

2011-2012

Cumby Cheerleader Constitution



Table of Contents

<i>Preamble.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Article I-Mission Statement.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Article II-Mission Statement.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Article III-Candidate Membership And Candidate Expectations.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Candidate Membership.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Article IV-Expectations for Members.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Article V-Standards for Member Removal.....</i>	<i>10</i>

**Cumby Independent School District
Cheerleader Constitution
2011-2012**

This Cumby ISD Cheerleader Constitution outlines standards of eligibility and procedures for all Cumby ISD cheerleader candidates and standard of conduct and behavior to which all Cumby ISD cheerleader members are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of the Cumby ISD.

Acceptance of a candidates to the Cumby ISD cheerleading 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 sponsors 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 Cumby ISD Cheerleader members are expected to adhere as a condition of participation in cheerleading activities, is a privilege, not a right, and students 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 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 Cumby ISD Student Code of Conduct or Cumby 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 Cumby ISD cheerleading 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 exemplify 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 Cumby ISD.

Article II-Candidate Eligibility

2.1 *A cheerleader candidate must be a resident of Cumby ISD and currently enrolled in Cumby ISD school. However, candidates who are enrolled in a Cumby 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 whom 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 candidate must not been academically ineligible, as defined by No Pass No Play rules, for two or more six weeks during the current school year and must be passing all courses with a grade of 70 or above at the time of try-outs to be eligible. A student with disabilities must be meeting the standards in his or her IEP at the time of try-outs in subsequent years.*

2.3 *A cheerleader candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her Squad may not try-out in subsequent years.*

2.4 *All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Candidates must have had at least a 90% attendance rate as stated by State Law (SB 1432) 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. The campus principal or designees will make the final determination regarding a candidate's citizenship eligibility for try-outs.*

2.5 All candidates must be in good financial standing the Cumby 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 to try out.

2.6 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.

2.7 All candidates and their parents 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

3.1 Candidates should understand that acceptance into the Cumby ISD cheerleading program is a privilege. Cheerleaders represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body and Cumby 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 will require a large time commitment and that members will be expected to put cheerleading on the same level as participation in all other sports and organizations but on a higher level than other nonacademic activities, including after-school or weekend jobs.

Candidate Membership

Membership in Cumby ISD cheerleading programs is from the date of try-outs to the day before the next year try-outs. Membership numbers are subject to change based upon drastic drop-off rates or gaps between the resulting high, middle, and low scores, provided that any such change in numbers shall be approved by the sponsor and the assigned administrator. Membership may be terminated at any time for failure to comply with the standards of conduct and procedure outlined herein.

*Members must be willing to meet reasonable financial obligations as deemed necessary by the sponsor. **All fees must be PAID IN FULL before the first performance. Member will not perform until all fees are paid.***

Members of the varsity cheerleading squad who have completed two years are eligible for a letter jacket.

Grade classification name below are for the year following try-outs and shall be determined according to official school records

Cumby High School

*The Varsity Cheerleading squad shall be comprised of freshman, sophomore, junior, and/or senior members, which membership shall consist of a maximum of 10. Of these members, one head cheerleader and one Co-Captain shall be chosen according to sponsor recommendation and popular vote of the squad, provided that the chosen head cheerleader shall be a senior (12th grade) member who has been on the varsity squad for at least one year.**

*The Junior High cheerleading squad shall comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade members, which membership shall consist of a maximum of 8 members. Of these members, one head cheerleader shall be named by popular vote of the squad.**

The top ten scores will determine the varsity cheerleading squad. The top eight scores will determine the JH squad. There will be no alternates to either squad.

**Final decisions regarding head cheerleader for all squads will be made by the sponsor(s).*

Candidates for Varsity Captain:

Requirements for cheerleaders to be chosen captain are as followed:

- *At least one year experience on the Varsity Squad*
- *Positive Teacher Evaluation*
- *Willing to be responsible for leading the team in a positive direction and to make sure all rules are upheld in a positive manner.*

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. Sponsors must be notified in writing by 10:30 am if a cheerleader will be absent or tardy to any activity. Please do not ask for permission to be late to a game, practice, or any cheerleading event. You will be referred to the attendance and demerit policy and it will be up to you and your parents to decide what is best for you and your family.*

- *Tardy(s) to practice, games, breaks, and leaving early will result in ½ a demerit. This will not be dismissed.*
- *Minor infractions will result in physical activity such as running or pushups.*

4.2 *Members shall be neatly presented in appearance, with hair neatly groomed and pulled back from face. No jewelry allowed during performance. **Not following the above requirements listed above will result in cheerleader being sent home, 1 demerit, and an unexcused absence will be accumulated.***

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. **All Practices and Games are mandatory. Excessive absences and tardiness and/or 2 or more unexcused absences or tardies will result in automatic dismissal.**

Practice schedules are set once school begins to allow for arrangement of dr. appointments around such practices and games. Mondays are always practice days for Varsity Cheerleaders from 6:30-8:30 pm. We will have practice on Wednesday (those who don't attend church) from 6:30-8:30 unless volleyball practice releases earlier.

- 1 demerit will be given for each summer practice missed.
- Practice absence the week of a game will result in 1 demerit and 1 quarter suspension per absence that week.
- Unexcused game absence will result in 2 demerits and 1 game suspension. Practices must be attended and one must sit with the sponsor at the game.
- These demerits will not be dismissed.

Acceptable Excused Absences from any Cheerleading practice, game, or cheer squad sponsored activit:

- Personal illness or accident (dr. note is required)
- Death in the Family
- Religious Holiday
- Conflicting School Activities approved in advanced
- Exceptional circumstances approved in advanced by sponsor.

Unexcused absences:

- Jobs
- Social events outside of school functions
- And unexcused absence is automatically given if a note is not presented to the sponsor(s) within 24 hours of absence.

Any squad member who is not able to practice or perform because of injuries must have a written excuse from the doctor within two days. Written authorization from the attending physician is required before the Cheer Squad Member will be allowed to resume Cheer Squad activities.

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. Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate. **Squad members must maintain an overall C average. Any failing grade will result in following the UIL “No Pass, No Play” policy.**

4.5 Members shall maintain at least a 90% attendance rate per State Law (SB1432) throughout the school year.

4.6 Members must be present at least three periods on the day of the performance in order to perform. A member who is absent from school on the day of the performance may not have the privilege of performance.

4.7 Members shall keep cell phones on silence in bag during the game. **NO** call or texting are allowed during the game.

4.8 Members may only leave the game or field of play with sponsor’s permission.

4.9 Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side guidelines for Cheerleading.

4.10 Members shall comply with all rules and regulations outlined in their program handbook.

4.11 All cheers, chants, skits, and dances must be approved by sponsor.

4.12 Members will cheer during all quarters and time-outs. Breaks will be determined by the sponsor.

4.13 Members will stand at attention without leaning on walls or fences and not talking to friends/family members at the fence.

4.14 Members will ride the bus to and from all out of town games and activities. The sponsor must approve any exception to this rule. **NO** cheerleader will leave with ANY non-family member or anyone under the age of 18 years of age per the superintendent.

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 Cumby ISD Cheerleader 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 the conduct and behavior outlined in the Cumby ISD Student Code of Conduct. Member 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. **Any participation in any of the above activities may result in Automatic Dismissal. Depending on the offense, the cheerleader may be ineligible for try-outs the following year.***

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 and will not be allowed to try out the following year. **Any cheerleader receiving any of the above disciplinary actions will be Automatically Removed from the squad and will be ineligible for try-outs the following 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.*

- **Office referrals (including ISS), Saturday school (any reason), and/or skipping school will result in 2 demerits being accumulated.**
- **Insubordination and/or poor attitude will result in 3 demerits being accumulated.**

Behavior Demerits:

***Foul language (cursing, slang,
and/or obscenities)*** ***4 demerits***

***Arguing (including bickering,
Making fun of others, or insulting
Others)*** ***3 demerits***

Laziness ***2 demerits***

Complaining ***1 demerit***

Consequences:

- ***Any squad member found being disrespectful to any coach (cheer or other), faculty member or other students (including other cheer members) will earn:***

1st offense

2 demerits

2nd offense

4 demerits

Any disrespect towards ANYONE will result in demerits and written behavior referrals and possible removal from the squad which will lead to the inability to try out next year.

- ***3 Demerits will result in being put on Probation for 6 weeks from the date of receiving the 3rd demerit.***
- ***5 Demerits will result in 1 week suspension from pep rallies and games.***
- ***Every 2 Demerits after the 5th demerit will equal another 1 week suspension from pep rallies and games.***
- ***10 Demerits equals Automatic removal from the Cheer Squad and ineligibility will incur for try –outs the following year.***