

VI. Middle School Cheerleaders

A. Purpose

1. To increase, develop and maintain high moral character, scholarship, fellowship, and individual responsibility.
2. To promote school spirit and interest by supporting the school at athletic, civic, and charitable events.
3. To coordinate activities with other groups.
4. To work and cooperate in group situations.
5. To create a feeling of pride in one's school and personal achievements.

B. Membership

1. Squads will be made up of 7th & 8th grade students with the number to be determined by each campus but not to exceed 14.
2. No active members may have a nine-week grade lower than 70. If a six-week grade is lower than 70, the member is placed on scholastic probation according to UIL policy.
3. Any member who has a grade below 70 for two six or nine-week periods, consecutive or not, during the current school year shall be removed from the squad.
 - a. A member placed on scholastic probation may attend social events or any other event not related to extracurricular activities.
 - b. A head cheerleader who fails any course during the nine-weeks will lose this office and will be replaced by the squad leader.
 - c. A squad leader who loses membership will be replaced by the sponsor.
4. A physical is required for each cheerleader and the results are due to the sponsor as directed. Physicals must be renewed at the beginning of each school year.
5. Summer camp attendance is required (unless there is a conflict with a school related function approved by the principal)

C. Tryouts

1. Each student will be judged on the basis of ability, loudness, clarity, appearance, and enthusiasm.
 - a. Each candidate will perform a cheer alone or in a group no larger than 3.
 - b. Each candidate will perform a group dance.
 - c. Each candidate will be required to do at least two jumps connected: one of which must be a toe-touch.
 - d. Each candidate will show gymnastic ability, tumbling runs are allowed.
 - e. A Clinic will be conducted for candidates during the week of tryouts.
 - f. The tryout process will be explained and learned during the clinic. Parents may not attend the clinic or try outs.
 - g. Tryouts will be held on a date determined by the sponsor with the approval of the principal.
2. Only candidates and personnel designated by the principal as essential to conducting the tryouts will be allowed to enter the gym and/or cheerleading waiting areas of the day of tryouts. There will be a separate waiting area set up for visitors. All persons not trying out must wait in the visitor's waiting area.
3. There will be a panel of three judges from outside the district.
4. Scoring procedures and criteria will be developed by the district and reviewed with the candidates and their parents at least two weeks prior to the day of tryouts. Parents will sign an affidavit of the rules, regulations and standards for the tryouts and membership in the organization.
5. **Students must be enrolled in the GPISD no later than the 5th day of class of the semester that try-out will be held.**

6. Notification of Tryout Results

1. At the end of the tryouts process, candidates will be dismissed to leave the campus. The results will be tabulated and each candidate will be notified of the results.
 2. Individuals scores may be requested in writing from the principal.
 3. In the event of a tie, for the last designated position, the candidates will appear before the judges again to break the tie.
 4. Try out scores are final and may not be appealed.
7. In the event that a cheerleader quits or is removed from the squad prior to June 1, the candidate with the next highest score will be offered the vacant position.
8. No positions will be filled after June 1st.

D. Uniform

1. The sponsor will decide the style of all uniforms with the principal's approval.
2. Uniforms are to be worn only when designated and approved by the sponsor. If worn outside of times designated, the cheerleader will be benched from the next game or performance.
3. Cheerleaders who quit or are removed from the squad, may not wear any cheerleading clothes or accessories to any district sponsored event.

E. Financial Responsibility

1. All money due for camp, uniforms or miscellaneous expenses must be turned in on the date set by the sponsor.
2. The cheerleader accepts full responsibility for any money collected from fund-raisers.
3. Fees and expenses will be discussed with parents prior to tryouts and as the need arises during the season.

F. Attendance/Absences/Discipline

1. Members are excused for the following reasons:

- a. Death/illness in immediate family.
- b. Personal illness (subject to sponsor verification).
- c. School-related functions (sponsor prior notification).
- d. Family emergency.

For a., b., and d., sponsors must have a written note from parent/guardian upon the return of the cheerleader to practice.

2. Members receive unexcused absences for the following reasons:

- a. Not notifying the sponsor in advance of absence.
(a, c, d)
- b. Any area not covered above in excused absences.

3. Regardless of whether absences are excused or not, cheerleaders must be prepared for a competition/performance to be able to participate.

4. If a cheerleader receives an administrative D-Hall or is assigned ISS, that member will not cheer at the game/pep rally or next performance.

5. Cheerleaders must stay throughout the entire game to receive credit for attendance.

6. A member who is suspended from a game may be required to attend the game to support the squad. The cheerleader will not be in uniform and must sit with the sponsor/coach.

G. Performances (Sports/Other Events)

1. Cheerleaders may use breaks for personal needs at sponsor's direction.

2. Cheerleaders must check in with the sponsor upon return from breaks.

3. At the end of each game, pep rally or performance, cheerleaders will meet with sponsor first, before talking to friends, etc. They will clear away all posters and other items.

4. Practice for all squads and sports will be announced as needed.
5. Members will participate in sports and other events as directed by the sponsor.

H. Competitions

Competitions may be attended at the discretion of the sponsor and principal.

- I. Officers – all candidates for officer must declare their intentions prior to tryouts.
 1. Head cheerleader will be selected from 8th grade candidates, currently in good standing who cheered for the school in 7th grade.
 2. Head cheerleader will be selected from candidates by the sponsor.
 3. Squad leader will be selected from candidates, currently in good standing.
 4. Squad leader cheerleader will be selected by the sponsor.

J. Loss of Membership

All members must uphold the standards set forth in this policy. Any students that is dismissed or resigns their membership from the team may not tryout the follow year without the approval of the building principal. The following will result in automatic dismissal for the current school year.

1. Any violation of the district's Student Code of Conduct which would result in suspension or assignment of an AEP.
2. Failure to maintain requirements of membership.
3. Failing one or more classes in two nine-week grading periods, consecutive or not.
4. A third benching.

5. Failure to attend summer camp without principal's approval.
6. Receiving a total of three unexcused absences.

K. Summer Camp

1. All squads must attend camp. A member must attend camp or forfeit the privilege of joining the squad.
2. A student may not leave camp for any reason unless approved by the sponsor.
3. Summer camp dates and site will be determined by the district.
4. Transportation to and from camp is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

L. Summer Practices

Dates and times for summer practices will be announced no later than May. The summer practice schedule will work around summer school schedules if at all possible. However, if the summer school and practice schedules conflict, the cheerleader must attend summer school.

M. Fund Raising

Cheerleading squads will fundraise according to District Policy and Regulations.