



Honey Grove ISD

Cheerleading Constitution

I. Purpose:

The purpose of Honey Grove ISD cheerleading is to create, promote, and uphold school spirit in accordance with school rules and to represent the HGISD and campus. Cheerleaders shall promote leadership, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and good citizenship for the campus and fellow cheerleaders. Cheerleaders shall plan and initiate activities that encourage student body and community support and involvement in the promotion of athletic events and other large school activities.

**The term Cheerleader also refers to mascot and middle school cheerleaders.*

II. Selection:

- a. A student is eligible to try out for cheerleader or mascot if, at the time of tryouts, the student is enrolled in HGISD.
- b. Each candidate must try out each year, regardless of whether or not he/she has previously been a cheerleader/mascot.
- c. Candidates who did not previously fulfill their obligation as a cheerleader and complete the cheer season **may** not be eligible to re-audition the following year.
- d. Students trying out for cheerleader and mascot must attend a cheer clinic provided by the school to learn material for tryouts. The clinic is closed to the public. No videotaping of material is allowed to ensure fairness to all candidates.
- e. A **maximum of 10 cheerleaders** and **one mascot** will be selected from a panel of three qualified judges for the **high school squad**. A **maximum of eight cheerleaders** and **one mascot** will be selected from a panel of three qualified judges for the **middle school squad**. The top scores will be used to determine squad selection.

- f. Tryouts are closed to the public. Only judges, cheer coaches, and administrators are allowed inside the gym during actual tryouts.
- g. Tryout results will be posted on the school's website within one hour of the conclusion of the tryouts.
- h. Parents may request to see their own child's score (no rank scores) from the principal or his/her designee. By law, all other student scores are protected and cannot be shared with anyone except the coach, principal, or principal designee.

III. Requirements:

- a. Cheerleaders must be a high school student (9th-12th grades) in the fall semester for the varsity squad and be a seventh or eighth grade student in the fall semester for the middle school squad.
- b. Cheerleaders must attend camp during the summer, which will be selected and paid for by the school.
- c. Cheerleaders must perform at all pep rallies, football games—both home and away— and UIL competitions; assist with sign making on a weekly basis and loading and unloading cheer items; and carry out any other cheer duties or performances approved by the coach and principal.
- d. Cheerleaders must travel to and from any game or event by school transportation. In special circumstances a cheerleader may ride home with a parent only. The coach must have verbal contact with the parent at the event.
- e. Cheerleaders should always be on time.
- f. Cheerleaders should have all cheers and sidelines memorized.
- g. Cheerleaders should be able to stunt, unless under a doctor's care for injuries.
- h. Cheerleaders must attend all scheduled practices, meetings, games, performances, and specially called practices and meetings.
- i. Cheerleaders should display good sportsmanship and leadership at all times, both in and out of uniform, including through written, verbal, nonverbal, digital, and social media.
- j. Cheerleaders should have all required UIL forms, which includes a physical, on file with the school.

IV. Practices:

- a. **Summer practices** will be at the discretion of the coach but will be **mandatory**.
- b. When school begins, practices will be at the discretion of the coach and will also be **mandatory**.
- c. **High school squad only: Post-football season practices** to prepare for UIL competition will be held to a minimum to avoid as many conflicts as possible with other school extracurricular activities; however, these scheduled practices will also be **mandatory**.
- d. Each cheerleader is required to make **ALL practices** and may only be excused by the coach for illness, injury, family emergency, or another school-sponsored event. Doctors' appointments and other events that can be rescheduled are not considered excused absences. Work or participation in non-school sponsored events will not be excused.
- e. Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action, which could include being benched from a performance.
- f. Cheerleaders will not be allowed to arrive late or leave early. Personal responsibilities such as jobs must be worked around the practice schedule.

V. Uniforms and Equipment:

- a. The school will purchase all attire needed for performance such as uniforms, warm-up suits, jackets, and shoes.
- b. The condition of school-issued attire should be excellent at all times. Each cheerleader is responsible for any damaged or lost items.
- c. Uniforms should not be remodeled in any way—sunglasses, hats, jewelry, etc.—without the permission of the coach.
- d. No part of a cheerleader's school-issued uniform or equipment is to be worn outside of school or required activities without the coach's permission.
- e. No part of a cheerleader's school-issued uniform or equipment is to be worn or used by another person.
- f. All school-issued attire should be cleaned and returned to the coach immediately upon retirement of position and/or the end of the cheerleading season. Failure to

return all items or reimburse the school for replacement costs will make the student ineligible to try out for the next school year.

VI. Safety:

- a. Cheerleaders will not be allowed to wear jewelry during practices, games, and/or events. Spacers or covering with band-aids will not be acceptable.
- b. Hair should be worn off the shoulders and out of the face to avoid interference when stunting.
- c. Fingernails should not be excessively long.
- d. Chewing gum is prohibited at all practices, games, and events.
- e. Cheerleaders must take their role seriously and always provide for the safety of teammates, especially when stunting. Unsafe behavior such as “goofing off” or laughing is unacceptable.
- f. Cheerleaders must practice and perform in shoes selected or approved by the coach.
- g. No skill that has not been perfected in practice will be performed in public.
- h. No tumbling or stunting unless the coach or a school designee is present.

VII. Eligibility:

Cheerleaders are subject to UIL guidelines. A cheerleader must maintain a 70 or above average in all of his/her classes the first six weeks reporting period and for each nine week reporting period thereafter. Refer to the student handbook for further information regarding eligibility for extracurricular activities.

VIII. Discipline:

Cheerleaders must follow the Student Code of Conduct and the HGISD Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Activity Involvement and the Social Media Code of Conduct. Failure to abide by these codes as well as the requirements outlined in this constitution will result in disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from the program.

IX. Awards:

To receive a letter jacket during the junior year of high school, the student must have served as a high school cheerleader or mascot for at least one year. If the student resigned or was dismissed from the squad, then the varsity letter will be forfeited for that year.

The information in this document has been approved by the cheerleading coaches and campus principals as well as the superintendent and school board of Honey Grove ISD.

**Acknowledgement of Constitution Guidelines
& Acceptance of Constitution Policies**

I have read, understand, and accept all guidelines, rules, and policies set forth in the Honey Grove ISD Cheerleading Constitution.

Candidate's Printed Name

Date

Candidate's Signature

My signature below indicates that I have received a copy of the HGISD Cheerleading Constitution and I will acknowledge and abide by all policies included in the document and agree to assist my child in abiding by all provisions set forth in the HGISD Cheerleading Constitution.

Parent/guardian's signature

Addendum A

HGISD Code of Conduct for Extracurricular Activity Involvement

Involvement in extracurricular activities is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility. Participants are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary fashion that will be a source of pride to the school district and to the community. At HGISD, we encourage student involvement in extracurricular activities, and we expect them to abide by these policies in exchange for the lifelong benefits gained through this involvement.

The following policies apply to all extracurricular activities in Honey Grove ISD:

1. The illegal use of alcohol or controlled substances is prohibited. The following penalties will be enforced.

- **Step 1 (1st offense) The student will be suspended from participation in all extracurricular activities for 30 days and will complete appropriate cardiovascular training as applicable.**
- **Step 2 (2nd and subsequent offenses) The student will be barred from participation in all extracurricular activities for one calendar year.**

Each infraction carries over from one activity to the next and from year to year throughout the student's enrollment in school. Activity directors and coaches, in conjunction with HGISD administrative staff, will investigate all reported violations in accordance with campus guidelines and training.

2. If a student commits a serious criminal act, it reflects negatively on all extracurricular activity participants. The following consequence, in addition to any other school disciplinary action, will be enforced in the event school personnel have reasonable cause to believe a student has been involved in the commission of a felony or Class A or B misdemeanor offense, as defined by the Texas Penal Code or by Federal law.

The student will be removed from participation in all extracurricular activities for one calendar year.

3. Activity sponsors or coaches are permitted to assign reasonable consequences in the event a member of their activity group is in violation of any part of the HGISD Student Code of Conduct.

Addendum B

Social Media Code of Conduct

Cheerleaders and mascots should conduct themselves appropriately via any and all social media. Squad members should not post, text, tweet, snapchat, etc. inappropriate pictures or videos including, but not limited to, those with nudity or partial nudity, inappropriate language and/or gestures, taunting, or suggestive expressions, racial comments, sexually-oriented comments, bullying or other harassing comments, smoking, fighting, vandalism, graffiti, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, etc.

- a. FIRST VIOLATION:** parents will be notified, written notice will be signed by parent and student, and spirit team member will be benched for one performance.
- b. SECOND VIOLATION:** student will be removed from the squad for the remainder of the school year and will be unable to try out for the squad for the following year without approval from both the cheer coach and principal.

Addendum C

Financial Responsibility

As outlined in section *V. Uniforms and Equipment*, the school purchases all performance attire for cheerleaders. This attire will be issued to the cheerleader and is expected to be returned **promptly** upon the cheerleader's retirement from his/her position or the end of the season, whichever comes first.

While in the cheerleader's care, the school-issued attire should be properly laundered following the instructions on the items.

In the event that some items are lost or damaged, the cheerleader and his/her legal guardian(s) may be charged the replacement cost(s) for the item(s). The total for all items issued to cheerleaders at the varsity level will not exceed \$1,000.