

Buckholts ISD High School Cheerleader Constitution 2011-2012 School Year

Purpose

It shall be the purpose of the Cheerleader/Mascot to promote and uphold school spirit and develop a sense of good sportsmanship.

Composition of Squads

Cheerleaders will be selected each spring for the following school year. The number of cheerleaders will vary each year based on the tryout evaluations. Tryouts for the upcoming year will be held in the fourth six weeks of the current school year. Certain criteria will have to be met in order for students to try out for cheerleader such as,

1. G.P.A.

Each student will adhere to the "No Pass/No Play" UIL rules. For tryouts, students will be permitted to tryout if they have a grade of less than 70, but if selected to be a member of the squad, they must meet the requirements of "No Pass/No Play" to be an active member of the squad and perform. Grades will be checked each grading period by the sponsor. Any cheerleader falling below an overall "C" (70.0) average will be placed on probation until the end of the next six weeks reporting period. The sponsor will then check the cheerleader's grades at the end of the three week reporting period, by that time the average must be raised to a "C" (70.0), or the cheerleader will be suspended from the squad for the remainder of the cheerleading season.

2. Conduct

Each student who tries out for cheerleader must realize that they are a representative of this school/community. Because of that responsibility anyone who wishes to try out for cheerleader will be held to a higher standard of conduct and citizenship than the rest of the student body. Candidates are expected to HAVE and MAINTAIN character above reproach. If a student is selected and receives a major disciplinary infraction, finds themselves in trouble with the law, or participates in an activity that could compromise their good standing in the community they will be immediately dismissed from the squad the remainder of the cheerleading season. Cheerleaders are expected to be a credit to the school at all times. Candidates for try outs and Cheerleaders should at all times conduct themselves in a proper manner including:

- a. Courteous and friendly to opposing teams, squads, and visitors.
- b. Courteous and friendly wherever you go.
- c. Be cautious of ALL conversations which might be overheard.
- d. NO profanity, dishonestly, or unsportsmanlike conduct during school related activities, events or classes.
- e. Show respect for yourself, teachers, and other students.
- f. Neat appearance at all times.
- g. No gum chewing at games and/or pep rallies.
- h. No hair combing/applying make up/primping at pep rallies or during games.

- i. Practice clothes which do not meet school dress code will not be worn to class.
- j. While on campus or participating in school activities or school trips, cheerleaders are subject to all rules and regulations of the Buckholts ISD Code of Conduct.
- k. Cheerleaders/mascots will not display undesirable emotions, such as anger, loudness, rage, or public display of affection at any time.
- l. Cheerleaders/Mascot will set the example in the classroom.
- m. On the day of the game every Cheerleader will wear the complete uniform all day and at the game.
- n. Candidates and Cheerleaders who are placed in ISS at any time are not allowed to try out and will be dismissed from the squad.

Financial Responsibilities

The parents of the school cheerleader are responsible for their child's expenses incurred during the year. These expenses include, but are not limited to, uniforms, shoes, and needed accessories for cheerleading. We will hold one fundraiser so that each student may raise money to help defray this cost. All money must be turned in to the sponsor at the designated time. The sponsor is responsible for collecting this money and giving it to the office. The total amount in full must be paid to BISD before the uniforms are ordered.

Uniforms

The uniforms will be chosen by the squad, parents, and must have the approval of the sponsor and principal. The uniform should not exceed \$200. All cheerleaders shall be required to appear at all games, pep rallies, and other school sponsored events in full uniform. It is up to each individual cheerleader to keep her uniform clean and in proper condition, so that the uniform may be worn anytime needed. Cheerleading shoes should be worn only when in uniform and other practice times. They are not to be worn as regular shoes with everyday clothes.

Transportation

Travel arrangements to "away" games will be made by the sponsor in consultation with the principal and in accordance with board policy. The sponsor must have parent signed notification for a cheerleader to travel after any practice or event by means other than the arrangements on the "Acceptable Transportation Form" and must be approved by the cheerleader sponsor and/or principal. Parents who wish to take their child home after an away game has to sign their child out with the sponsor. Parents must have arrangements made to pick their child up after each event.

Missed Practices, Games and Events

All practices, games and events are **mandatory**. If one **MUST** miss a practice, game or event, prior notification of the sponsor is required. It is up to the sponsor's discretion whether the missed practice is excused/unexcused. The demerit system will apply for all missed practices. Unexcused absence from practice or games, leaving practice or games early will prevent the cheerleader from cheering at the next pep rally and game. Excessive

absences (three) will result with dismissal from the squad. Personal illness or significant family responsibility will be the only acceptable excuses for absences. Absence from school on the day of a game/ event will prevent the cheerleader from participating that day.

Squad Duties

- a) All Cheerleaders/Mascot will do their share of spirit work, such as making signs, hanging signs, etc.
- b) Each Cheerleader will have a week where they plan the pep rally and bring the sign to the game and make sure the sign sticks are put where they belong for the next games use.

Discipline

The following forms of discipline will be used with the cheerleaders:

- a) Demerit System will be followed along with b & c below.
- b) Verbal Reprimand: Conference between sponsor and cheerleader
- c) Parent Conference: Conference between sponsor, cheerleader, and parent.

BISD Cheerleader Demerit System

- The following infractions are subject to **One Demerit**:
 - Gum at practice and games.
 - Uniform or shoes not in compliance (wrinkled/unclean)
 - Wearing jewelry at games and pep rallies
 - Up to 5 minutes late for game or practice
 - Not participating satisfactorily in all phases of a fund raising project
 - Failure to report to advisor prior to an absence from a game or practice
- The following are subject to **Two Demerits**:
 - Up to 10 minutes late for game or practice
 - Negligence of cheerleader duties (signs, pompoms)
 - Use of cell phones or any other electronic device during events
- The following are subject to **Three Demerits**:

Being over 10 minutes late to games or practices
Public display of affection at school or in uniform
Inappropriate practice attire or uniform at practice or game

- The following are subject to **Five Demerits:**
 - Failure to report to sponsor before leaving after games or practices
 - Missing game, event or practice for unexcused reason
 - Failure to cooperate with ANY other squad member
 - Hickey
- The following are subject to **Ten Demerits:**
 - Disrespect to coaches/sponsors
 - Fighting at school
 - Cheating in school

Demerits may be given for other things that are not included in the handouts, for it is not possible or necessary to spell out every possible violation. For example, demerits can be issued because of misconduct at games or failure to perform duties.

If a cheerleader receives 5 demerits, she receives a warning.

If a cheerleader receives 10 demerits, she receives a warning and parent/sponsor conference as well as being benched for 1 pep rally/game.

If a cheerleader receives 15 demerits, she will be removed from the squad.
Demerit sheets are available to be viewed by the cheerleader at any time.

Anyone who is selected as cheerleader will participate in the random drug testing policy adopted by Buckholts ISD.

The Suspended (Benched) Cheerleader

1. If a uniform is not ready for use, the cheerleader is “benched” for that game.
2. The demerit system will apply to the “benched” cheerleader. If a cheerleader is “benched” she will be required to attend games in uniform but sit with the sponsor.
3. The “benched” cheerleader will attend practices, meetings, and other activities at the sponsor’s discretion.
4. The “benched” cheerleader will not participate in pep rallies.

Immediate Dismissal from the Squad

1. Use of tobacco at school or any school activity will warrant dismissal. If school administrator or law enforcement official determines that a cheerleader is under the influence of or in the possession of alcohol and/or drugs on school property or at a school related activity, that cheerleader will be dismissed.
2. Any actions that result in being placed in ISS, DAEP, or suspended from school will warrant immediate dismissal.

