

BISD Cheerleading Constitution 2018-2019

CHEERLEADER CONSTITUTION 2017-2018

This BHS Cheerleading Constitution outlines standards of eligibility and procedure for all BHS Cheerleading Team candidates and standards of conduct and behavior to which all BHS Cheerleading Team members are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of the Bullard ISD. Acceptance of a candidate to the Bullard ISD cheerleading team programs or removal there from, 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, sex, disability, or pregnancy.

Preamble

The following articles have been developed with the advice and consent of the campus cheerleader team sponsors for the purpose of communicating the standards of eligibility and procedure which all candidates must meet to be eligible for tryouts and for the purpose of articulating the standards of conduct and behavior to which all Bullard ISD Cheerleading Team members are expected to adhere as a condition of participation in cheerleading team activities. Participation in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading 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 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 Bullard ISD Student 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 Bullard ISD cheerleading program shall be to cheering for athletic events as well as boost the morale and spirit of Bullard ISD. Cheerleaders must strive to build a sense of community and school spirit both on and off the playing field. Whether cheering at games, running a pep rally, hosting visitors, or competing in competition, cheerleaders are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that brings enthusiasm to Bullard ISD and the community.

Article II—Candidate Eligibility

2.1 A cheerleader team candidate must be a resident of the Bullard ISD and currently enrolled in a Bullard ISD school. However, candidates who are enrolled in a Bullard ISD school under an approved interdistrict (i.e. out-of-district) transfer will be eligible for tryouts 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 intra-district 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 team candidate must not have been academically ineligible, as defined by No Pass No Play rules, for two or more nine weeks during the current school year and must be academically eligible at the time of tryouts. A student with disabilities must be meeting the standards in his or her IEP at the time of tryouts for purposes of academic eligibility for try-outs.

2.3 A cheerleader team candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her squad may not try-out in the subsequent year.

2.4 All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Candidates must have had at least a 90% 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 tryouts. The campus principal or designee will make the final determination regarding a candidate's citizenship eligibility for try-outs. Make-up hours will not count towards the 90% attendance rate.

2.5 All candidates must be in good financial standing with the Bullard 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 tryouts.

2.6 All candidates must be medically fit to participate in cheerleading team activities, as certified by a medical doctor.

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, 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, absent extenuating circumstances as determined by the sponsor. If a candidate must miss a clinic or practice session for other sports, illness, or other extenuating circumstances, they must notify the head cheer sponsor in writing before the time of the session they miss or they will become ineligible to try out.

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, with prior written approval from the sponsor, may designate another responsible adult as a proxy to attend the meeting in his or her place. Failure of the parent, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for try-outs.

Article III—Candidate Membership and Expectations

Candidate Expectations

3.1 Candidates should understand that acceptance into the Bullard ISD Cheerleading Team is a privilege. Cheerleading team members represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body and the Bullard ISD and should uphold the highest moral standards.

3.2 Candidates should exemplify exemplary qualities of character. Candidates should be 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 team member will require a large time commitment and that members will be expected to put the cheerleading team above participation in other organizations or other nonacademic activities, including after-school or weekend jobs. Candidates who participate in other sports should understand it is their responsibility to ensure they are attending mandatory practices and games for both sports and informing coaches of conflicts in enough time to resolve any issues.

Candidate Membership

Membership in the Bullard ISD Cheerleading Program is from the date of tryouts to the last day of school the following school year. The Varsity cheerleading squad may be comprised of members who are currently on the varsity squad, junior or senior members. Members shall be determined using the natural break in scores. There is to be a maximum of one Varsity mascot. The Junior Varsity cheerleading squad shall be comprised of freshman or sophomore members and will be determined using the natural break in scores. There is to be a maximum of one Junior Varsity mascot. The Middle School squad shall be comprised of 10 7th graders and 10 8th graders and one 7th grade and one 8th grade mascot. Final decisions regarding head cheerleader(s) for high school squads will be made by the sponsor(s) and/or campus principal. Middle school squads will not have head cheerleaders.

Article IV—Expectations for Members

4.1 Members shall be on time and prepared for all cheerleading activities. Members should be dressed in the required uniform prior to the start of the activity.

4.2 Members shall be neatly presented in appearance, with hair neatly groomed and pulled back from face.

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 may not be allowed to perform at the next game, event, or function.

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 90% attendance rate throughout the school year.

4.6 Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading Teams and the NFHS Spirit Handbook. The TEA-UIL Side by Side guidelines are available at the following website: www.uil.utexas.edu/policy/pdf/09_10sidebyside.pdf.

4.7 Members must attend the entire Cheer Camp during the summer as assigned by the sponsor. Failure to attend the entire cheer camp is cause for member removal.

Article V—Standards for Member Removal

Due to the high level of visibility of campus cheerleaders, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance into the BHS Cheerleading Team program 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 Bullard 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 school at least two

times, 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 deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane internet behavior. Members shall not engage in conduct unbecoming of their respective organizations.

5.4 Examples of inappropriate conduct on the internet which could warrant disciplinary action including dismissal from the squad will include: inappropriate pictures or activities on electronic communication devices (including cellular phones) and internet websites to include but not limited to: Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, or other public forum web-sites in which inappropriate behavior is visible.

5.5 Sponsors will not friend students on social media nor will sponsors monitor social media accounts. Parents are expected to monitor their student's social media and behavior outside of school to ensure their cheerleader is complying with the BISD Cheerleading Constitution. Sponsors and administration will act upon tangible proof that any of the above guidelines have been broken. Anonymous reports will not be investigated by BISD staff.

PARENT/STUDENT SIGNATURE FORM

I have read the BHS Cheerleading Constitution and agree to abide by the rules and procedures described therein. I understand that failure to sign and return this form to my cheerleader sponsor could result in termination or render me ineligible to be on the cheerleader team.

Parent Printed Name: _____

Parent Signed Name: _____

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signed Name: _____

Date: _____