

# **BUNA HIGH SCHOOL**

## **AUXILIARIES**



**TWIRLER  
HANDBOOK  
2014-2015**

The sponsor encourages positive communication and is willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in twirling with her parents.

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**Please understand that my communication to you, the parents, is a very high priority.** My desire is to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact me for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues.

### **E-mail Policy**

Due to the nature of e-mail, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through e-mail communication. Parents are encouraged to use e-mail to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference.

### **Student Communication**

Students are also encouraged to communicate with the sponsor before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year.

### **Definition of Extracurricular Activities**

Extracurricular activities are school-sponsored activities that are not directly related to instruction of the essential elements, but that may have an indirect relation to some areas of the curriculum. They offer worthwhile and significant contributions to a student's personal, physical, and social development. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, and students must meet specific requirements in order to participate. Activities may include, but are not limited to, performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities.

### **Physical Evaluation**

Students are required to have a physical examination to participate in The Buna High School Auxiliaries. All Forms must be turned in by the first day of camp.

### **Responsibility for Program**

A well-planned student activity program shall be maintained in each school in the District. All student activities shall be under the direction of the principal or a designee and shall be designed to contribute to the overall development of the participant in school-sponsored clubs, organizations, and activities that represent their particular interests.

### **Maintaining Eligibility**

In order to be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity event for a six-week period following the initial six-week period of a school year, a student shall not have a recorded grade average lower than 70 on a scale of 0-100 in any course for the preceding six-week period.

### **Suspension from Extracurricular Activities**

A student whose recorded six-week grade average, in any course, is lower than 70 at the end of a six-week period shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity event. The time will include the succeeding three-week period until the end of a three-week period during which the student achieves a course grade average for that three-week period of at least 70 in each course. This suspension shall become effective seven days after the last day of the six-week period during which the grade lower than 70 was earned.

### **Out of School Practice**

Students who are ineligible may participate in after school rehearsals, but may not participate in performances during their ineligibility.

### **Limit on Suspension**

A student may not be suspended during the period in which school is recessed for the summer or during the initial grade reporting period of a regular school term on the basis of grades received in the final grade reporting period of the preceding regular school term.

### **Reinstatement to Extracurricular Activities**

At the end of any three-week period, following the initial six-week period, in which a student attains a course grade average for that three-week period of 70 or more in each course taken, any suspension from out of school rehearsal for extracurricular activities shall be removed.

### **Rehearsal and Performance Time**

Students may rehearse outside the school day in any single extracurricular activity a maximum of eight hours per school week. The eight-hour rule does not include Friday or Saturday.

## **Campus and District Rules**

A twirler shall provide a spirit-promoting service, be loyal, have high morals and standards, be a good example in and out of school, and develop self-discipline and confidence. She shall also have poise, good posture, and present a good appearance. Being a twirler is an honor. In order to be as “good” as our tradition and history warrants, hard work and discipline are basic components of the program. A twirler’s commitment is to both academics and the band. If you are not ready to accept this challenge, then twirling may not be for you.

## **Organization Director**

The auxiliary organization is under the sponsorship of Ms. Patsy Caillier. She organizes, leads, and executes all auxiliary functions. The organization as a whole is under the direction and supervision of the band director, who is appointed by the Principal, and approved by the BISD administration. All final decisions affecting a member of, or the organization as a whole, are approved or denied by Band Director.

## **Purpose of Organization**

- To promote appropriate and good spirit.
- To build better relationships between schools during athletic and other school events.
- To develop good sportsmanship, self-confidence, and self-discipline.
- To promote leadership.
- To encourage high morals and standards among its members.
- To develop the ability to work as a part of a group in achieving common goals; TEAMWORK.
- To represent the school and community in an exemplary manner, serving as a role model for appropriate behavior and citizenship.
- To develop and maintain a very high standard of precision twirling.

## **Challenge**

All twirlers shall provide a spirit-promoting service, be loyal, have high morals and standards, be a good example in and out of school, and develop self-discipline and confidence. She shall also have poise, good posture, and present a good appearance. Being a twirler is an honor. In order to be as “good” as our tradition and history warrants, hard work and discipline are basic components of the program. She must be able to accept constructive criticism in an effort to reach her full potential. She must also understand that band and twirling functions take priority over other extracurricular activities and part-time jobs. If you are not ready to accept this challenge, then twirling may not be for you.

## **Selection and Eligibility**

An impartial panel of qualified judges selects members. Any candidate wanting to gain membership to the organization must first meet the eligibility requirements and attend the series of rehearsals prior to the scheduled auditions. Each member will audition with the same routine that is taught during the practice week prior to the audition. All returning members are required to re-audition. The candidates will be judged on their grades/conduct, attendance, teacher recommendations, showmanship, posture/poise, coordination/precision, projection, twirling technique, and memory of routine.

## **Audition Eligibility**

1. A candidate may seek membership even if she has failed a course during the previous six weeks period.
2. A candidate may not have had a failing grade on a report card more than once during the school year.
3. A candidate may not have more than one 3-day SAC assignment.
4. A twirler who quits or relinquishes her membership without completing the semester may not audition again the following year.
5. Each candidate should be in good physical condition due to the vigorous nature of the physical activity required.
6. Prior to auditions, each candidate must have turned into the sponsor: parent permission form, application, teacher recommendations (if applicable), and any other required information.

## Mandatory Rehearsals

All rehearsals are mandatory. Those twirlers who choose to have a job in addition to being on the team must schedule their work hours after rehearsals are complete. Work schedules may not conflict with twirler rehearsals and commitments. Twirlers must inform their employers that they may need to be flexible with their work schedule, especially during football season. ***No twirler will be excused from rehearsals early to go to work (this includes Saturdays).*** In the event of an extenuating circumstance, members must have permission by the sponsor to be absent from a rehearsal or performance.

1. There will be daily after school rehearsals throughout the first semester (these can only be held if a sponsor is present).
2. Full attention and common courtesy will be extended to the person in charge of the rehearsal. Members are expected to display appropriate manners by not talking and by not being disruptive.
3. Members are expected to be on time for rehearsals and remain the full time. Two tardies will result in the loss of a track performance. More than two tardies will result in the loss of both a track and field performance.
4. Students who are punished by losing a performance will still be required to dress out and fulfill their obligation with the band.
5. Members are expected to follow the daily dress code and dress accordingly.
6. Sitting out for illness or injury during rehearsal may result in being pulled from a performance. If a twirler is truly injured or ill, it is in her best interest as well as the team's best interest that she not rehearse or perform until well.
7. To avoid distractions, rehearsals are closed to the public unless otherwise indicated by the sponsor.
8. Students who choose to be involved in multiple activities are still responsible to attend all practices giving 100% effort while there. Twirlers are band members first and will be required to fulfill those obligations as well. Every attempt will be made to work around the practices, events, and UIL competitions held by other organizations. Students will need to use their time wisely to be successful in all activities for which they are involved.

## Performances

Performances are a time when the community directly observes the twirlers. Each girl is expected to be an ***exemplary*** representative of the group. All performances are mandatory unless otherwise specified.

1. Twirlers must audition for each performance.
2. The sponsor decides who participates in each performance.
3. All twirlers will attend all performances, in uniform, unless otherwise specified by the sponsor.
4. Members may go to the restroom accompanied by either an officer or an escort with the sponsor's permission.
5. Any twirling member whose behavior is inappropriate during the game or at a performance will receive the appropriate punishment. This could result in the loss of a performance or dismissal from the organization.

6. A member must meet the “Attendance Policy” requirements in order to be eligible to perform.
7. Absence from school on game day will automatically exclude the member from the game performance.
8. Ideally, twirlers should be in all classes every day. Extenuating circumstances do occasionally exist that prevent this from happening. A member is excused from a performance for the following reasons: death in the family, illness (doctor’s note must be available), wedding in the family, school functions with prior notice, special religious holidays, or permission is given by the sponsor on special occasions. *A note must be provided in order for any absence to be excused.* A member is excused from rehearsal if any of the above occurs or an appointment for a doctor is made and a doctor’s note is presented. Two days-advanced notice to the sponsor is expected. If a twirler does miss any practice, she is responsible for any instruction missed. She will be held responsible for any announcements made or routines taught in her absence.
9. Missing practice due to absence from school could exclude a member from a field performance. If the school deems the absence as unexcused then missed practice will also be unexcused. If the school deems the absence as excused then the ability to perform will be based on whether the loss of rehearsal time will impair the ability of the student to perform successfully.
10. Any member attending an event following a performance must change to appropriate clothing. No part of the uniform shall be worn anywhere except to activities in which the group is designated to perform.
11. Grades may be checked every third week throughout the year. A member must be passing all classes at the end of the six-week grading period in order to be eligible to perform. If the member is not passing she becomes ineligible for a three-week period. She may attend rehearsals but may not participate in performances.
12. Jewelry (earrings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, etc.) will not be worn during any rehearsals (exception: watches or team bracelet) or performances (exceptions: team bracelets).
13. Fingernail polish (toe nail if the performance warrants) must be removed prior to performances.
14. Non-members are not allowed to visit with the auxiliary members during the game.
15. Members are not allowed to talk while in Victory Line or waiting on the sidelines prior to/following their performances.
16. There is to be no consumption of food or drink while in uniform without the sponsor’s permission.
17. Members are not allowed to get up from, or leave their seat without the sponsor’s permission.
18. No public displays of affection are acceptable while in uniform or school event.
19. Make up is mandatory! The sponsor will determine color and brand.
20. If you have called in sick for a game and show up at the game as a spectator you will be “benched” for the next full game and pep rally. If you are at a game you need to be with your squad. If you are sick stay home. We need you to be healthy.
21. Members are dismissed only by the sponsor at the end of the game. Periodically, it will be necessary for members to return uniform pieces after a game. Dismissal will then be from the auxiliary room.
22. Members who do not adhere to the guidelines of the handbook as deemed by the sponsor and/or band director may be “benched.”

**Twirlers have the opportunity to perform during half-time at varsity games. They will also perform during BHS pep rallies and the Red Bud parade as well as UIL.**

### **Football Games**

Participation in half-time performances at varsity football games is mandatory. The Buna Cougar Band will accompany the twirlers for their half-time dance. Music is chosen by the auxiliary sponsor and the band director. Before the fall season begins a calendar is provided indicating with auxiliary group will be featured for each game. The featured auxiliary group will perform in the center and the names of the members will be announced. Features will be distributed between the three auxiliary groups. The first home game, Homecoming, and senior night will be rotated annually between the groups. For example, if the drill team performed at Homecoming next year. Homecoming will count as two performances; therefore, the group performing at this game will be featured less at home. In the event of a rain out or an extenuating circumstance the calendar of features will not be altered. Twirlers will have third quarter off with the band. Members are expected to be back in their seats for the fourth quarter. Only is allowed in the stands. **There may not be a performance prior to the night before UIL Contest or Senior Night. The Band's Contest performance will take precedence over an Auxiliary performance.**

### **Attendance Policy**

Twirlers should be at all performances. However, extenuating circumstances do occasionally exist that prevent this from happening. A member is excused from a performance for the following reasons: death in the family, illness (a doctor's note is required), wedding in the family, school functions with prior notice, special religious holidays, or permission is given by the sponsor on special occasions. ***A note must be provided in order for any absence to be excused.*** A member is excused from rehearsal if any of the above occurs or for a doctor's appointment (doctor's note is required). Two days advanced notice to the sponsor is expected. If a twirler does miss a practice, she is responsible for any instruction missed. She will be held responsible for any announcements made or routines taught in her absence.

Unexcused absences will result in the loss of a performance. Missing a rehearsal or performance for work is considered an unexcused absence. Twirlers may have a job, but must practice time management. ***If a performance is lost the student must still attend in full uniform.***

## **Travel**

1. Members must ride to all performances on buses supplied by the school district. The student may return from an engagement with her parents but the parent must pick you up from the bus loading area and check out with the sponsor.
2. If a member is to ride home with anyone other than her own parents, she must have her car riding note signed by the principal or someone designated by the principal.
3. No food or drinks shall be allowed on buses without permission of the sponsor.
4. Group behavior on buses will follow current bus rules and regulations as stated in the BISD student handbook.
5. Members that miss the bus are subject to penalties outlined in this handbook. They are still responsible for attending performances through providing their own transportation.

## **UIL Twirling Contest**

The Buna High School twirlers represent Buna ISD in the UIL twirling competition during the Fall semester. All practices for this event are required. Twirlers receiving a first division superior rating advance to the UIL State twirling competition in the Spring. These twirlers are eligible to receive a letter jacket.

## **Expenses**

1. Each member must furnish her own pep rally uniform (used for two years), rehearsal uniforms, shoes, accessories, tote bag, boots, leotard, warm-up suit, and camp.
2. Each member will be required to attend summer camp at her expense.
3. The school will provide the member's game uniforms and props.
4. Each member will be given equal opportunity to raise money to assist in paying needed fees/dues. New members should expect to spend approximately \$800.00.
5. It is the parents' responsibility to pay for any remaining costs.

## Uniforms

A. Practice Uniforms (Must be worn as assigned by the sponsor)

B. Performance Uniforms

- Must be clean, in good condition, and worn properly
- Will be worn in its entirety unless otherwise instructed by sponsor (this includes make-up)
- If a twirler fails to return a uniform or any part of a uniform or if a twirler returns a damaged uniform, she will be required to pay for that uniform. Should a twirler fail to reimburse the school for the missing or damaged uniform, she will be placed on the campus hold list until reimbursement is made.

## Loss of Membership

Loss of membership can occur for violations of any rules or district policies, including those in this handbook. The director and/or principal may determine appropriate disciplinary action for any conduct deemed inappropriate for a member of this organization while on campus or off campus throughout the calendar year.

Members should keep in mind that:

1. Immediate dismissal may occur for any behavior that is unladylike or unbecoming to a twirler.
2. The director and/or principal may revoke membership for continued misconduct or poor attitude of a member.
3. The following guidelines must be adhered to:
  - No more than three consecutive days of SAC, no suspension, and no expulsion during the school year will be allowed. These actions will result in dismissal from the squad for the remainder of the school year.
  - Less than three days of SAC assignment will result in being “benched” for one week.
  - Failing two six-weeks of the school year is not permitted for full year participation in twirling.

NOTE: “Benched” means the person must dress out and sit with the auxiliaries at all games, performances and practices. “Dismissed” means the person is removed from the twirling line until the next tryout occurs and will be removed from the organization.

A twirler will be held accountable for her behavior at all times. *Her behavior outside of twirling is as important as her behavior while she is participating.* She is to be a responsible member through the summer months, the weekends, weekdays, and any vacation time. The sponsor does not and will not have to tolerate inappropriate behavior from any member.

### **Acknowledgement Page**

Parents and members are required to sign an acknowledgement page that states they have read, understood, and will uphold the rules and guidelines set forth in this handbook. Twirlers without an acknowledgement page or with an incomplete Acknowledgement page on file will not be allowed to participate in twirling functions.

### **Amendments/Interpretations**

This handbook has been prepared as a general guide to the operation of the Buna High School twirling program. It is designed to promote fairness and organization among all members. Any additions or deletions are up to the discretion of the director and/or principal. All articles are subject to change within the school year according to changes made in federal, state, or district policy. Interpretations of this document are the sole right of the director and shall be so determined for the benefit of this organization.

## **TWIRLER PLEDGE**

The following is to be read, signed and returned by all twirlers and their parent(s):

I shall conduct myself in such a manner as to be a credit to the organization, school, and community at all times. I will know and abide by the twirler handbook. I promise to uphold the traditions and will do everything in my power to promote twirler activities and interest. I will at **all times** be joyous, courageous, courteous, truthful, considerate, and just; loyal and sincere in friendship; too noble to speak ill of others; willing to forgive and forget; prompt and gracious in obedience; willing to sacrifice personal pleasures for the betterment of others; ready to do all possible service; quick to appreciate what is done for me; respectful to my parents, teachers, and elders, that I may become a fine and worthy young lady.

*Signature of TWIRLER* \_\_\_\_\_

I have read over and discussed the rules and regulations with my daughter. I understand and agree to assist and support her in meeting all requirements in association with this organization. I also agree to support the organization as a whole to the best of my ability.

*Signature of Parent/Guardian* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this page to the sponsor on the date specified.