

White Deer ISD

Cheerleader/Mascot Constitution

February 2010

I. Purpose

The purpose of the cheerleading program at White Deer ISD is to promote school spirit, encourage good sportsmanship, and support all athletic teams, and individuals.

II. Requirements for Tryouts

- A. Candidates must be enrolled in White Deer ISD for 1 full semester during that tryout year.
- B. Candidates must complete all elements of the tryout procedure.
 - 1. Have parent or guardian attend an orientation meeting prior to tryouts.
 - 2. Attend all tryout practices/unless attending another school event.
 - 3. The Jr. High and Varsity will tryout in front of the student body and a panel of judges.
- C. A newly elected cheerleader/mascot, an appointed cheerleader/mascot, or a sibling of the same household, must clear all financial obligations with the squad/school before he/she or the sibling can try out for the next school year, or years to come. All financial obligations owed to the school or the squad must be cleared per household. This remains until the obligations financially have been paid in full.
- D. If you are injured currently or have been injured, you must show documentation of a doctor's release before tryouts.

III. Election of Cheerleaders

- A. All currently enrolled 8th-11th grade students are eligible to try out for the Varsity squad. All 6th and 7th grade students are eligible to try out for the Junior High squad.
- B. Cheerleader candidates will be required to perform chants, cheers, jumps, and a dance routine.
- C. Procedures for the selection of cheerleaders are as follows:
 - 1. Cheerleading candidates will tryout in front of a panel of cheerleader judges that have been secured by the appropriate personnel. Spectators are **not** permitted into the gym during "Judge Tryouts".

2. Cheerleading candidates will be ranked according to the ratings of the judges, this will count 50%.
3. Cheerleading candidates will tryout in front of the student body. Varsity candidates will be voted on by the current year's 8th-11th grade students. Junior High candidates will be voted on by the current year's 6th and 7th grade students. The student body vote will count 25%. Spectators will be permitted into the gym during student body tryouts.
4. Each candidate will be evaluated by his/her current teachers that provide direct instruction. This will count 25%. Relatives of the candidates will not evaluate their relative candidate(s).
5. In the event of a tie, the judges' composite score will be used to break the tie.

IV. Election of Mascot

- A. All currently enrolled 8th-11th grade students are eligible to try out for mascot.
- B. Mascot candidates will perform a two minute skit to the music and props of their choice, under the discretion of the coach.
- C. Mascot candidates will perform for the student body, during cheerleader tryouts.
- D. Procedures for the selection of Mascot are as follows, unless otherwise designated by the coach.
 1. Mascot candidates will try out in front of the student body, during cheerleader tryouts. This will count 40%.
 2. Each candidate will be evaluated by his/her current teachers that provide direct instruction. This will count 60%. Relatives of the candidates will not evaluate their relative candidate(s).

V. Elected Cheerleaders and Mascot

- A. The Varsity squad will be made up of 6 cheerleaders and 1 mascot with the highest ranking after all scores have been tabulated.
- B. The Jr. High squad will be made up of 6 cheerleaders; 2 seventh grade, 2 eighth grade, and 2 over all.
- C. The coach will determine if a Head Cheerleader is necessary and will appoint one if needed. This position is optional and may be utilized at the discretion of the coach.

- D. Each elected cheerleader/mascot will be required to put down a deposit toward their bill when uniforms are ordered. For Varsity members, the deposit will be \$300 and is refundable. For Junior High members, the deposit will be \$275 and is refundable. The sponsor shall keep records of fundraisers and monies earned for each cheerleader or mascot. Once the cheerleader or mascot has earned the amount required to pay his/her debt, additional monies up to the total amount deposited shall be refunded. Exceptions are listed below at V.-G, H, and I.
- E. The elected Varsity cheerleaders/mascot must attend summer camp, with the squad. The District will pay \$200.00 towards the cost of the camp for high school cheerleaders and \$100.00 towards the cost of the camp for junior high cheerleaders (attendance at a JH cheerleading camp is determined by the sponsor). The remainder of the camp cost will be the cheerleaders'/mascot's expense. Any cheerleader/mascot who fails to attend a required camp may be removed from the squad. (This decision will be determined by the sponsor and administrator.)
- F. In the event a cheerleader or mascot is unable to uphold the position to which he/she was elected, the position may be replaced by the candidate with the next highest composite ranking, provided that this occurs prior to July 1. This decision will be made by the cheer sponsor and administrator.
- G. In the event that a cheerleader quits or becomes ineligible after July 1, the squad will be reduced in size by that number. No monies will be returned.
- H. In the event that the mascot quits, or becomes ineligible, it will be decided on by the cheer sponsor and the principal to appoint a candidate within the student body, or have mascot tryouts.
- I. All financial responsibilities lie with the person that takes the position of cheerleader/mascot. If the cheerleader/mascot moves or quits, he/she still owes his/her financial obligation. He/she must pay his/her debt in full. If the cheerleader/mascot quits, no monies from fundraisers will go toward his/her debt. The quitting cheerleader/mascot will hold all financial responsibilities.
- J. In the event that a cheerleader or mascot quits, he/she will not be allowed to tryout for cheerleader or mascot again at White Deer ISD until one calendar year has passed.

VI. Requirements for Maintaining Membership

- A. Must maintain a grade average that meets State Requirements for eligibility.
- B. Must assume all expenses necessary for membership. Must take care

of all financial obligations in a timely manner. All accounts will be paid in full by November 1. Members who do not meet their financial obligations will be removed from the squad. No monies will be refunded.

- C. Must attend all designated activities.
- D. Guidelines for Football games are as follows:
 - 1. **Varsity:** Cheerleaders and the Mascot are required to cheer at home and out of town Varsity football games.
 - 2. **JV:** Cheerleaders/Mascot are required to cheer at all home JV football games.
 - 3. **Jr. High:** Cheerleaders are required to cheer at all home and out of town 7th and 8th grade football games.
- E. Guidelines for Basketball games are as follows:
 - 1. **Varsity:** Cheerleaders and Mascot are required to cheer at all home Varsity basketball games and are required to cheer at away games when the Spirit Bus is taken.
 - 2. **District Basketball, Varsity:** Cheerleaders and Mascot will cheer at all District Varsity basketball games, as determined by the sponsor and administrator.
 - 3. **Jr. High:** Cheerleaders are required to cheer at all home Jr. High basketball games.
 - 4. **District Basketball, Jr. High:** Cheerleaders are required to cheer at all Jr. High District basketball games as determined by the sponsor and administrator.
- F. Must be available for cheerleading/mascot activities that occur throughout the year. These could begin in March and will be before school, during school, after school, evenings, on weekends, during the summer, and possibly holiday breaks.
- G. Absences
 - 1. Excused absences are allowed for the following reasons:
 - a. Illness (parent note twice, then doctor's note)
 - b. Death in the family
 - c. Special circumstances with approval of the sponsor.
 - d. Board approved UIL and extra-curricular activities.
 - e. A written note from a doctor will be required upon return from an absence longer than 2 consecutive days.
 - 2. Unexcused absences
 - a. If an unexcused practice is missed during the week, the cheerleader/mascot will not perform at the pep rally or the game, but must attend in uniform.
 - b. Each unexcused absence will add demerits.
- H. Transportation
 - 1. A Cheerleader/Mascot must provide transportation to and from school as necessary for practices, meetings, etc.
 - 2. A Cheerleader/Mascot must provide transportation to and from all home games.

3. A Cheerleader/Mascot must ride the bus/van when traveling to and from out of town games.
4. A Cheerleaders/Mascot will be allowed to leave an event with a parent by obtaining prior approval from the cheer sponsor. Approval may be in written form or given verbally from the legal guardian or parent to the cheer sponsor or administrator.

I. Responsibilities

1. Missing a cheerleading function a number of times to go to another event will be strongly discouraged, and could lead to demerits.
2. Must participate in the fundraising activities of the squad and be responsible for the money collected. Money lost or stolen will be replaced by that cheerleader/mascot.
3. Must be responsible for a certain amount of their own safety and protection during practices and performing. If one gets injured, they must follow guidelines set forth by the trainer, or doctor. A trainers note, or a doctors note will be required to resume cheerleading/mascot activities after an injury.
4. Must understand, this is a position of responsibility and representation that should not be taken lightly. The cheerleader/mascot should be helpful at all times. A cheerleader/mascot should always remember the manner in which he/she conducts himself/herself while representing the school directly reflects the entire community.
5. Fighting, jealousy, and display of attitude will not be permitted or tolerated. All problems affecting the squad will be brought out at meetings with the sponsor and resolved. Cheerleaders/mascot who continuously cause conflict within the squad will be dealt with on an individual basis and will receive demerits and or be dismissed from the squad.
6. Dress appropriate everyday, follow the student handbook and dress code.
7. Must be willing to abide by the White Deer ISD Cheerleader/Mascot Constitution.

VII. Merit/Demerit System

- A. Cheerleaders/Mascot must abide by the rules set forth in the merit/demerit system. All merits/demerits will be distributed and kept by the coach in a record book.
- B. Merits are awarded for exceeding cheerleader/mascot duties and expectations. The awarding of merits as well as the number of merits awarded is at the discretion of the cheer sponsor.
- C. Two merits replace one demerit.
- D. The following violations are worth **one (1)** demerit:
 1. Inappropriate clothing for practice.
 2. Failure to meet deadlines as specified by the sponsor (1 per day late).

3. Wearing jewelry at practice or in uniform.
4. Wearing nail polish while in uniform. French manicure or clear is acceptable.
5. Wearing clothing with uniform that is not approved cheerleader/mascot apparel.
6. Lack of Spirit.
7. Chewing gum when practicing or performing.
8. Not wearing hair up or pulled back out of face.
9. Incorrect ribbon or socks.
10. Not bringing pompoms, turtle neck, warm ups, or megaphone to an event as required.
11. Failure to turn in poster or spirit projects by designated date (1 per day late).
12. Tardiness to an event, class, or practice (1 per 5 minutes tardy either excused or unexcused).
13. Non-participation at an event or practice without approval from the coach.
14. Discipline Referral to the office (if detention is assigned, it counts as 3 demerits).
15. Rudeness or inappropriate behavior to teammates.
16. Improper behavior on the sidelines.

E. The following violations are worth **three (3)** demerits:

1. Fighting or presenting your self in a negative way.
2. Uncooperative behavior with teammates or coach.
3. Profanity.
4. Public display of affection while in uniform or out of uniform.
5. Failure to provide punctual transportation to and from events.
6. Failure to participate in fundraising activity or meet the minimum expectations.
7. Talking negatively about a team member or cheer sponsor.
8. Talking outside the squad about team meetings.
9. Truancy from school.
10. Detention.
11. Leaving early during an event (unless previously excused by the cheer sponsor).
12. Causing problems within the squad.
13. Altering a uniform or suit without prior approval from the sponsor.
14. Not knowing cheers, chants, or dances that have been previously taught.

F. The following violations are worth **five (5)** demerits:

1. Unexcused absence from practice or a scheduled event.
2. Rudeness or inappropriate behavior to the cheer sponsor, other school personnel, a community member, official, or opponent team supporters.
3. Lying.

4. Deliberately causing injury to another cheerleader/mascot.
5. Leaving an event or practice without permission from the cheer sponsor.

- G. **Obtaining 5 demerits will result in a 2 week suspension from cheering.**
- H. **Obtaining 10 demerits will result in dismissal from the squad.**
- I. Cheerleaders/Mascots will sign to acknowledge the receipt of demerits.

VIII. Probation and Dismissal

Failure to comply with any of the requirements for maintaining membership will result in probation or dismissal from cheerleading. The following procedures will be followed.

A. Scholastic Probation

1. Probation will follow UIL rules.
2. Receiving a failing grade in any class during a six weeks grading period will result in scholastic probation. No Pass/No Play guidelines will be followed. He/she will attend tutorials until passing.
3. The member must attend squad practices and events in uniform and will sit in the stands at the event.

B. Spirit Group Probation

1. A cheerleader/mascot receiving five (5) demerits is placed on spirit group probation.
2. The length of the probationary period is ten (10) school days.
3. The member will not be able to participate in cheerleading activities but must attend all practices and designated activities in uniform.

C. The following are grounds for dismissal:

1. Scholastic Probation that occurs twice in one year.
2. Spirit Group Probation that occurs twice in one year.
3. Assignment to AEP twice in one year.
4. Being in the possession of tobacco products or engaging in smoking (this includes the summer months).
5. Being in the possession of or under the influence of alcohol (this includes the summer months).
6. Being in the possession of or under the influence of illegal drugs (this includes summer months).
7. Failure to attend summer camp.
8. Failure to meet financial obligations.
9. Disrespect or rudeness to the cheerleading coach.
10. Obtaining 10 demerits during a year.

- D. If actions occur that could lead to dismissal from the cheerleading squad a parent meeting will be called to discuss concerns and consequences. If a cheerleader/mascot is dismissed from the squad, he/she may not try out the following year.
- E. All of the rules of this constitution start the minute he/she is elected. He/she will follow these guidelines from tryouts until May of the **next** school year, one full calendar year. This constitution includes the summer months.

IX. Uniforms

- A. Uniforms will be the cost of the member. This includes: shell, skirt, socks, shoes, ribbons, turtle neck, tights, briefs, warm ups, jacket, pompoms, etc.
- B. **Varsity:** A non refundable deposit of \$300 per cheerleader/mascot will be given when uniforms are ordered.
- C. **Jr. High:** A deposit of \$275 per cheerleader will be given when uniforms are ordered.
- D. All costs such as camp wear, workshops, etc. shall be the responsibility of the cheerleader/mascot and his/her parent. Cheerleaders/Mascot will participate in fundraisers to defray costs.
- E. In the instance that any items are lost or damaged that belongs to the school, the cheerleader/mascot will reimburse the cheerleading account the full cost of replacing those items.
- F. All alterations will be authorized by the cheerleading sponsor and will be at the expense of the cheerleader/mascot.
- G. The final selection of cheerleader uniforms will be the responsibility of the sponsor and administrator.

X. Mascot

- A. Mascots are considered part of the White Deer High School Cheerleading Squad and he/she is subject to all rules and policies set forth in this constitution.
- B. The school will provide the mascot costume (Bucky). The mascot is responsible for the proper care. If the “Bucky” costume is damaged, destroyed, or ruined in any way, the mascot/parents will be responsible for full replacement cost of the uniform. The mascot uniform is very expensive and could cost as much as \$1200.

- C. The mascot shall purchase a shell, turtle neck, pants and jacket, t-shirt, socks and shoes, at the discretion of the cheer sponsor.

XI. Senior Cheerleaders

All senior cheerleaders/mascot will be required to attend and teach the tryout workshop prior to tryouts and continue to be active in cheerleading through the end of the year.

XII. Eighth Grade Cheerleaders

- A. All eighth grade cheerleaders will be required to attend and teach the tryout workshop prior to tryouts and continue to be active in Jr. High cheerleading through the end of the year.
- B. In the instance that an eighth grade cheerleader is trying out for the Varsity Squad, he/she must let the Jr. High sponsor know in advance that they will not be at practice that day due to Varsity Squad practice. He/she can only miss if the two practices are going on at the same time.

XIII. Cheerleading Sponsor

The sponsor is directly responsible to the principal for the welfare of the cheerleading organization. White Deer ISD does not discriminate against any student on the basis of sex, race, creed, or financial status. The cheer sponsor and campus administrator will ensure that anyone involved in the cheerleading/mascot election process which includes vote tallying is not related to any of the candidates.

Guidelines for Tryout Before the Judges

These “Guidelines for Tryout Before the Judges” will be *read and explained to the judges before the contest begins.*

Score contestants in each category from 0 to 5 with 5 being the highest mark.

If a contestant fails to fulfill a category, the score is 0.

Do not show favoritism toward contestants with knee or ankle braces—the contestants have turned in a Doctor’s release, these contestants can perform equally.

If you missed a jump or you feel like you missed something...you may call that contestant back out, after that group, to jump again.

We expect each judge to ask a contestant a question in the interview process. (There should be at least 3 questions asked)

There are 6 positions to fill:

- At the Jr. High level, there will be 2 seventh graders and 2 eighth graders, and 2 at large.
- At the High School level, there will be six positions awarded to the cheerleaders with the highest ranking after all scores have been tabulated.

(The appropriate personnel will now explain the tryout process, so the judges will know what is to take place, and in order of sequence.)

Parent/Candidate Agreement

I _____ the parent/guardian of _____ have read entirely, and understand fully, the White Deer Cheerleading Constitution.

I _____ the candidate have read entirely, and understand fully, the White Deer Cheerleading Constitution.

I will see to it that the rules and regulations of this Constitution are upheld by my child. We understand the requirements for maintaining cheerleading, and we understand that acquiring 10 demerits will lead to being dismissed from the squad, along with Section VIII (C).

We strongly understand that any situation not addressed by this constitution, will be amended by the cheerleading sponsor and principal.

By signing this form we are agreeing to stand behind this constitution and follow it until my child is no longer a cheerleader/mascot.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Candidate Name _____

Candidate Signature _____

Date _____

Cheerleader/Mascot Teacher Evaluations

For: _____

1. Is this student prompt and regular in their attendance to your class or program?

Never **0** Sometimes **1** Most of the time **3** Always **5**

2. Does this student turn in their assignments promptly to you?

Never **0** Sometimes **1** Most of the time **3** Always **5**

3. Does this student cooperate with you in class?

Never **0** Sometimes **1** Most of the time **3** Always **5**

4. Is this student receptive to constructive criticism?

Never **0** Sometimes **1** Most of the time **3** Always **5**

5. Does this student use positive leadership qualities in your classroom or in your programs?

Never **0** Sometimes **1** Most of the time **3** Always **5**

6. Does this student work well with others in your classroom or in your programs?

Never **0** Sometimes **1** Most of the time **3** Always **5**

TOTAL_____

CHEERLEADER JUDGING SHEET
FOR # _____

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Entrance: 1 2 3 4 5

.....
Stamina Jumps: 1 2 3 4 5

.....
Motions: 1 2 3 4 5

.....
Voice: 1 2 3 4 5

.....
Spirit: 1 2 3 4 5

.....
Overall Impression: 1 2 3 4 5

.....
Fight Song: 1 2 3 4 5

Fight Song total ____ x 3 _____

Individual total + _____

Judge's total _____