



**KELLER ISD  
HIGH SCHOOL  
CHEERLEADING  
CONSTITUTION**

**2018-2019**

**THE CONSTITUTION OF CHEERLEADING**  
**FOR**  
**KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## **CONSTITUTION OF THE KELLER ISD HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS**

Each member of the Keller ISD School Cheerleaders must adhere to the following articles. It must be understood that as an athlete of this cheer program, the student becomes a representative of the Keller ISD and its High School and each athlete must maintain high moral and ethical standards.

### **ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Keller ISD High School Cheerleaders is to create and promote loyal school spirit, encourage quality performance and high academic standards. Through the development of spirit and cheer technique, leadership, cooperation, self-discipline, and sportsmanship in each individual athlete, the KISD cheerleaders will encourage their student body and their community through support in the promotion of athletic events and activities which will inspire the athletes to perform to the best of their ability. We, the KISD cheerleaders hereby pledge our time, our ability, our minds and hearts to that purpose. We agree to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in this constitution.

### **ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1.** Anyone who meets the set qualifications will not be discriminated against because of race, gender, religion or educational handicap.

**Section 2.** Prospective candidates for the cheer program shall be entering grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. Mascot(s) and managers shall adhere to the same rules and regulations as the cheerleaders, as they are considered as part of the cheer program.

**Section 3.** **Requirements:** Prospective candidates must meet the following requirements:

- A. If a candidate has been academically ineligible for two or more 6-week periods on the report card during the academic year, tryout eligibility will be determined pending results of an academic review. Any candidate allowed to audition under these circumstances will enter the cheer program with a signed probationary contract as determined by the coach and the principal.
- B. Must have no DAEP assignments or excessive discipline issues during the current school year.
- C. Must not have lost credit for any course due to absences from the previous semester. All credit must be made up in Saturday school by the first day of tryout week.
- D. All returning athletes must have a zero balance unless prior approval has been received by campus administration.
- E. A prospective candidate must reside with his/her parent/legal guardian within the attendance zone of the KISD high school they are zoned to attend or show proof of future KISD residency within the appropriate attendance zone or has a transfer request on file with KISD. If the transfer is not approved by the date tryout paperwork is due, then the prospective candidate must be evaluated at their home campus. If the transfer gets approved and the candidate makes the team of the home campus, they are eligible to be re-evaluated by the coach at the transfer campus for possible placement on the appropriate team. If the transfer gets approved after tryouts and the prospective candidate did not make the team at their home campus they are ineligible to tryout for any KISD high school campus for the current year.

**Section 4.** **Conduct Grade:** A candidate who has received more than one "N" or "U" prior to tryouts, eligibility status will be determined pending coaches' review. If the candidate is selected as a cheerleader, they will enter the cheer program on probationary

status. If they receive another “N” or “U” at the time of any grading check for the remainder of the year, they will be subject to disciplinary actions.

- Section 5.** **Additional Probationary Considerations:** Tryout eligibility of a candidate who has been dismissed or has resigned from the cheer program for any reason will be at the discretion of the coach and/or administrator. Any candidate allowed to audition under these circumstances will enter the cheer program with a signed probationary contract as determined by the coach and the principal.
- Section 6.** **Mandatory Tryout Meeting:** All candidates and their parent/guardian must attend, and sign in, at one of the mandatory tryout orientation meetings. Failure to attend may result in the candidate’s ineligibility to tryout.
- Section 7.** **Returning Athletes:** All returning athletes must submit completed paperwork, and tryout each year. No one may be automatically reinstated.
- Section 8.** **Early Graduation:** Candidates or current athletes who plan to graduate within the school year must have approval from coaching staff prior to tryouts.
- Section 9.** **Cheer Season:** The KISD cheer season runs from March to March. All candidates that make a team in the cheer program are expected to fully participate the entire cheer season. Failure to fully participate and attend all practices/events the entire cheer season may result in removal from the cheer program.
- Section 10.** **Tryout Packet/ Required Forms:** All candidates must print, complete, and file required forms prior to or by the designated date and time, in order for a candidate to qualify for consideration on any team.
- Section 11.** **Attendance:** A candidate must attend all sessions during the tryout week.
- Section 12.** Candidates are expected to attend school the entire day in order to be eligible to participate in each of the tryout days, during the tryout week.
- Section 13.** **Required Skills:** The required skills for each school are noted in the tryout packet, online. Each required skill must be consistently performed, and properly executed, during the tryout week. Each candidate must have their required tumbling skill approved by a coach to qualify for teams which have a tumbling requirement.

### ARTICLE III TRYOUTS

\*Only candidates, coaches, administrators, and trainers will be allowed in the building where the tryout is being held. Failure to comply will result in the candidate’s disqualification.

- Section 1.** **Qualifications:** Each candidate must fulfill all requirements before they may be considered for a team in the cheer program. Teams will be redefined at different times during the season, as determined by the coach.
- Section 2.** **Tryout Week Attire:** Each candidate must wear the official tryout shirt, solid color shorts and bow (color to be selected by the coach), white tennis shoes, white socks, an identification number, and hair in a ponytail. Clothing and accessories may not display any lettering or emblem indicating prior cheerleading experience. No skirts, or jewelry are allowed.
- Section 3.** **Adjudication:**  
A. The tryout week will be held on dates designated by the Head Cheer Coach.

- B. Candidates will be evaluated by the High School cheer coaching staff
- C. Each candidate will be evaluated in the following domains: cheer, dance, jumps, standing tumbling, running tumbling, and stunts. Candidates will also be evaluated on performance. Required tumbling skills must be properly and consistently executed during the tryout process.
- D. The coach's evaluation will be 100% of a candidate's overall tryout score, and the cheer program, and team sizes will be determined by the coach.
- E. A sample copy of the tryout rubrics will be provided online, prior to the tryout.

**Section 4.** **Announcements of New Teams:** The time, date and location of the announcement will be established by the cheer coach prior to the tryout.

**Section 5.** **New Teams:** The new teams will report for practices/uniform ordering on the designated day(s) following tryouts. New and returning members must register with their counselor for the designated cheer class for the upcoming school year.

**Section 6.** **Sports/Extra-Curricular Activities:** If a candidate makes a cheer team, the candidate may not be allowed to participate in sports/extra-curricular activities that conflict with the cheerleading schedule and season.

**Section 7** **Candidate Review:** A candidate not selected for the cheer program may elect to schedule a conference to discuss their tryout evaluation, following tryout results. An appointment must be made with the head coach in charge of tryouts. Statute of limitations on scheduling a conference is 5 (in-school calendar) days following the tryout date.

#### **ARTICLE IV PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Section 1.** Athletes are expected to participate in all team activities, pending eligibility status. If you are involved in an organization/activities outside of your school cheer team it is your responsibility to communicate your schedule to your cheer coach and your conflicting organization with no less than two weeks' notice.

**Section 2.** **Events During School Breaks:** All athletes are expected to attend cheer camp during summer break and practices/events during all school holidays as designated. Failure to attend all required events may result in removal from the cheer program. Schedules will be provided as early as possible and families are expected to plan family vacations and functions accordingly.

**Section 3.** **Attendance:** Members may not leave any function for any reason other than illness, injury, or death in the family. Prior to departure, a written note should be submitted in advance to the coach and must state that the student is leaving with the parent/guardian, the time and date of departure, the reason for early departure and that the cheer coach and Keller ISD is released of all responsibility and liability.

**Section 4.** **Competition:** Competition is required for all cheerleaders of the program, at the coach's discretion. When selected for a competition team, as a participant or alternate, mandatory attendance and participation is expected. Conflicts to competition schedules must be resolved by August 1<sup>st</sup> of that school year with excused approval from the head coach. Competition teams will not necessarily be the same as the school teams. Members selected as alternates are considered true members of a competition team, and are held to the same commitments. The coaches will determine the placement on the competition teams based on skills, balanced stunt groups, size guidelines of the competitions, and cheerleader behavior. Changes in placement may occur at any time due to injury, illness, loss of

skills, excessive absences, or change in team numbers. It is the goal of the coaches to create strong balanced teams for competition purposes. Competition teams may attend 1-4 events, only under the supervision of the coach. Any athlete of the cheer program that quits the competition team will be removed from the cheer program. Not attending competition practices and/or fulfilling their commitment to the competition team may also result in being removed from the cheer program.

**Section 5.** All tryout requirements are expected to be consistently executed at all times during the cheer season. If the skills of a team member fall below the tryout requirement for that team, the coach may adjust team placement until the skill is consistently executed. Individual athletes can be moved to other teams, at any time during the season, at the coach's discretion.

**Section 6.** **Expected Attendance:**

- A. Summer camp
- B. Football games
- C. Pep Rallies
- D. Cheerleading and/ or sports schedules for baseball, basketball, cross-country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball and wrestling events, as determined by the cheer coach.
- E. Playoff games (schedules determined by UIL)
- F. Choreography
- G. Competitions and competition practices
- H. Cheer class
- I. Special events (i.e. fundraisers), and performances as designated by the coach.

**Section 7.** The coaches may bench a cheerleader at anytime they deem necessary for safety and/or disciplinary reasons.

**ARTICLE V  
GRADES**

**Section 1.** **Academic Eligibility:** Cheer coaches will conduct grade checks at the times designated by the official KISD Eligibility Calendar and Guidelines as set forth by University Interscholastic League. Any athlete whose recorded grade in any course at the time of an eligibility grade check is less than 70 will become ineligible to participate in any team event as set forth by the UIL eligibility calendar. Ineligible students must continue to fulfill fundraising requirements. If the academically ineligible athlete attends a designated activity, they are not allowed to wear any part of the chosen team uniform to school or activities during the period of ineligibility.

**Section 2.** **Cheer Class:** All cheerleaders must enroll in the cheer class, unless otherwise directed by the coach.

**ARTICLE VI  
ATTENDANCE**

**Section 1.** **Excused Absences:** The status of an absence or tardy will be determined by the coach as defined by Texas state law. Cheerleaders must limit their number of excused absences, as performance privileges may be revoked for excessive absences. Absences or tardies from any cheerleading activity or event should only be excused for the circumstances listed below.

- A. Personal illness or accident
- B. Death in the family
- C. Other major life events
- D. Religious events

E. Special school activities with prior approval from the cheer coach.

**Section 2. Unexcused Absences:**

Absences for reasons other than those listed above, will be unexcused. **Work**, doctor/dental appointments, non-school activities (including competitive cheer) **must not interfere with practices or performances and will be considered unexcused.** Any unexcused absence could affect performance eligibility.

**Section 3. Unexpected Absence Procedures:** In the unexpected event of an illness, accident, or death in the family, **a parent must contact the coach prior to class/practice.** Leaving a message with an officer or secretary **will not** be sufficient. A parent note and/ or doctor's note must be submitted to the coach upon the cheerleader's return to school or practice. Two consecutive absences will require a doctor's note.

**Section 4. Expected Absence Procedures:** At least two weeks prior to an event and/or practice, athletes must submit a written request for an expected absence.

**Section 5.** Excused academic absences do not necessarily equate to an excused cheer absence.

**Section 6.** Athletes are expected to attend school all day in order to maintain eligibility for participation in an organizational activity with coaches discretion.

**Section 7.** Athletes who suffer injuries or illness must consult a doctor or trainer within 24 hours. If an injury or illness hinders or limits an athlete's performance and/or practice capabilities, that athlete will be required to provide doctor's note outlining the specific limitations. Injured athletes are still expected to attend all events and practices in accordance with their doctor's notes. An athlete with a concussion must follow the KISD concussion policy until the athlete is cleared to participate under the standards set forth by the KISD concussion policy.

**ARTICLE VII  
UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

**Section 1.** Athletes are responsible for purchasing uniforms, shoes, camp/workout clothing and other necessary clothing and accessories as required. All personal items must be labeled with the athlete's name. If a uniform piece is lost or damaged, the athlete is responsible for ordering and paying for a replacement.

**Section 2.** Any uniforms purchased by the school district or booster club must be returned in good condition at the end of the season, deadline to be determined by the coach. They should be clean and repaired, ready for someone else to wear. Replacement cost will be determined based on the actual cost of the uniform set and will be charged for any damaged or unreturned school-owned uniform. Failure to return all items in good condition or failure to pay for a replacement may result in ineligibility to tryout and/or attend banquet.

**Section 3.** Uniforms will not be worn anywhere other than scheduled events. The use of any part of the KISD cheerleading uniforms, clothing and supplies other than at scheduled events must be approved by the cheer coach.

**Section 4.** All cheerleader clothing, uniforms, jackets, etc. are to be worn by current KISD cheerleaders only. Athletes of the cheer program may not loan out any KISD cheerleading apparel to any non-cheerleaders except for Powder Puff. Students who have resigned or been dismissed from the program may not wear cheerleading

apparel in public, under any circumstances.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING**

- Section 1.** **Financial Obligations:** Financial obligations are under the supervision of the high school coach. Policies and expectations shall be made known at the Mandatory Tryout Meeting. Failure to make timely payments may result in probationary status or suspension and could lead to dismissal.
- Section 2.** **Fundraising:** The coaching staff and the cheerleading booster club will organize fundraisers to help with team expenses. Athletes will be required, and their parents strongly encouraged, to participate in team fundraisers.
- Section 3.** **Activity Account:** Monies profited from team fundraisers will be held in the high school cheerleading account to offset the expenses incurred by the teams during the school year. The dispensing of these monies is at the discretion of the cheer coach.
- Section 4.** If an athlete resigns, is dismissed or graduates prior to the utilization of funds earned through fund-raising, they will forfeit the profit money and it will become a part of the cheerleading activity account. All competition fees are non-refundable after payments have been made to competition host.
- Section 5.** **Insufficient Funds:** If a check is returned insufficient, it will be the athlete's responsibility to pay any necessary bank charges immediately by cash or money order. Receipt of a second insufficient check will require that all payments be made by cashier's check or money order, thereafter. If it is a check collected in a fund-raising event, it is the athlete's responsibility to collect the funds due or the amount due will be deducted from his/her personal profits.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**GENERAL CONDUCT**

- Section 1.** Certain standards are necessary for the integrity and reputation of any organization. Each athlete should be a leader within the school and should set a good example before the public at all times. Athletes in the cheer program are expected to have and maintain a character above reproach. Personal appearance, habits and actions of which there can be no criticism, are required. Each athlete must be aware that his/her conduct reflects on the image of the team, the entire cheer program, your high school and ultimately KISD.
- Section 2.** All cheerleaders, mascots, and managers will abide by the Keller ISD Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct, in addition to the High School Student Handbook, AACCA safety regulations and this KISD Cheerleading Constitution. Athletes must also follow the written and oral directives of all KISD employees.
- Section 3.** KISD rules will be strictly applied at any time that the cheerleaders, mascots, and managers are officially representing KISD. This includes all school-sponsored activities or while on a school-sponsored trip.
- Section 4.** Any inappropriate actions, including representation on social media, that do not uphold the standards and expectations of the KISD cheer program, may be subject to disciplinary actions by the coach.



**Section 5.** The interpretation of all rules is the sole right of the coach, the principal, and the Athletic Director. They have the right to add or change those things they feel must be changed for the benefit of the cheer program.

**ARTICLE X**  
**BENCHING, PROBATION, SUSPENSION, DISMISSAL**  
**AND RESIGNATION**

**Section 1.** **Benching:**  
Benching is the temporary removal from performing or participating at a game or performance, at the coach's discretion.

**Section 2.** **Probation:**  
Probation is a designated period of time in which the athlete may participate in limited organizational activities as determined by the cheer coaches. A probation contract may be written for the athlete who should be notified of his/her probationary regulations.

**Section 3.** **Suspension:**  
Suspension eliminates the athlete from participation at cheerleading functions and excludes participation in performances and special events; however, the athlete is required to participate in practice sessions during school hours only. If the suspended athlete attends a designated activity, they are not allowed to wear any part of the chosen team uniform to school or activities during the period of suspension.

**Section 4.** **Dismissal:**  
Dismissal involves the loss of membership from the cheerleading organization. All school-issued equipment **and uniforms must be returned and all financial obligations must be cleared within one week of dismissal.** Once an athlete has been dismissed, they will lose all privileges of the cheer program. Students may not wear any part of the HS cheerleading uniform.

**Section 5.** **Resignation:**  
Resignation shall be defined as a choice made by the individual athlete that they no longer desires participation in the cheer program. Resignation procedures involve a conference with the cheer coach and a letter of resignation from the resigning athlete, signed and dated with a signature of a parent/guardian. **All uniforms, clothing and equipment must be turned in and financial obligations must be cleared at the time of resignation.** Students may not wear any part of the HS cheerleading uniform. **The cheerleader will be held financially responsible for any balance due. No refunds will be made.**

**Section 6.** In the event of dismissal or resignation during mid-semester, the student will be removed from the cheer class.

**Section 7.** Once resignation or dismissal from the cheer program occurs, for reasons other than academic, reinstatement will not be allowed during the current year. Upon resignation or dismissal, the former member loses all privileges of a cheerleader and may not be a guest at cheerleading functions. Tryout eligibility for the following year will be established only at the discretion of the cheer coach and administration and will incur the acceptance of strict guidelines and a probationary status. Before the tryout, the terms of probation are to be agreed upon by the student, the parents, the cheer coach, and the on-site administrator.