

2019-2020
AC Jones High School



Cheer/Mascot
Handbook

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2019 - 2020
A.C. Jones High School
Cheer/Mascot Handbook

Article 1: Philosophy/Purpose

Being a Cheerleader/Mascot is an honor and special privilege. Cheerleaders/Mascots and spirit groups exist to promote good sportsmanship, good citizenship, wholesome and enthusiastic school spirit, and are first and foremost representatives of their school. Cheerleaders/Mascots should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the rules as stated in the BISD Extracurricular Student Code of Conduct. Members of these groups have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping the school achieve its goals and objectives. Because of these responsibilities, members will be expected to maintain a higher standard of behavior and academic achievement, both on and off campus.

Objectives

Cheerleaders/Mascots are expected to be physically and mentally skilled in learning and remembering cheers. They are also expected to be able to publicly demonstrate a skill level suitable for the team position and the timing necessary for group performance. Off the field, they are to enthusiastically support all athletic teams through advertisement, personal attitude, and attendance at events chosen by the sponsor and approved by the principal.

The rules and procedures outlined in this Handbook are in effect immediately after tryouts until the next tryout date.

Article II: Requirements

- A. Cheerleaders/Mascots must be 10 minutes early and present for all activities, including practice. Total commitment to the squad is expected. Cheerleaders/Mascots may be excused **if the reason is approved in advance (24 hours) by the sponsor**. Practice times are determined by the sponsor.
- B. All Cheerleaders/Mascots must attend summer practice and summer camp.
- C. Cheerleaders/Mascots may not wear any jewelry of any kind including belly button piercing when actively participating in pep rallies, games, practice, etc... Sponsor may limit jewelry worn for squad photographs. Jewelry needs to be removed prior to arriving at the pep rally, game, practice, etc.
- D. No permanent tattoos are allowed to be shown during school or any school activity.
- E. Cheerleaders/Mascots may participate as an athlete in a sport other than cheerleading if the sponsor and the coach of the desired sport are able to work out a schedule that is agreeable between the two. These sports may not interfere with cheerleading duties as seen by the sponsor.

- F. Cheerleaders/Mascots may not have a job that interferes with practice or any other cheerleading duties. If a cheerleader works, she/he must be able to negotiate with his/her boss so that he/she may attend all scheduled cheerleading activities.
- G. All Cheerleaders/Mascots must follow the “No-pass, No –play” rules as outlined in the TEA/UII Side by Side Handbook.
- H. It is the responsibility of the cheerleader/mascot to notify the sponsor of any disciplinary action/referral within one school day of the action.
- I. **A Cheerleader/Mascot who resigns from the cheerleading squad will be required to submit, in writing, a letter of explanation detailing the reason for leaving. A cheerleader/mascot who resigns, or is dismissed from the squad, is ineligible to try out the following year.**
- J. A Cheerleader/Mascot who resigns or is dismissed after uniform items have been ordered will be required to pay for all items that cannot be returned.
- K. A Cheerleader/Mascot must meet financial obligations and have a clear financial record with BISD.
- L. All Cheerleaders/Mascots and parents must sign and turn in the A.C. Jones Cheer Handbook/Handbook Acknowledgment Form at the end of the Mandatory Parent Meeting.
- M. All Cheerleaders/Mascots must have a current completed physical examination form on file with the sponsor before the start of tryout clinic. This year’s clinic starts **March 18, 2019.**
- N. All Cheerleaders/Mascots and parents must attend a mandatory tryout meeting.
- O. Amendments to this handbook may only be added with the approval of the Principal.

Article III: Membership & Responsibility

- A. The A.C. Jones High School Varsity Cheer squad may consist of 16-20 members from grades 9-12.
- B. The A.C. Jones High School Varsity Mascot may consist of 1 member from grades 9-12.
- C. Varsity Cheerleaders will cheer as follows:
 - 1. At designated Varsity and Junior Varsity/Freshman football games.
 - 2. At designated home volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball, and softball games.
 - 3. At designated track meets and other events when requested by the sponsor or Principal.
 - 4. At designated playoff games
- D. The squad will be split for various events at sponsor’s discretion.
- E. Each cheerleader must abide by all AACCA Safety Rules and Regulations at all scheduled events
- F. Any cheerleader that sustains an injury must have a doctor’s note to be excused from practice, game, or scheduled event. This cheerleader may not be released to resume any type of participation without a written release from the doctor diagnosing the injury. This is mandatory.

Article IV: Elections

- A. Any candidate trying out for Cheerleader/Mascot will be evaluated on grades, attendance, and discipline.
 - 1. All candidates must meet UIL & TEA eligibility requirements at the time of tryouts (passing all classes as of **March 7, 2019**).
 - 2. Candidates may not have more than 5 absences per semester in any class.
 - 3. Candidates may not have more than 1 ISS placement for the current year that lasted no longer than 3 days, must not have been suspended, and must not have been placed in DAEP.
- B. All students trying out for Cheerleader/Mascot must attend the mandatory meeting prior to the tryout clinic with at least one parent/guardian. Candidates will also be expected but not required to attend all sessions of the clinic held approximately one week immediately prior to tryouts. All candidates must be in excellent health and capable of participation in cheerleading activities without the burden of ongoing or recurring injuries, illnesses, or restrictions from a doctor.
- C. All candidates must clear all school fines before he/she can try out for the next year.
- D. Cheer candidates will be judged on entrance, tumbling, stunts, tryout material (cheer, chant, dance), and jump. Score Sheet Attached.
- E. Mascots will be judged on enthusiasm, crowd-appeal, use of props and skit. Score Sheet Attached.
- F. All candidates will be judged by outside U.C.A. (Universal Cheerleaders Association) judges.
- G. The candidates trying out for Captain/ Co-Captain must qualify to be interviewed by the judges. To qualify, Varsity candidates (Grade 12) and JV candidates may not have been suspended from the squad before and must have scored above 70 during tryout. Judges interview questions will be answered and Captain/Co-Captain positions will be determined.
- H. If the Captain resigns, is dismissed or demoted, the Co-Captain is their replacement. A new Co-captain will be selected from qualified squad members. All tryouts are closed to everyone except candidates, senior cheerleaders, sponsor, judges and administrators.
- I. Administrators will verify the scores and sign-off on the judges' score sheets.
- J. Results will be posted on the same day of the tryouts. (Allow 2-4 hours for calculations and verifications)
- K. Parents can be shown a copy of the **judges' scores** the following week for their students only. Ranks will not be given.
- L. The 2019-2020 A.C. Jones Cheer Handbook/Handbook will go into effect immediately after tryouts until the next tryout date.
- M. After school practice will begin following tryouts, depending on the school calendar and selected camp dates. There will be a mandatory practice Saturday March 23rd after tryouts once squad is announced.

- N. Try-out results may not be appealed.

Article V: Attendance Requirements

- A. All newly selected cheerleaders are required to attend a fitting by Varsity Spirit Fashions representative at the school on **March 29, 2019**. All uniforms, wind suits, camp wear, shoes, socks, bows, poms, megaphones are purchased by each individual. ***Payment is due in full on or before April 20, 2018. Cost will range from \$1,500-\$2,000. **Dates and Costs are subject to change.**
- B. All cheerleaders/mascot will practice during the summer months, prior to and after attending summer camp.
- C. Practices will continue into the month of August and continue until school begins.
- D. Practice times will be determined by the sponsor. Weekends may be included in possible practice times.
- E. Any Cheerleader/Mascot who must miss a practice is required to call the sponsor in advance (24 hour notice), and supply a written excuse upon returning. This includes all summer practices as well as weekend practice, after school practice, etc.
- F. Cheerleaders/Mascot must be back 2 minutes before the end of the halftime.
- G. Cheerleaders/Mascot must attend all scheduled practices (unless excused by the sponsor), and be knowledgeable of all cheer/pep rally material in order to perform at the pep rallies/games.

Article VI: Dress Code

COMPLETE UNIFORM FOR GAMES, PEP RALLIES, OR SCHEDULED EVENTS

ACJ cheer uniform, bloomers, plain white mid length socks, cheer shoes, cheer bow, black or white sports bra. No jewelry. NO CELL PHONES. ** Hair style may change at the discretion of the coach/sponsor for game, pep rallies, or other functions with enough notice**

COMPLETE UNIFORM FOR UCA CAMP

Designated camp wear, natural colored hair pulled back and out of face with no loose strands, white-socks/cheer shoes. No jewelry. NO CELL PHONES.

COMPLETE UNIFORM FOR PRACTICE

Designated practice shirt & shorts, socks, cheer shoes. Hair must pulled back and out of face with no loose strands. No jewelry. NO CELL PHONES.

A cheerleader missing any part of the complete uniform or wearing any item additional to the complete uniform is considered to be “out of uniform.” See Violations.

- ✓ The uniform is only to be worn by ACJ cheerleaders in conjunction with approved school sanctioned activities.
- ✓ The complete uniform is required for all scheduled events.
- ✓ Each cheerleader is responsible for the care of the cheerleading uniforms. Uniforms should be clean for each event.
- ✓ No jewelry is allowed at any game, scheduled event, camps or practices.
- ✓ Each cheerleader is responsible to be in full camp wear during all days of UCA camp.
- ✓ Each cheerleader is required to be in designated practice attire at ALL scheduled practices.

Article VII: Discipline

Violations

In order to maintain discipline, a violation system is set up for all Cheerleaders/Mascots to follow. The sponsor is the ultimate authority regarding violations. However, the Sponsor may discipline cheerleaders/mascots for minor infractions at their discretion. Each cheerleader starts with zero violations as of March 23, 2019. This handbook will be the only notification given concerning violations. All violations will be issued by the sponsor only.

This system will be used from the time the squad is determined until the start of the school year. When school starts, the sponsor’s grading policy will also be used. The following violation system will coincide with the A.C. Jones High School Student Code of Conduct. The following violation increments are as follows:

A. Violations	
Category A Violations:	Category B Violations:
< Engaging in theft, destruction, or misuse of school district property;	< Being tardy to games, meetings, practices, performances, camps and/or other events;
< Engaging in hazing, harassment or bullying of others as defined by the Beeville ISD Student Code of Conduct;	< Being absent or leaving from games, meetings, practices, performances, camps, and/or other events without permission from the activity sponsor or coach;
< Buying, selling, giving, delivering, using, possessing, or being under the influence of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapor pens, alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance (without a proper prescription), or a dangerous drug at any time and regardless of whether the student is on school property or at a school-related activity;	< Engaging in acts of poor sportsmanship, such as cheating, using profane language, or taunting other participants;
< Engaging in any unreasonably dangerous athletic technique that unnecessarily endangers the health or safety of a student;	< Being insubordinate to a coach/sponsor, captain/co-captain, or peers;
< Engaging in conduct prohibited by the District’s Student Code of Conduct that is punishable by	< Being disruptive during a game, meeting, practice, performance, camp, and/or other event;
	< Failing to return school district property as directed where the property is valued at \$ 30 or less;
	< Violating the established rules or guidelines of a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates;

<p>placement in DAEP or expulsion.</p> <p><</p>	<p>< Violating the District’s standards for dress and grooming or the standards set for the specific extracurricular activity; and</p> <p>< Engaging in general misconduct prohibited by the District’s Student Code of Conduct.</p>
<p>Note: Students placed in DAEP are ineligible to participate in or attend extracurricular activities pursuant to Texas Education Code § 37.006(g).</p>	<p>Note: The standards of the ECC are independent of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in a student being disciplined under both standards.</p>

<p>Consequences</p>	
<p>Category A Violations:</p> <p>Immediate dismissal from the Cheer squad for the remainder of the school year and will not be allowed to try out the following year.</p>	<p>Category B Violations:</p> <p><u>First Offense:</u> The student will receive a written warning and parent notification, and will be directed to refrain from future violations.</p> <p><u>Second Offense:</u> The student will be suspended from participation for <u>One</u> school week and will be placed on a behavior contract for <u>Two</u> school weeks.</p> <p><u>Third Offense:</u> The student will be suspended from participation for <u>Three</u> school weeks and will be placed on a behavior contract for <u>Six</u> school weeks.</p> <p><u>Fourth Offense:</u> The student will be suspended from the cheer squad for the remainder of the school year and will not be allowed to try out the following year.</p>
<p>Definition: “<u>weeks</u>” means school weeks, but also includes any non-school weeks in which an extracurricular competition or event occurs, such as camps during the summer or on school holidays.</p>	<p>Definition: “<u>suspension</u>” means that the student will not be permitted to participate in any competition, contest, scrimmage, performance, or election associated with an extracurricular activity. The student may continue to participate in practices.</p>

Note: An extracurricular activity participant starts each school year with a clean slate, unless he or she had participation in extracurricular activities revoked during the previous school year, in which case that revocation continues from year to year. In addition, any consequences that were assessed during the prior school year for which the student owes additional suspension or behavior contract time must still be completed. For example, a student who was suspended from participation for 4 school weeks during the last week of school may have an additional 3 weeks of suspension to complete beginning with the next school year.

C. Drugs and Alcohol

Exemplary behavior is expected of cheerleaders/mascots under the jurisdiction and sponsorship of BISD schools and the BISD athletic department. There is no acceptable reason for alcohol or illegal substances to be used by any student-athlete in our athletic programs at any time during the calendar year, nor are there acceptable reasons for BISD student athletes to be present where illegal or controlled substance activities occur at any time during the calendar year.

Any cheerleader/mascot who violates the A.C. Jones High School Student Code of Conduct with respect to drugs and/or alcohol will be immediately dismissed from the Cheer squad for the remainder of the school year and will not be allowed to try out the following year.

Article VIII: Miscellaneous

- A. All Cheerleaders/Mascots are required to attend at least one half day of school on the day of or the day before any cheerleading function in order to participate in that particular function.
- B. If a Cheerleader/Mascot is absent from school and will miss cheerleading class or any cheerleading function, the parent must call the sponsor and leave a message (24 hours in advance). Cheerleaders/Mascots should schedule all outside appointments for times other than practice times. The sponsor must be notified 24 hours in advance of any appointments conflicting with cheerleading functions including practices. Upon returning the cheerleader must bring a written excuse from the parent/guardian.
- C. All Cheerleaders/Mascots will be expected to paint many signs for various sports and other events.
- D. The only jacket/pants approved at functions are AC Jones High School Cheerleader wind suits, letter jackets, or other uniform garments required of all squad members. Members of the Varsity squad will receive a school issued letter jacket. Approval by the sponsor is required for any Cheerleader/Mascot to receive a letter jacket. If a Cheerleader/Mascot quits the squad or is permanently dismissed from the squad before letter jackets or any other awards are issued, he/she will not receive a letter jacket or award(s).
- E. All Senior Cheerleaders will be required to attend and teach the tryout clinic prior to tryouts and continue to be active in cheerleading through the end of the year or forfeit cheer responsibilities at graduation.

- F. Cheerleaders/Mascots must travel to all out of town functions on the bus with the squad unless prior arrangements were made with the sponsor. Immediately following out of town functions, all Cheerleaders/Mascots will report directly to the sponsor. In addition to a telephone call to the sponsor, **Written permission for a cheerleader or mascot to ride home with an adult other than the parent/guardian or school transportation must be provided to the sponsor 24 hours before game day.** Parents/guardians/designees must sign out their Cheerleader/Mascot after every function.
- G. Definitions of excused absences include:
- Illness/injury confirmed by parent/doctor (missing more than three consecutive days requires a doctor's excuse).
 - Family emergency confirmed by parent.
 - Funeral confirmed by parent.
 - Religious holidays
 - Pre-approved absence by principal/sponsor.
 - In the case of where parents are divorced and a parent is exercising their visitation rights, must be confirmed by a parent.
- H. Definitions of unexcused absences include: jobs, social events, vacations, trips, etc.
- I. Absences due to school related functions must be approved in advance and will be excused at the discretion of the principal/sponsor.
- J. Definitions of required Cheerleader/Mascot functions include: practice, games, fundraisers, banquets, track meets, pep rallies, clinics, camp, recruiting, community events, etc. This includes anything that is mandatory for the squad to attend.
- K. Cheerleader/Mascot camp cost will be due before and after Cheerleaders /Mascot are announced in order to secure a camp slot for squads **(\$200.00 on March 23, 2018 with the balance due on April 5, 2018).** All camp payments [cashier's check/money orders only] are to come through the principal's office to the principal's secretary in which a receipt will be given for payment. Varsity orders will be paid using Varsity's Parent Portal system. Additional items may be ordered throughout the year. Due to the nature of ordering uniforms and miscellaneous items **dates and costs are subject to change.** All camp attire must be paid in full by **May 3, 2019** .
- L. **All practices are closed practices.**
- M. **Parents, siblings, friends, or family members are not allowed on the track during a game.**

***It is impossible to cover virtually everything in the handbook, therefore: all rules and regulations concerning Cheerleaders/Mascot are subject to Sponsor, Principal, and Superintendent Discretion.**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 25th	Mandatory Cheer/Mascot Candidate Parent Meeting Lecture Hall @ 5:30PM
March 7th	Completed Cheer/Mascot Application Due AP's Office @ 4PM
March 18th – 22nd	Tryout Clinic HS Atrium or Old Gym @ 4-5:30PM See Clinic Attire.
March 22nd	First \$200 Summer Camp Deposit Due Cashier's Check or Money Order. No Cash Accepted
March 23rd	2019 – 2020 Cheer/Mascot Tryout HS New Gym @ 9AM - TBA See Tryout Attire.
March 29th	Varsity Cheer Fittings TBA
April 5th	Second \$200 Summer Camp Deposit Due Cashier's Check or Money Order. No Cash accepted.
April 20th	All camp wear must be paid in full
May 3	<u>All Cheer Uniform expenses must be paid in full</u>
	Cashier's Check or Money Order
	No Cash accepted.
June 3 – 6th	UCA Summer Camp at Texas State - San Marcos, TX TBA

A.C. Jones High School

Cheer Tryout Score Sheet

Grade _____

Candidate # _____

0 – No Performance 1 – Poor 2 – Fair 3 – Good 4 – Excellent

12 pts.	I.	ENTRANCE a) Spirit b) Voice c) Facial Expressions	0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4	Total
12 pts.	II.	JUMPS a) Herkey b) Toe-Touch c) Optional Jump	0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4	Total
16 pts.	III.	DANCE a) Synchronization b) Sharpness c) Facial Expressions d) Knowledge of Dance	0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4	Total
24 pts.	IV.	CHEER a) Motions b) Sharpness c) Voice Projection d) Facial Expressions e) Synchronization f) Knowledge of cheer	0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4	Total
12 pts.	V.	TUMBLING a) Cartwheel b) Roundoff c) Flips	0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4	Total
24 pts.	VI.	CHANT a) Motions b) Sharpness c) Voice Projection d) Facial Expressions e) Synchronization f) Knowledge of chant	0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4	Total

Judges Initials _____

Total points of 100 _____

Notes:

A.C Jones High School

Mascot Tryout Score Sheet

Candidate # _____

<p>(35 pts.)</p> <p>0 – 10 pts.</p> <p>0 – 15 pts.</p> <p>0 – 10 pts.</p>	<p>I.</p>	<p>CREATIVITY (props, skit, music, etc.)</p> <p>Crowd Effective Material</p> <p>Character Definition</p> <p>Appropriateness of Skit</p>	<p>POINTS</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>TOTAL</p>
<p>(45 pts.)</p> <p>0 – 15 pts.</p> <p>0 – 15 pts.</p> <p>0 – 15 pts.</p>	<p>II.</p>	<p>PANTOMIME (placement of hands, expressions, etc.)</p> <p>Portrayal of Emotion</p> <p>Animation</p> <p>Proper use of Props</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>TOTAL</p>
<p>(20 pts.)</p> <p>0 – 10 pts.</p> <p>0 – 10 pts.</p>	<p>III.</p>	<p>PRESENCE (performance preparedness)</p> <p>Crowd Appeal</p> <p>Enthusiasm</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>TOTAL</p>

Judge # _____

Total Pts. _____/100

AC Jones High School Cheerleading/Mascot Application

_____ has indicated his/her desire to be a cheerleader/mascot at AC Jones High School. There are certain responsibilities and obligations that he/she must assume in order to remain a member of the JHS squad.

Please review the enclosed Cheerleading Handbook and the Extracurricular Student Code of Conduct (online form must be completed) and Tryout Guidelines, in which these duties are outlined, before you sign and fill out the remaining portion of this form below.

Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

Date of Birth _____
Month/day/year

Current Grade Level _____ Current School _____

Home mailing address _____

Parent Home Number: _____

Parent Work Number: _____

Parent Cell Number: _____

Please list any allergies or previous injuries he/she has:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

A.C. Jones High School Cheerleading

Medical Treatment Authorization and Liability Release

I, the undersigned parent or guardian understands one requirement of eligibility for athletic participation is adequate insurance coverage against injury while in practice or performance. I have presented evidence to show that my daughter/son is adequately covered by accident insurance. (Please attach copy of insurance card).

I also understand that before my daughter/son can participate in cheerleading at A.C. Jones High School, she/he must have a current physical. (Please attach copy of physical).

In order that my daughter/son may receive the necessary medical treatment in the event she/he may sustain injury or illness during participation in this activity, I hereby authorize the cheerleading coach or other supervising adult to obtain medical treatment for my daughter/son while performing her/his cheerleading duties, including travel. I hereby hold Beeville ISD and A.C. Jones High School and its representatives HARMLESS in the exercise of authority.

I understand by the very nature of activity, cheerleading carries a risk of physical injury. No matter how careful the participant and coach are, no matter how many spotters are used or what the landing surface is, the risks cannot be eliminated. This risk includes catastrophic injuries such as permanent paralysis or even death from landing or falls on the back, neck or head. I further acknowledge and understand that my daughter/son is assuming the risk of such physical illness or injury by her/his participation and I further release Beeville ISD, A.C. Jones High School and its representatives from any claims for personal illness or injury that my daughter/son may sustain during participation in this activity.

My daughter/son and I have read and understand the above Medical Treatment and Liability Release.

Name of Doctor

Insurance Co. & Policy Number

Cheer/Mascot Candidate Name

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

2019 - 2020

A.C. Jones High School Cheer Handbook Acknowledgement Form

I, _____, parent(s), guardian(s) of the undersigned child, do hereby grant permission for my daughter/son, _____ to participate in the activity of Cheerleading/Mascot at A.C. Jones High School. I understand that he/she must abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the sponsor and Principal of A.C. Jones High School, and be present for all practices and games. I have read the A.C. Jones High School Cheer Handbook and understand that violation of any of these rules may lead to temporary or permanent suspension from the squad. I will assist in every way to see that they are enforced.

I understand that all required documents must be completed and returned to Mr. Jacob Arispe, Cheer Sponsor, no later than **March 7, 2019** at 4pm or my child will not be allowed to participate. I understand that I am responsible for paying \$200 camp deposit by ***March 22, 2019** and the remaining \$200 by ***April 5, 2019**. If participant fails to pay the first installment by March 22nd, the participant will be ineligible for tryouts. I also understand that I am responsible for making complete payment of the cheerleading uniform and accessories by ***May 3, 2019**.

*Due dates/costs may be subject to change.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I, _____, have read and agree to the Cheer/Mascot Handbook for 2019-2020. I am willing to abide by all rules and guidelines stated in the handbook, and I am willing to uphold the criteria it takes to be an outstanding A.C. Jones Cheerleader. I will give my very best in all that I do as I strive to be a positive role model.

Cheer/Mascot Candidate Signature

Date