standards in his or her IEP at the time of try-outs for purposes of academic eligibility for try-outs.
- 2.3** A cheerleader or drill team candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her squad may not try-out in subsequent years, unless permission to do so has been granted by sponsor and/or administration.
- 2.4** All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Candidates must have had at least a 95% attendance rate for the current school year and must not have been suspended (excluding in-school suspension), assigned to D.A.E.P., or expelled at any time during the current school year to be eligible for try-outs. Extracurricular suspensions during the current school year may affect a candidate's citizenship score or may cause a candidate to become ineligible. The campus principal or designee will make the final determination regarding a candidate's citizenship eligibility for try-outs.
- 2.5** All candidates must be in good financial standing with the Sharyland ISD. Candidates who have outstanding balances, including but not limited to fines for lost or damaged textbooks, library fees, late fees, or other extracurricular fees, will not be eligible for try-outs.
- 2.6** All candidates must be medically fit to participate in cheerleading or drill team activities, using approved district physical form.
- 2.7** Candidates must complete all requirements for try-out **prior** to try-outs, including but not limited to timely submission of application, timely submission of all required forms, maintain good financial standing with Sharyland ISD and attendance of all required meetings, practice sessions or clinics. Any candidate failing to complete all try-out requirements who is otherwise eligible for try-outs will **not** be allowed to try-out, except in extenuating circumstances as determined and approved by the sponsor and principal.
- 2.8** All candidates and their parent or guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) for their program to be eligible for try-outs. However, if unable to attend, a parent or guardian may designate another responsible adult as a proxy to attend the meeting in his or her place. Failure of the parent, candidate, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs with the exception of students participating in a school-sponsored event.

Article III—Candidate Expectations and Membership

Candidate Expectations

- 3.1** Candidates should understand that acceptance into the Sharyland ISD Cheerleading or Drill Team program is a privilege. Cheerleading and drill team members represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body and the Sharyland ISD and should uphold the highest moral standards.
- 3.2** Candidates should demonstrate exemplary qualities of character. Candidates should be respectful, responsible, honest, reliable, dependable, cooperative, dedicated, and loyal.
- 3.3** Candidates should be enthusiastic, self-disciplined, willing to learn, and prepared to practice to improve their performance and the performance of the squad.
- 3.4** Candidates who are accepted for membership should understand that the schedule of a cheerleader or drill team member will require a large time commitment and that members will be expected to put cheerleading or drill team, as a priority, in conjunction with participation in all other sports, organizations or other nonacademic activities, including after-school or weekend jobs.
- 3.5** Candidates who do not meet candidate expectations will be issued demerits at the sponsor's discretion. Any candidate receiving 12 or more demerits will be removed from the squad. (Refer to Demerit System handout issued by sponsor).

Candidate Membership

Membership in the Sharyland ISD Cheerleading or Drill Team programs is from the date of try-outs to the last day of school the following school year. Membership numbers are subject to change based upon gaps between the resulting high, middle, and low scores, provided that any such change in numbers shall be approved by designated individuals. Membership may be terminated at any time for failure to comply with the standards of conduct and procedure outlined herein.

Grade classifications named below are for the year following try-outs and shall be determined according to official school records.

The Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of sophomore, junior, or senior members who have completed one full year on a junior varsity squad. (If the candidate is new to the district, the sponsor will need to verify varsity eligibility with prior school.) The number of candidates who participate in the tryout process will affect the total numbers of members selected for each team, not to exceed 20. In the case of a tie for the 20th slot, those members who tie for the 20th slot will be eligible. Of these 20 members, one head, or two co-head, cheerleader(s) shall be chosen according to the sponsor recommendation and interview, provided that the chosen head cheerleader(s) shall be a senior or junior member who has been on a Sharyland ISD High School Varsity Squad for at least one year.

The Junior Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior members. The number of candidates who participate in the tryout process will affect the total numbers of members selected for each team, not to exceed 20. Of these members, one head, or two co-head, cheerleader(s) shall be chosen according to interview and rank.

Varsity and Junior Varsity Yell Leaders shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior male members. The number of candidates who participate in the tryout process will affect the total number of members selected for each team, not to exceed 5. Scoring criteria have been established for the yell leaders and selection will be based on comparable scores to the cheerleaders being selected.

The Drill team shall be comprised of freshmen, sophomore, junior or senior members. Five (5) may be named as officers depending on the size of the team and the recommendations of the judges. Candidates for officer, including major, must have served on the team for at least one year and shall be chosen according to the judges' scores, sponsor interview, and choreographed solo. Total membership of the team, as well as the number of officers, shall be at the final discretion of the sponsors and the designated individuals. Final decisions regarding selection and/or removal of officers will be made by the sponsor(s).

The Junior High Cheerleading Squad shall consist of no more than twelve (12) membership positions for 7th grade students and twelve (12) membership positions for 8th grade students. Only eligible 6th grade students may try-out for the 7th grade positions and only eligible 7th grade students may try-out for the 8th grade positions.

Junior High Drill team shall consist of eligible incoming 7th grade and 8th grade students. There will be no designated number of slots; however, there will be a minimum score to be selected for membership.

Article IV—Expectations for Members

4.1 Members shall be on time and prepared for all cheerleading and drill team activities.

4.2 Members shall be neatly presented in appearance, with hair groomed and pulled back from face. Members should be dressed in the required uniform prior to the start of the activity.

4.3 Members shall attend and perform all required duties at all practices, games, events, or functions, including any required camp or competition. Members who miss a required practice or fail to perform a required duty will not be allowed to perform at the next game, performance or event unless the missed practice or performance is due to a school sponsored activity or a medical excuse.

4.4 Members shall maintain their eligibility status under No-Pass, No-Play Rules. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes, other than an

identified honors or advanced class, to be eligible to participate. Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.

- 4.5** Members shall maintain at least a 95% attendance rate throughout the school year. If on the day of the activity, a cheerleader or drill team member is absent, he/she will not be allowed to cheer or perform unless the absence is a school sponsored activity or a medical excuse is provided.
- 4.6** Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading and Drill Teams.
- 4.7** Members shall comply with all rules and regulations outlined in this document and any other document issued by sponsor/administration for the membership year.
- 4.8** Members will be obligated to pay vendors directly for all required items. They shall comply with all **financial obligations (uniform and other)** by given deadline approved by the sponsor(s) and principal. If all financial obligations (uniform and other) are not fulfilled by the given deadline, members will be asked to forfeit their positions. The district will offer financial assistance for members who qualify (requires proof of financial need) at high school level. All deposits and/or payments are non-refundable.

Article V—Standards for Member Removal

Due to the high level of visibility of campus cheerleader and drill team members, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance into the Sharyland ISD Cheerleader or Drill Team programs is a privilege, not a right, members will be held to higher standards than those imposed on the general student body. Members may incur disciplinary consequences for behavior that does not constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and may also incur disciplinary consequences from both the appropriate administrator and his or her sponsor for conduct that does constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Members must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the Sharyland ISD Student Code of Conduct. Members will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein **at all times** regardless of when or where the conduct occurs, whether on or off school property and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, **up to and including removal from the squad.**

- 5.1** Members shall not engage in inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to inappropriate sexual contact, fighting, public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, or other criminal activity excluding minor traffic offenses.
- 5.2** Members shall not engage in behavior that warrants suspension from school, removal to DAEP, or expulsion from school. Members who have been suspended from, removed to DAEP, or expelled from school shall be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year.

- 5.3** Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, for any other behavior which the sponsor/administrator deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane internet behavior. [Refer to Sharyland ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct]
- 5.4** Members who do not meet Sharyland ISD Code of Conduct and behavior outlined in 5.1 – 5.3 will be issued demerits at the sponsor's discretion. Any member receiving 12 or more demerits will be removed from the squad. (Refer to Demerit System handout issued by sponsor).